

Ref. Ind: DES/2018/19/110

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of a very busy first term, we reflect on a very positive start to the new academic year. After achieving the best ever exam results the school has ever had, we recognized that it was important to build on this success, and staff have worked hard to provide engaging and challenging lessons for our students. We have reviewed and revised the behaviour pathway and the attendance and punctuality pathway, expecting all students to aim to achieve their personal best. The pathways can be found on the school website in 'About DES', under 'School Policies'.

We have just completed the rehearsal examinations for Years 11-13, and were pleased to see that our students recognized the importance of these examinations, and, for the most, took them seriously. We had a very busy KS 5 Parents' Evening recently, and thank you for your attendance and discussion. Our students will have the very best opportunity to achieve highly if we continue to work together and share the same aims.

It has been a very interesting term, with lots of activities both in and out of school time. There have been many sporting fixtures, art visits, MUN conferences, expeditions, academic trips and musical events, culminating in the performance of our school production last week. A great deal of hard work goes into organizing and planning these events, and we are grateful for your continued support. Also, a big thank you to staff, who give up their evenings, weekends and holiday time to support our students, whether in extra-curricular or extra academic activities. Our last activity this term will be a house event quiz on Thursday.

We consider ourselves very lucky to have a school bus service running in Dukhan, and we are aware many students make good use of it. However, on occasions, we do have students who disappoint us with their inappropriate behaviour on the bus. Because of this, we have created a new 'Zero Tolerance' policy for bus use. This will commence from the beginning of next term and all the information about this is in a separate letter attached to this email. All students will have the rules, expectations and consequences explained to them in tutor time. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child understands the expectations we have.

We have two members of staff leaving us this term. Firstly, Mr Ashik Bashir (Maths) and also Mr Paul Fairbrother (Art). Both are leaving DES for personal reasons and we wish them the best of luck with their future. We are working hard to ensure that all students continue to receive high-quality education experiences in these areas, and will notify you of any staff changes involving your child at the beginning of term two. We will make sure all examination classes are taught by suitable and qualified staff, enabling the best outcome for our students.

We wish you a very happy winter break, and look forward to seeing you in the new year. Term two starts at 7am on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

With warmest wishes,



Sarah Huntington  
Head of Secondary