

Ref. Ind: DES/2018/19/202

Thursday, 4th April 2019

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of a very busy second term, we would like to thank you for your continued support and attendance to school events, meetings and Parents' Evenings. Working together to ensure your child's progress, academic success and personal development is of utmost importance to us.

We have many things to celebrate from this past term, including the very successful QUESS cross country event at the beginning of the year, bringing us a variety of medals across the Year groups. Students excelled in early external examination entries in January (Year 11-13), enabling them to enter the final round of external exams this summer with some outstanding grades already achieved. We also had students successfully take and pass ABRSM examinations in Music. On top of this, our students represented us in the Quran competition held in Zikreet and achieved highly, and they also made us proud with their excellent conduct and mature, responsible behaviour. Our senior students participated in work experience at the Fire Station here in Dukhan, studying both theoretical and practical aspects of fire, health and safety. Our Enterprise/INJAZ students delved into the world of business, setting up and running companies to try and create a profit, of which a percentage was donated to our charity of choice- the Qatar Cancer Society.

As well as trips and events in and around Dukhan, our students went further afield for both academic and enrichment purposes, visiting the Mall of Qatar, Zubara Fort, art galleries and museums in Doha amongst other places. We also conducted successful Oryx Award expeditions with overnight camping for a variety of students, giving them the opportunity to develop team-building and survival skills. Our MUN students have also been very busy, attending several MUN conferences and of course, hosting our very own DESMUN in March. We have also had several sporting successes with individual students as well as teams triumphing at fixtures and competitions around Qatar. We are very proud of all our students and their representation of DES.

As you will be aware, there have been some site changes to DES Secondary and we are preparing for the start of our new school build, which will hopefully commence soon. We will keep you updated as soon as we have any more information or news; work is being completed on our temporary accommodation and the car park, and will hopefully be completed over the Spring break.

We have had two new additional staff member join us this term. Firstly, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Yasmin Malik, who has joined our team on a temporary basis to cover a variety of subjects and curriculum support. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Nicola Kennedy to our Secondary Science Faculty- she brings a wealth of experience in both specialist Science teaching and cross-phase teaching through Primary and Secondary. We are thankful to both members of staff.

Looking forward to the final term of the year, we will have the majority of the (I)GCSE/AS and A2 examinations occurring after the break, up to the end of June. We will ensure examination timetables are available for all who require them, and will also be providing details of study leave after the upcoming holiday. Please remember that these are external global examinations and can only be taken on the day and time specified, therefore it is vital your child attends if they are taking this examination. A short time after we commence the third term, we are expecting Ramadan to start. We will send an adapted timetable out to all students and parents, informing you of any changes to the school day.

Finally, can we remind you of a couple of exciting events occurring in the first weeks back- firstly, we will have our Young Musicians competition on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April at 4pm and secondly, we will be holding our Summer Serenade on 28<sup>th</sup> of April at 4pm. A letter will be sent out with information on how to purchase tickets for our Summer Serenade.



We would like to wish you a happy and relaxing break and look forward to seeing you in the new term. Please note that school starts on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the usual time for all students.

With best wishes,

Sarah Huntington  
Head of Secondary