



21st January 2021

Dear Parents / Caregivers

I hope this letter finds everyone safe and in good health. I want to start by acknowledging the departure of Mr. Kevin Loft as CEO of our school last week. I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge him and his leadership during his tenure. Some of our teaching faculty followed Mr. Loft from his days at Royal Dubai School to WSO to continue to work with him. Many will have memories and stories of their time under his leadership and guidance. We wish him and his family well on this next part of their journey.

On that note, I wanted to reassure you that day to day procedures in and outside of the classroom remain the same and continue as normal. As you know, our focus from the start of the pandemic has been health and safety, the quality of learning and teaching and the wellbeing of all members of our community. These priorities remain firmly in place. Whilst we wait for official communication regarding the successful appointment of a new CEO, both myself and Nathan Sadler (Primary Head Teacher) are being supported by our cluster leader, Maryssa O'Connor (CEO Wellington International School), as well as other school leaders from across the network.

Mock Exams - Year 11 and 13

Huge thank you to all our students who engaged and for Year 13, continue to engage, with their mock exams. As we have communicated, in these times of uncertainty about whether or not final exams will happen, gathering comprehensive and accurate data about student performance is imperative. We appreciate your support as parents and particularly for those who were previously 100% remote, to send your children in for these exams.

COVID Update

You all received the update about COVID cases across the Academy earlier this week. We continue to monitor these diligently and attend to the basics of personal and collective health and safety. A few reminders for families:

- The value of hand hygiene and safe practices around coughing and sneezing
- If you have any concern that symptoms are present in you or family members, err on side of caution, contact school or medical staff for advice
- If your children are isolated as close contacts, they must follow the advice sent to you from our medical staff
- If you or members of your family have had a PCR, please remain isolated while you await your result.

We have received a handful of queries from parents asking why we remain open as cases increase. Please be aware we are in constant communication with DHA and are aware of the guidelines around such decisions. Yesterday the limits were exceeded in Year 1 and that is why we have isolated that year group.



EDUCATION

Finally, an acknowledgement of our Medical, Operations and Cleaning Teams. They are extremely busy responding to cases and proactively managing the site for cleanliness. Our thanks and gratitude goes to them for their commitment to our safety.

Please contact me on a.kaifong_wso@gemsedu.com should you have any queries about aspects of this letter or anything.

Your children are in great hands with our staff, teaching and non-teaching. I am so proud of the work we are doing every day.

Warm regards



Andy Kai Fong

Key Dates

Sunday 24th January	Great Kindness Challenge (1-week period)
Sunday 31 January	GroWell Health Week (1-week period)
Monday 22nd February	Academic Review Day (Years 7, 8 & 9) – all Secondary school students access their learning from home
Thursday 25th February	International Day
Sunday 7th March	World Book Day
Sunday 14th March	Academic Review Day (Years 10 & 12) – all Secondary school students access their learning from home
Sunday 14th March	STEAM Week (1-week period)
Tuesday 16th March	Academic Review Day (Years 11 & 13) – all Secondary school students access their learning from home
Tuesday 23rd March	PSHE Day ‘Boosting Self-esteem’