



# THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF KUWAIT

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21: YEAR 9

27 August 2020

Dear Students and Parents

As you will be aware already, the academic year 2020-21 at The British School of Kuwait (BSK) will begin online, with lessons commencing on Sunday 06 September 2020. We are excited to welcome our incoming Year 9 students as they start their journey in the Higher Phase at BSK, and we look forward to working in partnership with all of you.

We are firmly committed to the development of the whole student and have been working tirelessly over the summer in order to further enhance the virtual school experience of our students. We of course look forward to welcoming students on campus as soon as it is safe to do so, but in the meantime our aim is to provide our students with a remote educational experience that is as similar as possible to that which they would receive on-site.

In order to ensure that our Year 9 students get the most out of their virtual learning experience it is vital that we maintain a strong sense of community, continue to work together and stay connected. We will be sharing a great deal of important information with both students and parents over the coming weeks and we would ask that you all check your emails regularly and reach out to us in the event of any queries.

### Academic Provision

The **Year 9 Curriculum** is a very important one as it not only marks the conclusion of Key Stage 3 of the National Curriculum of England, but also serves as an important bridge between the Middle Phase and the commencement of (I)GCSE studies in Year 10. Students in Year 9 will follow a full academic programme of subject lessons each weekday.

Returning students will be familiar with the Google Meet platform and will benefit from lesson delivery enhancements implemented over the summer that are designed to improve communication and collaboration within lessons. The introduction of a **Virtual Secondary Student Planner** and **Virtual Exercise Books** is also designed to help our students take a mature and organised approach to their studies. Details regarding this will be provided in the start of year induction materials to be released shortly.

Regarding textbooks, we would ask that any parents who are yet to do so kindly complete the Textbook Distribution Form to indicate their preference with respect to the collection or delivery of Year 9 textbooks. The link via which you can submit your requests is as follows: <https://portal.bsk.edu.kw/Forms/TextbooksDistribution> Kindly note that Kuwait Government Curriculum textbooks for Arabic for Arabs and Islamic Studies for Arabs courses are not yet available, and as such will not be included in textbook packs at this. Further information will be provided regarding that in due course.

With respect to school equipment and stationery we will write to you separately with the details of what is required/recommended.

Any queries regarding academic matters should be directed to our Assistant Head Teacher (Academic), Mr Simon Amura, who can be contacted via email to [sia@bsk.edu.kw](mailto:sia@bsk.edu.kw).

### Pastoral Provision

In order to support our Year 9 students as they begin their studies in the Higher Phase there have been further enhancements to our pastoral programme for this year.

Each Year 9 student will be allocated to a Tutor Group and will attend Tutor Time each morning. This is a vitally important part of the school day and provides an opportunity not only for sharing important announcements but also for checking on how our students are doing. The wellbeing of all of our students is a priority within our Year 9 Pastoral Programme and will feature prominently within both PSHE lessons and daily Tutor Time.

The Class Tutor has a vital role to play in supporting students so that they can get the most out of school. As such we would encourage all Year 9 students to be proactive in asking for help or clarification if they need it. We would also encourage all parents to liaise closely with their child's Class Tutor in order to support them in their transition.

It is also important that students are familiar with key policies and procedures related to daily aspects of school life such as attendance and punctuality, as well as rewards and sanctions. The **Virtual Upper Department Student Handbook** will be made available on our website shortly that should be reviewed carefully before the start of the school year. As we are sure you can appreciate, we will also inform you in writing of any adaptations that are required to our usual policies and procedures in order to accommodate the period of eLearning.

Any queries regarding pastoral matters should be directed to our Assistant Head Teacher (Pastoral), Miss Hannah Glendinning, who can be contacted via email to [hng@bsk.edu.kw](mailto:hng@bsk.edu.kw).

### **Getting started and staying connected**

Prior to the start of the academic year we would ask that all returning students ensure that they are able to access their existing school email and VLE accounts. Any queries regarding this should be directed to our Assistant Phase Coordinator, Miss Vicky Martin, via email to [vcm@bsk.edu.kw](mailto:vcm@bsk.edu.kw) who will be happy to assist. Students and parents who are new to BSK this year will be contacted separately with the relevant details.

Our **Year 9 Student Induction Pack** will be sent to students and parents via email next week and will contain all the information you will need to make a great start to the new school year. We would ask that you all read this carefully and ask for clarification if there is anything you are not sure about.

The first two lessons of the academic year will consist of **Year 9 Extended Tutor Time**, and this will provide students with a thorough orientation, as well as an opportunity to ask questions about anything they require clarification on before they start their lessons.

We understand that starting the academic year online is a new experience for everyone and we are here to help you navigate that process, so if you have any questions whatsoever please just ask and we will be happy to assist you. In the meantime, we wish all of our incoming Year 9 students all the very best for the new academic year.

Yours sincerely

*Emma Bowie*

Emma Bowie  
Secondary Head Teacher