



Principal's Message

I would like to welcome back all The Sultan's School parents, students and staff to what will be yet another exciting and enriching academic year for all. As you may be aware, there have been a number of changes to the school, both physically and geographically, with additional personnel in key positions throughout the school and additional buildings being erected. This will be explained to all at our first Parents Information Evening on October 5th 2009. I would also like to welcome the new cohort of academic staff – both teachers and teacher assistants who join us this year from various countries around the globe.

In this Bulletin, I would like to make special mention about the school's awareness programme on the recent pandemic of H1N1. Following the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education guidelines for dealing with H1N1 in Schools, the Leadership Team has assumed the role of the "Health Awareness Team", abiding by the following procedures:

- Monitoring and recording average unexpected absences in the school;
- Following the cases during absence by regularly calling parents;
- Providing awareness schemes in school and for the parents; and
- Liaising with the WHO and local hospitals and clinics.

Thank you for sending your child to school during this time of uncertainty and I encourage the parents of Primary school children to continue with the **eLearning** (www.tssnet.org) provided by the Primary teachers until they commence school on Saturday October 3rd. This is a wonderful addition to aid your child's learning during this time of school closure.

Recently we welcomed His Excellency, The Chairman, Mohammed Al Riyami and the entire school's Board of Trustees to our school. During their visit they had the opportunity to meet with most of the newly appointed staff as well as taking part in a walking tour around the school looking at the improved facilities and observing classes being taught in our Secondary school. Over the past months, the Board of Trustees has been vigilant in reviewing the school's direction for future development and will unveil the new 2020 Strategic Plan for the school shortly.

Last week, we also had the opportunity to meet with a few of the school's past students. I feel that The Sultan's School Alumni will 'come of age' this year and spread its wings. The alumni are planning to hold activities and events during the year in order to revitalise the Alumni association. Information about upcoming events will soon be available; however, if you are a past student of The Sultan's School, can you please pass on your contact details to Mr. Marwan by email to marwan@sultansschool.org.

Whilst on the subject of past students and achievements, we are very proud to announce that the entire 29th graduating class of The Sultan's School, the Class of 2009, received placements in universities in the Sultanate of Oman and throughout the world. Congratulations students and congratulations teachers! Our IGCSE results and IB results also improved with over 80% of students achieving A* to C and 88% of students achieving their IB Diploma. Fantastic effort indeed!

Finally, I would like to thank the school's support staff, who over the summer period, have worked exceptionally hard to complete a number of improvements on campus. Much time and energy has been devoted to making the learning spaces around the school more conducive to learning. These are indeed exciting times at The Sultan's School, and I invite you to join me after the Eid break to the Parents Information Evening on October 5th commencing at 7:15 pm. Ramadan Kareem and Eid Mubarak to all.

Mr. Anthony Cashin
principal@sultansschool.org

Message from Head of Primary

Another academic year has almost begun...it is a shame that we have had to delay our start as we have a wonderful team of teachers and 12 newly appointed Teaching Assistants eager and ready to take your children through another exciting year at The Sultan's School Primary! A big thank you to all the staff for getting the e-learning up and running and many thanks to all the parents and carers for helping the children with this work. I would like to remind you that we do not expect the children to complete all of the work, only what you see fit for them to do. This work is a reflection of what the children will be studying once back at school, but will not count towards any grades or assessments.

The teachers are using the time we have without students wisely and are working on making our classrooms the best learning areas they can be for your children. This year, the students will remain in the one homeroom and their English and Arabic teacher will move between rooms. This will enable us to create unique, bilingual learning environments which will celebrate our wonderful bilingual curriculum. Teachers are also working on raising the standards and expectations of our students by improving our written curriculum. You will receive more information about this throughout the year.

We hope that you will be able to make the Parents Information Evening on October 5th; this is an important date as the curriculum team plan to deliver updates on recent developments. This will also be an opportunity for Ms Iman (Head of Primary Arabic) to explain the rationale behind bringing the Arabic subjects curriculum inline with our year levels: for example Year 4 will study Grade 4 curriculum, and so forth.

We are very excited to be moving the children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) into brand new classrooms when they return to school. These are temporary for the next year while a state of the art building is constructed. We hope you and your children will be impressed with what the teachers have done inside the new rooms! Year 1 and 2 children will also continue to wear a more practical school uniform as they did in the Early Years, consisting of a coloured Polo shirt and blue shorts or skirt. Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) will wear the regular school uniform. Please make sure all items are labelled with your child's name and please remind your children to bring a bottle of water to school with them each day!

I very much look forward to welcoming your children back to school on October 3rd, when we will be getting off to a racing start to catch up and make this year a successful one. We will remain vigilant about health and safety for your children with the H1N1 pandemic in mind. We will be teaching the children about basic hygiene rules and would urge you to begin teaching them about regular hand washing etc. Please remember, if your child or anyone in your household has any flu symptoms, then they must remain at home until given the all clear by a Doctor. My best wishes to one and all. Eid Mubarak!

Mrs. Kate Gower
primaryh@sultansschool.org

Message from Head of Secondary - Eid Mubarak

This year promises to be even more special than all those previous in the secondary section due to a number of exciting developments in the High School. Key amongst these is the introduction of Year 7 into secondary. Four classrooms have been adapted and refurbished to accommodate the new intake and Department Heads have been altering their curriculum to incorporate the additional year group. I have no doubt that this change will reap significant rewards in enhanced achievement higher up in the school as this cohort advances.

Another crucial adjustment has been the alteration to the secondary Pastoral structure. Mr Andrew Taylor assumes the role of Director of Pastoral Services (including Boarding). Directly under Mr Taylor are the Key Stage Co-ordinators. Head of Key Stage 3 is Mr Tim Kelleher, who will oversee the teaching and pastoral care of years 7, 8 and 9 students, assisted by the appropriate Heads of Years (Ms Fatimah Tarawneh, Mr Ali Al Qubtan, and Ms Nora Jawad). Head of Key Stage 4 is Mr Peter Ross, these are the years of IGCSE study. Mr. Peter is assisted by Ms Ishrat Ullah and Ms Rachel Wilson, Head of Years 10 and 11 respectively). Head of Key Stage 5 (IB Co-ordinator) is Mr Chris Hassan, Mr Joel Nainie will assume the role of Head of Year 12 whilst Ms Tonye Fubara is in charge of Year 13. CAS Co-ordination is now managed by Mr Lee Mulliss, whilst Ms Yvonne Castello will continue to lead the inspirational TOK team.

Last year the 'Opening Minds' ethos was successfully introduced to Year 8 students and this year the programme has been extended to include Year 7 as well. It is hoped that the teaching methods will form a useful and friendly bridge thus easing the move from Primary to Secondary. Year 9 students embark on a very important year of study where their academic success (or lack of it) will result in their selection of courses towards the end of the year. It is vitally important that they work hard and thus keep their options open when it comes to selecting their IGCSE Options.

Year 10 students have made their option choices of course and now need to set about laying the excellent foundation of knowledge that will set the platform for a top grade in IGCSE. There are certain subjects which cannot be 'picked up' in Year 12 so students who have not studied Physics or Chemistry for instance, cannot take this subject for IB. Similarly students who do not gain the required grade for entry to an IB course (eg a B in IGCSE Maths to take IB SL Mathematics, a C in IGCSE Chemistry to take IB SL Chemistry etc) cannot take this subject at IB Level. Parents will shortly be receiving a letter about their child's options and its career implications and will be asked to return a signed copy to the school.

For many people a useful strategy to identify the path to success is identification of targets, and strategising means to achieve these targets. This year we shall be developing this strategy with our students and using it to enhance their performance. One way this has been done already is the setting of coursework deadlines and a very important date for IB2 students is almost upon us! The Extended Essay First Draft date is arriving fast, failure to submit this WILL result in failure for the entire diploma. Any student who gains an elementary grade in this essay (or in TOK) automatically fails their diploma also, similar to those who do not complete the 150 hours of Creativity, Action, Service (CAS). So students who have not kept up to date with any of these Core components have very little time left to save themselves; please encourage them to do the right thing before it is too late and they fail, before even sitting an exam!

Mr Russell Croft has been appointed as Director of Activities and he may be able to assist students into various CAS related areas. There are a number of exciting initiatives in the school; we can be very proud of the success of Mr Brian Stewart's FI team which won the Middle East competition and thus qualified to compete in the UK. A big thank you to the sponsors who supported these students.

With passionate students and committed staff I know that we can only go onto even greater things. The new Head of Music (Mr Darren Jones) and the new Head of Drama (Ms Jennifer Demellweek) are looking to enrich our students with extra cultural opportunities. After Eid there will be many after-school activities on offer and I do recommend that all students take part so that they are advanced academically, physically, culturally and socially. They will also have a lot of fun.

Mr. Ray Zinsli
rayz@sultansschool.org

Message from Director of Activities

It's great to see all the Secondary students finally back in school. In my new role as Director of Activities, one of the areas I will be looking to develop this year is the Extra-Curricular Activity (E.C.A.) program. Hopefully from the booklet you have received, you will have noticed a broader range of activities offered across all areas.

This increase has meant that we are now using external coaches to satisfy demand. There will be costs to participate in some of these activities, but we believe it is an area we are looking to promote in order to give you, the students what you really want. I urge you to take full advantage of the activities on offer. Remember the deadline for returning your options to Homeroom teachers is Saturday 12th September.



TSS Bulletin

The Sultan's School - Oman's Leading Bilingual School

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The House system has also undergone major restructuring. As some of you are aware, I am in the process of explaining these changes to the various year groups through assemblies. Quite simply, we are looking for your efforts, achievements and successes to be rewarded in all aspects of your school life through individual and group (House) recognition.

There will be an increasing number of House events that you will be encouraged to be actively involved in through your appointed House captains from Year 13. It really is an exciting time to be involved with the House system.

Other initiatives will be explained in subsequent newsletters. I would just like to take this opportunity to personally thank those students who have applied for House Captains roles, to encourage those students who are unsure about the new developments to come and see me and to urge everyone to grasp every opportunity you can and have a wonderful year.

Mr. Russell Croft
russellc@sultansschool.org

Message from Director of Boarding and Pastoral Care

The Sultan's School is committed to providing pastoral support that meets the needs of its student body. It expects the best from students the first time and every time. To achieve this, a 'team approach' has been adopted which involves students, teachers and parents working in partnership to help students become the best they can be. This bulletin explains the roles that individuals play in this process.

The Student's Role: At The Sultan's School, students are expected to do their best the first time and every time. The Student Support Services Department will help you to achieve your best. Please read 'The student code of conduct' which explains key expectations of you during your time at school. Adults who are committed to supporting you at school include your Parents, your Classroom Teachers, Homeroom Tutor, Head of Year, Key Stage Coordinators and Pastoral Team Coordinator.

Parent's Role: The Sultan's School is committed to working with parents to ensure that students become 'the best they can be'. Where parents identify problems with their child's education, they are encouraged to contact the appropriate member of the support team at an early stage and be involved in the process of problem resolution. Contact details of The Sultan's School pastoral team members are included in the student's diary ('contact book').

Role of the Homeroom Tutor (HRT): The Homeroom Tutor is the key figure in the pastoral support of students within the School. The Homeroom Tutor is in daily contact with the student and is in the best position to provide effective pastoral support. Teaching staff will liaise closely with the HRTs and make them aware of information or interventions regarding students.

Mr. Andrew Taylor
andrewt@sultansschool.org

Message from School Counselor

Greetings one and all! My Name is Hind Al-Naamani and I am the new Student Counselor at The Sultan's School. I graduated as a social worker from the University of Lancaster in the United Kingdom. My role is to give confidential guidance and advice to your children, our students. If they have any emotional, personal, social or educational issues or problems I'm here to help, gently advise and guide.

I extend an invitation to all students and their respective families to use this service; you are more than welcome to contact me or meet with me if there are any concerns or issues.

Miss Hind Al Naamani
hindn@sultansschool.org