Sunday 17th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Following the letter from Mr Horne yesterday I am writing to update you from a Secondary perspective regarding the implications for you and your children. Whilst the news was not what we all expected or wanted to receive we are reassured that this is necessary and puts the safety of our community first. Indeed, the authorities have increased efforts to accelerate the roll-out of the vaccination programme and all school staff will be able to receive the vaccination in the coming days.

In the meantime, our teachers are continuing to provide high quality online lessons for all students every day. All the planned activities for this half term will go ahead including:

- The curriculum continues please refer to the comprehensive outline of what students will be learning this term which were sent to your email last week and can also be found here
- Launch of the online version of the BISAD Diploma. A new app called Qridi will enable students and parents to have easy access from their mobile devices
- The Year 10 Parents Consultation Meetings with teachers on 25th January will go ahead online
- The Year 9 options process will continue as planned with subject videos being made available and a live Question & Answer session on Zoom on 27th January
- The annual BISAD's Got Talent competition will take place as usual: submissions in all year groups should be sent to form tutors by 31st January
- International Day will take place on the 4th February
- 'Ways to Wellbeing' (see below)

ADEK have directed that mock examinations should be postponed for the time being. These will now take place as soon as school reopens. New dates for these exams will be shared soon, in the meantime students should continue to work hard on their GCSE and IB courses and to meet all of their internal deadlines.

I would encourage you to look at the Ways to Wellbeing offer as this can be a great source of ideas and support to help students get off screens and get engaged with other activities to promote wellbeing of the body and mind. The current letter can be found in the following link and you can look forward to receiving the next installment later this week.

Ways to Wellbeing

One other thing to keep an eye out for... in addition to BISAD's Got Talent, this term we will also be introducing BISAD's Parents Got Talent! More news on this coming soon...

We have all learned a great deal about remote learning since last March and our teachers are continually looking for ways to enhance the experience that students have whilst online. We are grateful for the support that parents give to the students and to our teachers and please rest-assured we will continue to do our very best to keep your children happy, safe and moving forward in their learning.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Lowe

Head of Secondary