



“There’s a fundamental distinction between strategy and operational effectiveness.”

Michael Porter



Dear All,

There is no doubt that the school has moved forwards in its aim to raise standards, improve communications and streamline the administration. This involves a great deal of work by a great many people. Our teachers are pushing hard to improve the educational outcomes of our students and we are seeing some really positive examples of students exceeding expectations, having new opportunities to learn and expand their horizons as part of the extended curriculum through to adventurous expeditions such as the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award.

Our administration has improved significantly through the use of a new management information system (ISAMS). This enables us to see at the press of a button all the information on every student and member of staff at school. Our support staff continue to improve their understanding of the new system and I am very grateful for their efforts into making this work so well.

This week, we say farewell to our Senior Administrator, Helen Stevenson. Helen has worked across our Compass International Schools in Doha for nearly 6 years and she is not going far because she is moving to Gharaffa as their school secretary. We wish her well in this move and thank her for her work at Madinat Khalifa. We also say farewell and good luck to Sabitha Vasu our science technician who is taking maternity leave from this week. She joins a small group of staff including Josie Gentil (Primary French) and Anjalee Paratian (Head of Secondary French) who are expecting babies in the coming months.

We are now looking to develop our longer-term, strategic perspective for the future growth of our school so that it can take its rightful place as the best all-age school in Doha. To support this development, we are establishing a new Strategic Advisory Board for Madinat Khalifa.

This Board will draw on the expertise of people from the communities served by the school and we ask for expressions of interest from parents who may have some skills in strategic development or who may simply have a desire to help steer the course of the school’s development for the next few years. Ideally, we would be able to draw our members from a balanced, cross section of the school. However, it is most important to have people with a positive mindset regardless of background or previous experience. We need constructive, calm, enthusiastic, community- minded and culturally sensitive people to join our team. If you are interested in being part of the future development of the school and can attend 3 meetings per year, please contact Monica Frarey PAprincipal.mk@nais.qa or pop in and talk to me about the role further.

Finally, I do hope that you enjoy reading the rest of this Newsletter. Communication is a two-way process and when you have finished reading this, please do encourage others to take the time to browse through this weekly update.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Regards,

Dr Terry Creissen OBE MA MBA FRSA
Principal, Compass International School
Madinat Khalifa



PRIMARY NEWS

Flying High in Year 1

Aloha from Year 1! For the Exit Point of their Transport IPC Unit, Year 1 students and staff enjoyed a great trip to Hawaii this morning, on flight Compass MK01, professionally flown by Captain Paulo and cabin crew, Miss Tobin and Miss Egan. Children had to show their tickets before going through to their appropriate airport lounge, whether that be First Class, Business Class or Economy. From there passengers had to pass through Passport Control, fronted by Mrs Stevenson. When on the plane, passengers were given refreshments and had to listen carefully to the Captain's safety announcement and route updates. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all and a special note of thanks must go to Captain Paulo from Qatar Airways for giving up his time this morning. Please see our school website www.cisdoha.com, Madinat Khalifa, for further photos.



Global Classroom

Before the Spring break, students at our Primary School took part in a Global Classroom Creative Writing Competition, based on the topic of 'Somewhere Unforgettable'. Students produced some fantastic recounts and stories and I thoroughly enjoyed reading them before being part of a team to select the top 3 stories in Key Stage 1 (Years 1-3) and the Top 3 in Key Stage 2 (Years 4-6). These winning students received certificates and a prize during assembly and will have their writing displayed on the Creative Writing display board. Furthermore, these winning entries will be submitted to Nord Anglia Education, where they will be judged once again along with entries from all Nord Anglia Education schools for a place in this year's published short story book.

Emma Brick, Global Classroom Lead Teacher



Winners of the Madinat Khalifa Global Classroom Creative Writing competition.

Morning drop-off and Afternoon pick-up

We ask parents to ensure that students are not on site before 07.00 and are collected promptly at the end of the day. Normal school finishes at 13.30 and at 14.30 for after school activities (ECAs). We are not able to supervise students whilst they wait for a brother or sister to finish an ECA. It is important that students are collected on time. If you know that you are going to be late, please telephone our school in advance so that we can be prepared. Please note that playground equipment should not be used before or after school. We cannot be responsible for any injuries caused outside of supervised hours.

World Earth Day: Wednesday 22 April 2015

Students may come into school in non-uniform for free with a green/brown colour theme.



SECONDARY NEWS

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

Students working on The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award take part in a practice adventurous journey this weekend. The students had a productive route planning session with other Award students after school and we hope that the group will be equally successful at planning their route to our campsite by the sea. We wish them well in their practice expedition to Zagreet

Year 10 I-pad Pilot Programme

We will be piloting an I-pad, One-to-One programme for Year 10 students this term. This means that every student in Year 10 will be provided with their own iPad, to use daily in class and at home to enhance and support their learning at Madinat Khalifa. This scheme will not replace the traditional teaching and learning strategies employed within the classroom, but will be integrated alongside them to enhance the student's overall experience. Year 10 parents are invited to learn more about the project on Wednesday 22 April from 2.30–3.30 in the IB and Library Suite at school. If you have any specific questions related to this project, please contact Teresa Menton Teresa.menton@nais.qa

Yr. 12 IBDP Student Visit to the Mangroves

On Tuesday and Wednesday 17-18 March 2015, Mr Banfield and Mr Mackenzie took our Year 12 IB Diploma Biology, Geography and ESS students set on a 2-day fieldtrip adventure to the mangrove forests of Purple Island (Al Khor) and Al Thakhira. The task was to collect primary data in order to complete the Internal Assessment (IA) components for the IB Diploma Programme.

The fieldtrip was an excellent opportunity for students to extend their knowledge outside of the classroom into a real-life fieldwork environment, and to test the theoretical knowledge that they had learned in school.

Day 1 involved collecting data at four different locations within and around Purple Island, with students having an excellent opportunity to get hands-on experience collecting soil samples, measuring gradient and estimating species distribution of vegetation within different sample sites. After a long day collecting data, the students then had an opportunity to plant a number of young mangrove seedlings into the coastal area as part of the HSBC mangrove project that is helping to sustain the abundance and health of the mangrove forest. Day 1 concluded with a wonderful BBQ dinner before the students went to bed in luxurious tents.

Day 2 involved a short drive to Al Thakira where the students took kayaks along the coast and up into the mangrove gulleys in order to gain a different perspective of the mangrove forest. It was amazing to see the size and density of the mangrove forest, combined with the wide-ranging diversity in wildlife including reef herons, cormorants and numerous species of crustaceans and aquatic life. Students then kayaked back to the shoreline, and completed the fieldtrip by collecting samples of data at a fifth mangrove forest location along the beach at Al Thakira before heading back to school.

Thanks to our students for making this an enjoyable fieldwork expedition.





MORE NEWS

CYBER SAFETY: Helping Your Child Keep Safe On Line

We are pleased to give parents advance notice of two important Parent Seminars on helping to keep your child safe on line.

The first session is directed towards parents of Primary School age children and will be led by Christopher McConville on Tuesday 28 April 07.30 – 08.30.

The second session is directed towards parents of senior students in our Secondary School and will be led by Sajid Mahmood on Thursday 2 May, 1.30pm–2.30pm.

Both events will focus on what we do in school to teach students how to be careful users of technology and social media as well as giving parents advice on what to do at home to ensure that their children keep themselves safe and protect their identify.

Strategic Advisory Board – Call for Parent Members at Madinat Khalifa

The Strategic Advisory Board at Madinat Khalifa (SAB@MK) is being established to assist the school in its mission to deliver the highest standard of education to its students. Its chief function is to advise the leadership of the school on matters related to the school’s strategic development that are of direct concern to the parent body and have a direct impact on the students. The Board will be a strategic rather than an executive body. Its primary function is to address the developmental needs of the school and plan the way forward.

The SAB@MK will be appointed mainly from the parent body although other members may be drawn from the wider community of the school. The SAB@MK is composed of no more than 12 members of the parent body taking into account the points in the Terms of Reference. The British Embassy, the Dutch Embassy and other embassies with more than 5 pupils in the school will be entitled to one representative, as will representatives of companies with 15 or more employees’ children at the school.

We are looking for Parent Representatives to join our newly formed Strategic Advisory Board. The only requirements are that you are keen to be involved in developing the strategic future for the school and will be able to continue this role into next academic year. Please contact the Principal’s PA, Monica Frarey if you are interested or would like more information on this role. Monica can be contacted by email PAprincipal.mk@nais.qa or just pop in and see her in the Main School Office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 16 April	IGCSE Practical and Oral Examinations begin
Friday - Saturday 17-18 April	DoE International Award practice journey
Sunday 19 April	ECAs begin
Wednesday 22 April	Secondary School Earth Day Challenge and whole school non-uniform Day
Thursday 23 April	Year 4 Hobday, Class Assembly; 07.30-08.00
Tuesday 5 May	Written IGCSE Examinations begin