

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. I look forward to working with you and your children throughout the course of the year to ensure that they all achieve their full potential.



The year has started extremely positively and I would like to thank you for your cooperation regarding the way in which the students are adhering to the Code of Conduct in terms of dress and behaviour. Please continue your cooperation with us in these areas and also with regard to punctuality in the mornings: all students should be in the school grounds by 7.25am at the latest for the 7.30am assemblies.

Major repair and maintenance work was carried out during the summer break and we are pleased to announce that all student and staff toilets have been totally re-furbished.



We are planning to hold a number of curriculum evenings at the beginning of October to inform you of recent and planned changes in the educational provision for your child. These are vitally important meetings and it is crucial that you make every effort to attend.

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External Examination Results

Our students received their results for the June 2011 IGCSE, A level and General Education Diploma (GED) in the last couple of months. We congratulate those students who were awarded Scholarships.

In comparison with last year there was a substantial improvement in the results of our students. In the external exams for the Omani Diploma (GED), the average score for the entire group was 65%, with 2 of our students achieving an average score of over 80%.

At IGCSE, 85% of our students gained A*-C in English, while over 40% gained 5 or more A*-C overall. 83% of MIS students gained A*-E in all 8 subjects, with 60% gaining A*-C in all 8 subjects.

At GCE (AS and A2) 88% of our students gained A*-E at A2 level while 72% gained A*-E at AS level.

These results are a reflection of the dedication and hard work that the students put into their studies throughout the year and especially at the end of the year just prior to their exams.

This year we have a fantastic group of students in Grade 10, 11 and 12 and we look forward to seeing further improvements in the school results next year.

Fees Settlement

By now you should have received your latest invoice for the school fees. Please ensure these are settled timeously. Parents who have overdue accounts will be contacted separately with a plea to settle their outstanding accounts without delay. Non-payment of these accounts has a detrimental effect on the school.

Student Discipline

A firm and fair system of discipline remains high on my agenda, and again I would ask parents for their support in this area. It is important from the outset that we work together to ensure good habits of time-keeping and adherence to the school dress code. Both of these aspects began to slip towards the end of last session and I would like to ensure that they are brought back to a high standard at the beginning of the new session.

Traffic Issues

I would respectfully remind parents / drivers who are dropping off and collecting students at the beginning and end of the day to take the greatest of care whilst driving and parking. The pick-up area continues to be congested and I appeal to everyone to exercise the utmost caution on the grounds of safety. **Please remember that the school gates do not open until 7.00am.**

Calendar

Important dates for the first term:

01 October	Grades 1-2 Curriculum Evening	7.30pm
02 October	Grades 3-4 Curriculum Evening	7.30pm
03 October	Grades 5-6 Curriculum Evening	7.30pm
08 October	Grades 7-8 Curriculum Evening	7.30pm
09 October	Grades 9-10 Curriculum Evening	7.30pm
10 October	Grades 11-12 Curriculum Evening	7.30pm
22 Oct-02 Nov	Literacy Festival	
25 October	Charity Club - National Association for Cancer Awareness 'Pink' Day	
02 November	Charity Club - Mufti Day	

After school activities will begin end of Sept/early October.

Introducing our new Heads of Section

Prior to the end of last session we secured the services of two new Heads of Section:

Mr Steve Coventry was appointed to the post of Head of Primary; while **Mr Stefano Puimatti** took on the role of Head of Secondary. Both heads work closely with their newly appointed Academic Coordinators: Ms Kim Percy in Primary and Mr Jonny Beaver in Secondary. I look forward to working closely with them to take the school forward this session.

Head of Primary



Our first weeks of school have gone very smoothly for children moving into the next grade level and establishing themselves in new classes. Getting to know their teachers and developing new friendships make for an exciting time of year for your children.

A smooth start is the result of the extensive preparation by all staff. This includes specific planning designed to allow new children to 'belong' to their new school as quickly as possible. Prior to the arrival of students, our teachers were busy developing an outline of the teaching units for the year, and planning the specific learning engagements for the Units of Study.

Behind all of the work that goes into planning for learning is the organisational work of timetables, duty rosters, organising resources, new staff induction and so on. We all enjoy the first days and recognise the incredible value in being 'well planned'.

We appreciate that educating your children is a shared partnership between school and home. The school's approach to homework, curriculum content and teaching strategies are based on current best practices. During the course of the year you will be invited to attend information session to find out about the current initiatives in Primary.

The purpose of the **Grade booklet accompanying this Newsletter** is to share important information with families. Please take the time to read through the booklet and share relevant information with your child.

Also **accompanying this Newsletter is a medical form**, which we ask you to complete and return to school as soon as possible.

I am excited about the upcoming academic year at MIS and I look forward to celebrating the success of our students with you.

Steve Coventry

Head of Secondary



I was thrilled at the prospect of commencing my new post at MIS in late July and now that I am here and have been working amongst the MIS community for the past six weeks this impression has only been further heightened. For, in this short time I have come to the conclusion that MIS is a school with a very bright and promising future.

I want you to know that I am very much committed to your children's education. I have many years of experience teaching in Australian and English schools and in that time my focus has always been academic rigour and the mantra 'be the best you can' each day, every day. I also recognise that I have a dedicated team of teachers who are equally committed and enthusiastic. Together we are working very hard behind the scenes to make this year very special. We are concentrating on the achievement of academic excellence and a year-by-year improvements in grades for our students. I am very excited about this prospect.

The improvement of grades and the potential of your children have no bounds. Clearly, the most effective way of achieving this is for parents, teachers and students to work in partnership. I look forward to getting to know you over the coming years. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly on any matter; I welcome your input at every stage.

Stefano Piumatti

Teachers' Professional Development

At MIS we encourage all our teachers to take part in Continuous Professional Development. Teachers from every department have the opportunity of attending at least one session of professional development throughout the year. These vary from our own "in-house" sessions delivered by our own experts through externally-organised Primary and Secondary focused topics to the International Exam Board Development Sessions. A number of these courses are award-bearing and I would like to congratulate 3 members of our current teaching staff who have recently been awarded Certificates and Diplomas in their respective fields of study:

Ms Nina Remanand: Cambridge International Diploma for Teachers and Trainers

Ms Kim Percy : CIPP English, Maths and Science Certification

Ms Dina ZaaZaa : CELTA Certification

Forthcoming Charity Club Events – watch out for further NEWS

- NACA: 'Pink Day' at MIS. "Show You Care; Be Aware" 8th Annual Cancer Awareness Walk : 25th October from 4-6pm
- Charity Appeal in Association with Dar Al Atta'a and World Food Day –1st to 12th October
- 'Change for Children Campaign' – annual initiative in support of the Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disability : start saving your coins!

