



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**RE: Final letter of the Academic Year**

Dear WSO Primary Community,

As the Primary Principal, it is my privilege to write to our Academy community with some closing remarks at the end of what will be an historic academic year. In the distant future, our students will be telling stories to their own grandchildren about the time they lived and learnt through a global pandemic. Through the difficult times we have faced, we can't underestimate the part we have all played in this pivotal moment in world history.

When we returned on site in August, we made it very clear that our three main priorities were the health and safety of all, wellbeing of all, and continuation of learning for all. We had to ensure that all KHDA protocols were implemented so that our school environment was the safest it could be. Students, staff and parents had all been impacted from the pandemic in many ways, therefore we focused on increasing support and identification structures for individual wellbeing needs. Once students felt safe, reassured and happy, our staff got to work on guaranteeing the students were learning and progressing as much as possible.

Our classrooms changed, our various learning models adapted as the times changed around us. School became one that had thermal cameras, one-way systems, plastic screens, isolation rooms, masks, social-distancing stickers, sanitizer stations and BUBBLES! This did not phase our students as they have continued to show an immense amount of resilience and adaptability – we cannot thank them enough. Key Stage Two classes started with a 50/50 learning model of online and on-site learning and in each year group we ensured that students who remained 100% online were challenged, supported and cared for. As the year progressed, we were able to accommodate all students on site every day and the number of remote learners reduced down to almost zero.

There have been many highlights for our students this year. Their smiles and laughter continue to bring us all joy and we are so proud of what they have been able to achieve. One of my favourite memories was when we had a whole primary zoom assembly to celebrate the end of Term Two. Every child and staff member from FS1 to Year 6, learning on site and learning from home, joined this assembly to congratulate one another on their successes so far. Seeing 2000+ faces come together was a powerful and emotional experience.



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In addition to the amazing achievements of our students, I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to other key groups. To the leadership team, thank you for all that you have achieved to ensure our school has continued to thrive and remain safe. Work never stopped for you over the summer holidays as we had to plan and implement a re-opening strategy in time for September. Throughout the year you have worked all hours of the day, reacting to covid cases swiftly to ensure our community was as safe as possible. All of this whilst leading and driving forward our school improvement priorities - thank you!

What our teachers, TA's and LSA's have achieved this year is almost beyond comprehensible. Teaching through a global pandemic was not a module in any of our teaching qualifications. Again, the time and effort put in to ensuring their students continued to get the best education possible has been valued immensely. Teaching wearing a mask, ensuring social distancing and providing simultaneous learning experiences for students in two separate classrooms and at home is the work of superheroes! Additionally, I'd like to thank our other extremely important staff teams including operations, admin, front of house, admissions and our cleaners for the parts they have played this year – It has been a huge team effort.

My final thank you goes to our parent community for being so supportive, patient and understanding through this challenging year. You have balanced your own personal circumstances with challenges such as keeping your children off school with any symptom, full class closures and at times forced quarantining of your children due to being a close contact. As a parent of WSO myself, I understand these challenges would have been frustrating and cause stress which is why we are so thankful for you being so understanding. Our engagement and communication with parents has increased dramatically and we thank you all for your continued feedback to assist us driving the school towards even further success.

Being an international school, this time of year is also a time that we say goodbye to a few staff members. All of our leavers have contributed to the success of WSO and positively impacted students; I wish them the best of luck in their new adventures and next chapters of their lives. A special thank you and goodbye to our Assistant Principal Miss Tanser who will be moving to New Zealand this summer. Miss Tanser leaves us after 8 years at WSO having impacted hundreds of students, parents and staff members. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs McAuley, our Primary SENDCO, who has been at WSO for 9 years. Mrs McAuley is leaving WSO having led our outstanding inclusion department and supported many families and students over the years.



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To conclude, I highly encourage all members of our community to enjoy a well-deserved summer break. If you are able to travel, please do so with care and ensure you stay as safe as possible. Please keep connected with your loved ones and please contact the school at any time over the summer if you need support. There are many exciting experiences ahead for us all, including our tenth anniversary and embracing EXPO. I can't wait to see you back in September.

Stay safe and stay connected,

Warm Regards,

**Nathan Sadler**  
Primary Principal

