

9th December 2021

Re: End of Term 1 Letter

Dear Community,

As we approach end of term1, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every parent for the great support they have given us and the productive feedback which has made us all develop and progress. It allowed us to reach the highest parents satisfaction percentage ever for the school.

I'm extremely proud of our community; teachers, staff, parents, guardians and really happy to see lots of smiling faces every morning. We have had such a successful term with lots of events, the energy across the term this year has been great, long may this continue in the next term and beyond.

The school has truly transformed and every young person is experiencing an education which builds them as a whole child. From our seniors receiving their mock results, some are happy and some are understanding the rigour of assessments so that they are better prepared in the future, to our youngest learners playing outdoors, getting their hands dirty, singing somewhat in tune to the festive songs. So much to celebrate and so much to acknowledge, I want to thank every single educator in school and admin, this would not be possible without your great work.

Looking forward to a new term with new work schedule. More details about that will be shared with you from the Headteachers very soon. We will ensure to use these new timings to improve the education even further.

We are also looking forward to welcoming more than 60 families to our community in term two. This is the highest number we ever had at this time of the year. This emphasises that our community is always growing and increasingly becoming a school of choice. It won't be long now before spots in the school will be hard to find, we are starting to see this already in certain years.

As a school we will strive to improve each term, your voice has helped and will continue to help with this, nothing happens in an instance and we will together build the strongest school in the region.



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I will very briefly take this opportunity to address some trends from our detractors. The first one is around homework, as you can see in my letter over the past three weeks, misconceptions and preferences from parents form their expectations about education and subsequently our school. We have had comments about, homework, class size, timings etc., so I think it will be useful to take this moment to align us all with some research.

As a school our decisions are underpinned not by preference of what we had in our time in school or what the latest trending social media blog is saying; we base our decisions on aspects such as meta-analysis and research. Such research includes, Hattie's meta-analysis. According to Hattie, "homework in primary school has an effect around zero on learning", without going into the nuances of what this means, the schools homework policy in primary school is based on the research for this, and therefore we have a minimal homework policy in our primary school, the research does not mean that it doesn't improve learning, but that there are other strategies such as differentiation in lesson or teacher clarity that have much more of an impact. Parents wanting to have more, I will respectfully ask you why? Are you wanting to improve learning? Because the research suggests otherwise; so what are your expectations based upon? Less homework has the same impact as an hour or two in primary, so why should we expect hours of work per week from our learners? This is why we try to get the balance right (yes some subjects may be finding it harder to get this right but we are on a journey). Instead, we expect our parents and young people to spend this time together as a family, talk to each other (this is so powerful), go and do the chores together (helps build teamwork and life skills), read a story together.

We have had some priceless feedback from new parents who felt that they could have been inducted better into the school, this has been heard and we are working on developing a stronger induction process, so that new parents in the future are better supported when joining the school and very quickly know what they need and what support is available for them.

Finally, many parents may not know how to or when to meet me, please note that I am happy to meet any parent if they just wish to have a general chat or something about whole school. If you wish to discuss something more specific, then I am perhaps not the right person and would request you to follow the school process (Lead teacher, Head of Year/Department, SLT, Headteacher and then Vice Principal or myself). We have these systems in place to help resolve matters with expediency, imagine a world in if I was to deal with all queries, you honestly know I won't be able to do justice to what you wanted. So, if you do want to grab a



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drink and chat about the school in general, please feel free to arrange a meeting with Ms. Nagham, n.ghaleb_mts@gemsedu.com.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable break, Merry Christmas and happy new year to all of you. Looking forward to welcome you all on Monday, January 3rd 2022.

Kind regards,



Nav Iqbal
Principal | CEO

