



Thursday 22nd April 2021

RE: Secondary Update

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this letter finds you well.

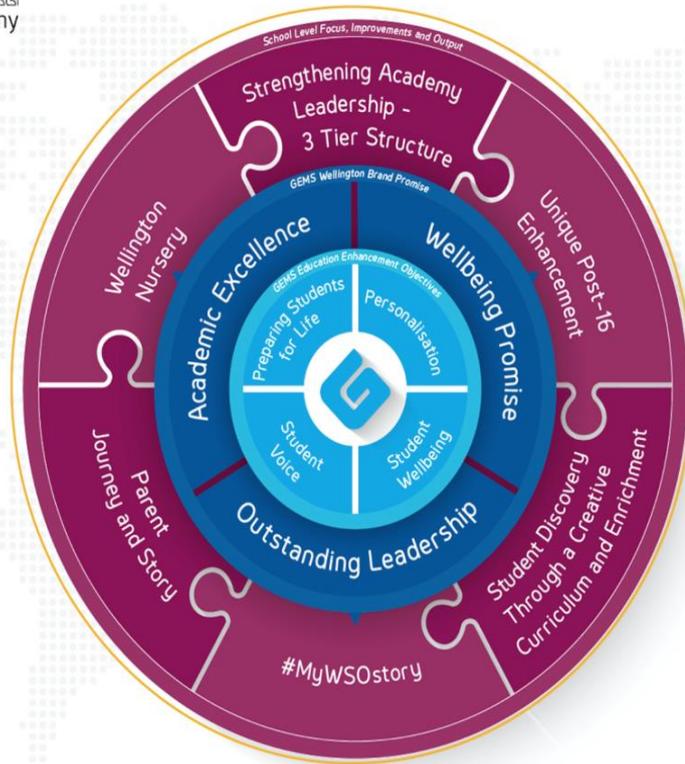
Welcome back to term 3 and Ramadan Kareem to our Muslim community.

Wellington Vision

Some of you may have joined the recent 'Meet The Principal' live zoom sessions, held by Sarah O'Regan, Nathan Sadler and myself. If you were not able to attend, the below graphic illustrates the vision and priority areas for WSO over the next few years. The core of our vision identifies the importance of four key priorities: student voice, personalised learning, student well-being and preparing students for life. Later this term, all parents will be receiving a link to the bi-annual GEMS parent survey which will explore these 4 areas with you. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to share some of our school actions against these areas, starting with student voice and well-being.



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GEMS Wellington Academy
SILICON OASIS



**Wellington
Vision
2021-2024**





Student Voice

Our student body ‘talks’ when they engage with the campaigning of their senior peers and vote for our Student Leaders, each year. Recently our Head Students – Tanaaz Sajith (Head Girl) and Parnika Srivastava (Deputy Head Girl), Hamza Shaikh (Head Boy) and Trish Shetty (Deputy Head Boy) addressed our Local Advisory Board. They will become a regular part of those meetings, adding their thoughts and perspectives to that decision-making group. They also met with Sarah O’Regan to discuss their plans and thoughts for the remainder of this year and beginning of 2021/22. We are keen to explore their thinking and see how that can enhance the student and WSO experience for all.

Student Wellbeing

While we know student wellbeing is inherent in every action and every conversation at WSO, I wanted to highlight the incredible effort that staff went to, to create our recent PSHE Day. Using the PASS (Pupil Attitude to Self and School) data, the team put the spotlight on Learner Self Regard and Boosting Self Esteem.



Internal workshops created by these staff and students, supplemented by international and local speakers, including (L-R) **Jasmine Navarro**: UK-Trained, Dubai-based Teen, Youth and Family Coach. **Adam Farmer**: UK-born working from Sydney, Australia - Personal Development focused on transitioning teenagers to adulthood, **Dr Anna Grazia Lecca PhD**: Clinical Psychologist and founder of Dr Anna Wellbeing Resolution, **Mike Bartlett**: Education Consultant, Motivational Speaker for Youth, **Dr Dardari**: Head of Dept and Consultant Pediatrician, Fakeeh University Hospital



The day was a huge success and extremely well-received by students and staff alike.



Year 11 and 13 Examinations

We have known for a while that GCSE and A-Level examinations were not going to happen. You are all aware that recently the MoE/KHDA made a decision to cancel the IBDP Examinations also. Our thanks and admiration go to our students and families who have been impacted at this late stage. Our students were preparing to take these examinations right up until the moment when they were cancelled – a real credit to their commitment and perseverance. While this has been hugely unsettling, situations like this always highlight the resilience of our youth AND the skill and care of our staff. We continue to work hard for all our exam students to create the best possible picture for their School-Assessed Grades.

Medical update

Since the start of the pandemic our teams have been working to ensure we implement the highest health and safety standards and take all of the necessary precautions to keep our community safe in line with guidance from the authorities. Unfortunately, this week in Secondary we have had two confirmed positive COVID-19 case in year 7 & Year 9, after receiving guidance from the DHA our teams have contacted any affected families. We as a community will continue to follow the health and safety protocols issued by the Authorities.

International Francophonie Day

On this day where we celebrate the French Language, Our Modern Foreign Languages Department hosted a competition across the Academy where students danced to a famous French song. Included here is the [LINK](#) to the Wsik WSOk winners. It was fantastic to see the number of entries from all ages.

Re-enrolment for 2021/22 Academic Year

Thank you to the significant number of families that have re-enrolled for 2021/22. We are looking forward to continuing the relationships and educational journey with you. Preparations for next year are well underway and we need to be placing students in classes and houses. We can only do this with those that are re-enrolled. We would appreciate your attention to this process. You may receive a phone call soon regarding this matter and if you have any questions please contact s.christiansen_wso@gemsedu.com

For your interest

I have been remiss in recent times, not sharing reading with you – current articles and thinking related to education globally. This [article](#) highlights the fact that while COVID has been difficult and challenging for everyone, what emerges from such situations, is innovation, new thinking and new ways of being. Of course we might all have different perspectives on such things and there will be varying degrees of agreement and disagreement – the value is in our interaction about such thinking and what impact it might have on WSO and our students, your children.



As always, I welcome your feedback – about this article or any aspect of your child’s experience with us. Please email me on a.kaifong_wso@gemsedu.com
Our thanks again for your ongoing support. Please email me on a.kaifong_wso@gemsedu.com if you have any queries.

Wishing you a safe Spring Break
Sincerely

Andy Kai Fong
Secondary Principal



Tuesday - 27th April	Parent Engagement – Much more than lights, camera, action – Why Performing Arts is fundamental for every child’s journey – Click here to sign up for this exciting engagement session from Miss Quirke, which will show the importance of how PA improves various life skills
May	GEMS Parent Survey Part 2 – Families will receive an email via the system to complete this.
Tuesday – 11th May	Parent Engagement- Confidence, Communication and Expression, how to support your child during COVID times?
Thursday – 13th May	Possible closure due to Eid Al Fitr (end of Ramadan celebration)
Tuesday - 18th May	Parent Engagement – GCSE Options what to consider?
Wednesday – 19th May	Parent Engagement- IB, A-Level or BTEC – What consider when supporting your child’s Post 16 Pathway
Monday - 24th May	Year 13 Graduation.
Tuesday – 25th May	Parent Engagement - The Importance of Languages