



Thursday 10th December 2020

RE: Primary Update

Dear WSO Primary Community,

Congratulations! We have successfully navigated through Term One of this academic year. Despite the global pandemic that is COVID-19, and the resulting strict health and safety protocols we have had to follow, as a community we have worked tirelessly together to ensure our students are happy, confident and motivated to progress at school. Don't get me wrong, we have all faced challenges along the way, however the resilience and determination to succeed by students, parents and staff has shone through. Attached to this letter is a comprehensive guide explaining the different changes to our educational model for Term Two. Please do read this through to be fully prepared for after the holidays.

I want to take this opportunity to publically thank every single staff member that works in Primary. For the teaching staff, I can guarantee that there was not a 'teaching through a global pandemic' module as part of our university degrees and teacher training! What we are lucky to have though is an incredibly dedicated and hardworking set of teachers who facilitate learning to a very high standard. Their strategies have had to adapt to the current climate, with zoom, breakout rooms and audio feedback now being 'normal' vocabulary used! I have told the teaching staff to rest and relax during the holidays to ensure they are fighting fit and ready to go in Term Two. As well as the teaching staff, we have many other adults who have worked incredibly hard this term. Thank you to all of our admin team, including the front of house and admission team for supporting families in our community so well. Additionally, the school operations team (led by Mrs Alison Baldwin) has ensured our site is a safe environment. Constant visits from the KHDA, DHA and Dubai Municipality have consistently resulted in praise for our team.

We cannot thank our parent community enough for all of the support you have given to the school. With changes around the school including temperature checks, one way systems, school timings and more, parents have followed the rules and made sure we remain safe and compliant with the KHDA rules. Being on duty each morning, it has been so lovely to see parents of students in year 2 and below entering the building and bringing positivity with you. Similarly, even though parents of our older students have not been permitted to enter the building, it has been great to see you virtually during our engagement sessions or consultations. We have appreciated and valued your patience this term, especially back in September when we were responding to positive and constructive feedback. Also, it took a couple of months to get the approval to open 100%, but we got there eventually! Our parent community understood the situation and again showed patience and trust in us to come through.

My final thank you goes to the headline act – our students! I've mentioned this a few times in my letters this year but I'm going to say it again, they have been truly inspiring this term. We are going through a global pandemic but their attitudes have been faultless. School is different, learning is different, but they see different as a positive and have continued to excel. There will inevitably be challenges ahead, however we have no concerns that our students will not be ready for what comes next. Their brilliance is a testament to parents and our teaching staff.



EDUCATION

With us coming to the end of term, sadly we will be saying a few goodbyes to some of our teaching staff. We wish the following people all the best for the future and thank them sincerely for their contributions to WSO:

- Somar Mowakket
- Joanna Sadler
- Amanda Cope
- Amal Moustafa
- Nisrin Arsiwala

Finally, over the past few weeks, some students and staff members have come together to create two community songs. One of these songs (Dear Our Students) is a rewrite of the song 'Dear Theodosia' from the musical, Hamilton. The song is a special message to our students to thank them for all of their hard work and positive attitudes over the term. It was also a chance to collaborate with Tarinn Callender to celebrate his successful visit to WSO. The second song (I'm Still Standing) is an upbeat song to finish the school year. The song holds a nice sentiment considering the current times and the lyrics represent us as a community sticking together and facing all the challenges that have come our way so far. Please click on the links below to enjoy!

- 'Dear Our Students' (Tarinn Callender and WSO Staff Members) – [Click Here](#)
- I'm Still Standing (Resonance Choir and WSO Staff Members) – [Click Here](#)

I hope everyone in our community has a wonderful holiday. Take the time to rest, relax and spend time safely with friends and family. Happy New Year - see you in 2021!

Warm Regards

Nathan Sadler
Primary Principal

