



8th October 2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers

As we approach half-term, once again we thank you for the support of your children and their teachers. We have submitted an application to the KHDA to alter our Blended Learning Model, hoping to increase provision for many year levels. We will update you as soon as we hear their response.

A highlight this week, is the Community Art Project, facilitated by **Aoife James** (Secondary Head of Art) and the Radisson Red Hotel, which was featured in the Khaleej Times. (I have attached the article at the end of my letter).

Congratulations to **Asli Beyza Gul, Asude Gokcan, Omar Ahmad** and **Alisha Fatima Abu Najem**, whose art now features in the hotel. A fantastic opportunity to utilise and showcase their talents for everyone to appreciate. Our thanks to Radisson Red for offering us the connection. We look forward to more collaboration in the future.

We were pleased to support World Mental Health Awareness Day today with staff and students invited to wear yellow. Next Thursday, 15th October, we invite staff and students to wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness. I'm sure our social media will be splashed with images of both these significant days.

We were excited to launch Enrichment this week. It's lovely to see the options available for students, provided by teachers and other students. My thanks to everyone involved for their commitment to this part of our programme and especially those students who have designed and will be planning and delivering activities for their peers.

Families would have recently received a survey regarding Home Learning (for clarity, this refers to 'Homework'). We appreciate the time you spend offering us your thoughts on a variety of topics. We were very deliberate managing this aspect of school during the remote learning period, wanting to balance on and off-screen time. We are wanting to revisit your views again, now.

In the last fortnight, we have received several deliveries for students – lunches and laptops mainly. As we remain vigilant around Health and Safety, please be aware, effective immediately these can ONLY be delivered to the Security team at the gates – their distribution will be managed from there. Thank you for your understanding.



EDUCATION

With the move to Blended Learning, we are intending to host more Academic Review Days this year. For new families these are face-to-face conversations (MS Teams or Zoom) between your child, yourselves and staff. Dates are included below for the first round and details will be issued closer to the time. As ever, the Tutor remain your first port of call and we encourage you to communicate with them for all aspects of your children's engagement at school.

Nathan Sadler (Primary Principal) and I will break our two-week cycle to bring you a short update next Thursday 15th October, as we head into the Half Term break.

Key Dates

October 2020	
16-24	October Half Term
28	Secondary Awards Evening (online)
November 2020	
8-12	Year 7-12 Academic Review Days
December 2020	
3	Year 7-12 Grade Cards
6-10	Year 13 Academic Review Days
10	Term 1 Ends
January 2021	
3	Term 2 Begins

Kind regards
 Andy Kai Fong
 Secondary Principal





THE ART TRIBE: Student artists Asli Beyza Gul, Asude Gokcan, and Omar Ahmad against the backdrop of the mural

HAVE WINGS, WILL FLY

Feathers, roses, gems, and a heart, and voila there's a mural — we speak to the young artists behind city's latest students' community art project

PURVA GROVER
editor@youngtimes.com

A set of bespoke wings designed by the children of the Silicon Oasis community await to be admired at, posed with, and get inspired from, in the main lobby at Radisson RED Dubai Silicon Oasis in Dubai Digital Park. The design in red and black was created as part of a competition by students

from GEMS Wellington Academy, Silicon Oasis, with workshops from Art Painting Lab, a group of collaborative artists based in Dubai. When the competition was postponed due to the pandemic, the students worked from home, attending online video conference calls with teachers and hotel representatives to complete the mural. We speak to the students, who made it all happen.



It was a great opportunity for our students to gain real-world industry experience. Silicon Oasis is their community and having a piece of their artwork on display is a big opportunity for any artist. In Dubai, a place that is always in transition, all of us need to build and gain a sense of community.

— Aoife James, Secondary Head of Art, GEMS Wellington Academy, Silicon Oasis, Dubai

Asude Gokcan, 15
Turkish



Inspired by: My previous artworks that I have completed for my GCSE course and the hotel's style and vibe. I wanted my design to be unique, energetic and dynamic.
When I grow up: I want to go into the medical field.

Asli Beyza Gul, 14
Turkish



Inspired by: The rubies in the hotel's lobby ties in with the art style of the brand: they bring together the past and the present. The silver outer wings are shaped in a heart, which has vibes of homely comfort, and the use of silver jewels represent luxury. I imagined the entire piece as a Rock 'n' Roll musician's cape at their back.
When I grow up: I want to go into the field of medicine and work in the aviation sector.

Omar Ahmed, 11
Indian



Inspired by: My design originally focused on buildings and reflected the Dubai landscape. However, my idea developed one stage further and I tried to represent the Radisson RED hotel through crystals reflecting the quality of the hotel.
When I grow up: I want to be an engineer or a 3D designer.

Alisha Fatima Abu Najem, 15
Jordanian

Inspired by: My original design was a heart shape with high curling points for the wings. This gives the design a similar texture to the stem of a rose or that of a strong animal such as a dragon. When I think of red I automatically think of roses, they are synonymous with the colour.

When I grow up: I want to be a designer.

