

30th September 2022

Re: Monthly Letter

Dear community,

It has been a busy first month of this new academic year with many things to celebrate and some to learn from. Two of our students Sofia Menendez Vidal from Y7 and Syeda Eman Hussain from Y11 have been awarded the GEMS Platinum Jubilee full school scholarship, congratulations to our students for this great achievement.

Mustang Squads and Swimming gala

Squad trials have started this month and going strong. As a school we have always had high student participation in our squads and we are looking at increasing this participation by preparing the new Cricket squad for the tape ball competition later in the summer term.

The Swimming Gala had over 1800 students participating this year, which was great to see, it also meant that such growth led to some pinch points, such as the time students had to participate in the event or getting ready before the event. Taking your feedback as well as student voice into consideration, the Swimming gala next year will be from Year 3 to Year 13 and will be by registration only. This will mean that only those students who wish to participate can do so, also, allowing more time to prepare and participate.

Uniform

During my recent 'Lunch with Nav' on Instagram, some students suggested having a casual Friday for students, similar to what staff have. I mentioned to them that we will seriously consider this request and revert back to the community. Looking at how important the school uniform is to our student and school identity, it is really important that we have all students in the correct uniform all the time.

I would like to confirm that as a school, we listened to the students' requests and adapted the 'Skills in School' curriculum to provide our Prep and Senior students with the opportunity to pitch their proposal of 'Casual Fridays for students'. In the last three weeks, students have researched the positives and negatives to 'Casual Fridays', interviewed teachers and younger students to gather their opinions and developed their presentational skills. All students were involved in the class rounds before one student from each class was chosen to perform at the semi-final.



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The next stage is for the final shortlisted students to present their ideas to the Senior Leadership team next week so that we can outline the expectations of how 'Casual Fridays' will look across the school.

There are parts of the school which are closer to this objective than others. It was only reasonable therefore, to look at this request as four schools and see how our students are doing in terms of correct uniform all the time. We will introduce Casual Fridays for students when 90% or more of the students in that school (Infant, Junior, Prep or Senior) have the correct uniform. As you will see from the details below, some schools are much closer to this target than others.

In first place our Infant school currently has 85% of its students wearing the correct uniform. The main issue at infant schools is that many FS1 and FS2 student do not have the blue book bag, but have a trolley bag, this needs to be corrected immediately, students at this age do not need to carry large bags or have a trolley bag which can be dangerous. They only need a blue book bag and a small lunch bag. As soon as this has been corrected by the parents and reaches 90%, we can then announce the date casual Fridays will begin in Infant school.

In Second place, our Prep school currently has 80% of its students wearing the correct uniform. The main issues here are not having a school tie or scarf, and a few students not having black polishable leather shoes. Once this has been corrected and reaches 90%, we will confirm the date the Casual Fridays will come into effect.

In third place, our Senior school currently has 50% of its students wearing the correct uniform. The main issues here are not having a school blazer, black polishable shoes and having the incorrect tie (some students have the prep school tie instead of the senior school tie). Once this has been corrected and reaches 90%, we will confirm the date Casual Fridays will come into effect.

Finally, in fourth, our Junior school currently has 30% of its students wearing the correct uniform. The main items of uniform missing are school ties and both school hats for boys and girls. I acknowledge that the large size in the girls hat are currently out of stock and will be available from November, but there are many girls not wearing the medium hat for their size or enough of the boys wearing their formal hats.

When any of the schools hit 90%, that part of the school will then be able to have Casual Fridays, confirmation and expectations of this will be sent to you in the future.



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Much of my letter this month has focused on the school uniform, this is both to highlight the importance that the school uniform has on the identity of our school. We want our students to be proud of their school and show this, this pride can be seen with students who look smart, walk smart and think smart. This also prepares them for their futures, all professions will have some expectations on dress; barristers may wear a gown and wig, doctors their scrubs, engineers an overall and PPE, or an influencer wearing a cool branded tee. All follow some identity norms, these may be based in history, linked to practical reasons or to promote oneself. The school aims to ensure our identity is known by what we wear and how well we wear it. Please support your school by instilling these traits in our children.

I look forward to the rest of the term and being able to celebrate more successes across our community with you in the future. I also look forward to many parents participating in my next 1Hub Business networking event which will take place in school in October (details shared in a separate letter).

Kind regards,



Nav Iqbal
Principal | CEO



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RE: 1HUB – Business and Enterprise Network

Dear Community,

We would like to invite you to our 1HUB Business Networking meeting on Monday, 10th October at 10:00am. 1HUB is a business and enterprise network for GEMS Metropole parents. During the monthly sessions, parents will have the opportunity to network, support each other with business referrals, learn from guest speakers and help to promote each other for business or employment.

Our guest speaker for the coming session is Ms. Sadika Kebbi, Corporate trainer and workshop designer, author of two books. The first one is academic and is titled “The Temptations of the Flesh in Madame Bovary and the Awakening”, the second is a collection of 20 short stories entitled “The Hidden Face of Schehrazade”. Sadika is also the founder of NGO called “Kun Ensan”.

If you choose to join this meeting, please fill out this [form](#) to reserve your seat. The session will be hosted in school.

We look forward to welcoming you all on Monday, 10th October at 10:00am.

Kind regards,



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