



17th August 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are well and that you have all enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing time during the summer break. Although holidays are always welcomed, we also know students are now getting excited to go back to school again, to see their friends and to get started on their learning for the new year.

May I also take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all the new families who are joining the British International School Abu Dhabi this term. Our community is a very friendly place and I am sure you and your children will settle in quickly. Please don't be afraid to ask for any help or guidance – the staff and families already here will be only too happy to help.

This letter is a brief introductory update regarding the upcoming term. Before I proceed further though, I will take this opportunity to congratulate once again our incredible IB and IGCSE students who received their grades over the summer. It was yet another record-breaking year for the school with the students gaining results which are way beyond UK and international expectations. Everyone at the school is so proud of the achievements of these students, and I know they in turn will credit the wonderful support they received from their families and their teachers.

Returning to the term ahead, new guidance has been published by ADEK for school operations. You should have all received the Parents Guide which was sent out by ADEK recently and covers the latest changes. A summary of the key points are as follows:

1. The school will open fully for all students from the start of term which begins in the week of Sunday, 29th August. There will be a slightly staggered beginning to help students learn new arrangements, but we will certainly be able to welcome all students back during the first few days.
2. Students aged 16 and above will need to be vaccinated.
3. Students aged 12 and above will continue to be tested every two weeks.
4. Masks must continue to be worn for students in Year 2 and above.
5. The school will be operating Face-To-Face learning. This is something that ADEK consulted on with parents and schools and which is highly supported across the Emirate.
6. Distance Learning is only available to students who have medical conditions classified as high-risk in relation to COVID-19.
7. The exception to the above point is that Distance Learning will be available to students aged 16 and above who are not yet vaccinated.
8. The canteen will not be open at the beginning of term so students should continue to bring in their snacks and lunches.
9. Extra-curricular activities will restart. There is likely to be a limited programme initially, but this will be expanded once the new arrangements are established.
10. PE lessons are able to be expanded to include a wider range of sports and activities.
11. Swimming lessons will restart, although this won't happen in the first couple of weeks as students settle back into school.



During the coming days we expect to receive more information from the authorities regarding buses, PCR testing dates and the necessary documentation needed for those who may have travelled overseas. We will of course inform you as soon as new information is received.

We will continue to send out further guidance in the next two weeks which will be specific to each of Primary and Secondary, or to your child's year group. Please keep an eye out for these letters and do contact the school if you have any questions at all. We understand there are many new details to become familiar with, and we are happy to help however we can so everyone is fully prepared for the new term.

It is very exciting to be able to start the new school year. The school was praised by ADEK and by SEHA for its safety arrangements last year, and we will maintain our highest expectations in this regard. Great progress has been made in reopening schools and we are delighted to be able to offer the wide provision of education that BIS Abu Dhabi has always offered, and which helps students to thrive in all areas.

With very best wishes to all our families for another successful term ahead,

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Horne
Principal