

Date 1st May 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you had an enjoyable Spring break, as we now turn our attention to the final term. As usual there is lots going on and much to celebrate.

Firstly, I wish all our students the best of luck in their forthcoming exams. With much anticipation, I look forward to celebrating your results in the very near future.

I am also very proud to announce, that former student, Mollie Sommerville, who took up an LSA role in September after finishing her A Levels with us, was presented the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award by HRH Prince Edward. The Gold Award is the highest award possible and is the first for AAESS. The award requires much hard work and dedication, and Mollie had to complete a grueling expedition in Oman, learn new skills as well as give her time to voluntary work. The award is recognised around the world by top universities and employers. It is no surprise that Mollie gained this award as she also achieved the highest mark in the Middle East for A Level Psychology too. Mollie will be leaving us this year following her gap year, to attend university, and we wish her all the very best.

It is also with huge pride that I tell you that Muzen Al Maskari in Year 11, has been chosen for the UAE Ambassador Diplomatic Program, and she will be spending her time at Harvard University this summer. Muzen was interviewed alongside 2000 other students from across the UAE; her selection is a real credit to her hard work.

Ishmal Khalid in the 6th Form, has been offered a full scholarship to NYU Abu Dhabi. This is fantastic news to receive such a position from a prestigious university, and we have no doubt that she will do well in her Computer Science degree.

The new building is on schedule and I have had the pleasure of a very dusty inspection. It is an impressive project. I am particularly excited about the purpose built Science labs, where we have employed a specialist teacher to give Year 3 – 6 focused and specialised Science lessons. Likewise, we have also employed a specialist Computer Science teacher for the new academic year to deliver Year 3 – 6 ICT lessons.

It is not just our students that have been achieving excellence of late, but also our staff. Mr Tiago Leal from the PE department, completed his dream race this holiday: The Marathon de Sables! 6 marathons over 6 days in the Sahara Desert and 250Km in total. Mr Tiago came 133rd in the race from 900 competitors. AAESS was delighted to sponsor his kit, knowing that it was worn with much pride across the toughest race in the world.

It is also that time of year when we say our thanks and bid farewell to some of our colleagues. Miss Suzy Eagles leaves us to go back to the UK to care for her sick father. I have personally worked with Suzy for over 11 years, both here and in the UK, and I hope that we will work again in the future. Suzy has led on Teaching & Learning here at the school, and has helped implement many important strategies in improving our outcomes for the students. We wish Suzy all the very best and pray for her father.

Mr Steve Giles also leaves us to take up a post early in Dubai. Like Suzy, I have had the pleasure of working with Steve both here in the UAE and in the UK. We wish Steve all the very best of luck as he takes on a new and exciting role. As Deputy Head, Steve has led the Secondary school into a strong position seeing students gain the highest marks in the World; the Middle East and indeed the UAE.

As a result, it is with great pleasure that I announce Mr Zaheer Abass as the new Head of Secondary. Mr Abass has been working at AAESS for over 18 years, and he will be joined by Mr Greg Evans who I have worked with for nearly 20 years.

You should also be aware by now that our school uniforms are being sold by Zaks next to the Lulu Hypermarket. At present we are in consultation with parents and students on a new design / re-make for September 2020. These designs can be viewed in the reception area of the school. Please pop in and have your say on our survey. I know the students are particularly excited about this.

With less than 9 weeks left and as Ramadan approaches, I thank you all for your continued support as we head towards the end of this academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Thomas B.Ed (Hons) M.Phil NPQH
Principal