31st August 2016

Dear Parents and Students

I am very excited and honoured to be welcoming you to the beginning of a new school year. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer holiday and are feeling as prepared for the new term as we are at NAISAK. Our support staff have been working hard to improve the facilities with the aim of having the exterior of the school be representative of the quality that exists within the classrooms. In addition to preparing classrooms, teachers have been engaged in professional development that has focused on differentiation in the classroom, the use of Ipads, teaching students who speak English as an additional language and improving pedagogy in physical education.

We started the summer holiday with news from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education that we were given the highest possible rating from the inspection that occurred at the end of last term that led to our accreditation status being renewed for five years. We are yet to receive the written report, which we will share upon its arrival. Congratulations to the students who behaved exceptionally well and to the staff that worked so hard in completing the report. I would also like to thank parents for supporting the school, not only during the visit but throughout the entire academic year. I look forward to further developing the strong partnership that we enjoy within our community.

The self-study, which was completed in preparation for the inspection will form the basis of our school development plan that we will be working on during the academic year. This will involve a lot of consultation with students, staff and parents. I am really looking forward to hearing firsthand from the community about our strengths and areas for improvement.

On a personal level, my wife, Nadine and I have been in Qatar since early August and are enthused about working with NAISAK and are settling in well to life in Al Khor. Just last night, we were discussing how only two months ago, we were packing our belongings in preparation for the upcoming move from Jordan to Qatar. It would be remiss of me not to thank everybody who has made the transition for us so smooth. We are both very grateful.

In the coming newsletter, you will hear more about improvements to the physical and internal school structure throughout the summer. As for logistics, please take note of the details provided from each of the respective Heads of Stages. Should you have any questions or comments regarding first day arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the school at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to supporting our students in being confident, ambitious and reaching their academic potential. On behalf of the staff at NAISAK, I want to welcome you again to a year that promises to be exciting, challenging and will involve students learning more than they have ever dreamed possible.

I would like to invite parents for an informal coffee morning on Wednesday 7th September at 7:20 in the Gymnasium. I look forward to having the opportunity to briefly introduce the Leadership Team, including myself.

Yours faithfully

Dave Pontich

Principal