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Dear Families

I'm writing to you at the end of a busy module and an exciting period of improvement at UAE South Bank. It was great to meet a good number of you who came along to the 'Meet the Principal' evening earlier in the term and here is an update on the progress and developments at the Academy.

We started with the introduction of Home Learning, which includes students carrying out preparatory work for their next lessons. I remain fully committed to this philosophy and look forward to our students making better progress through this. There will be a home learning timetable published in the new calendar year to help manage this even better.

The new Student Planners are now in place which complement the introduction of Home Learning. The Student Planners are high quality organisers which will allow our students to manage their learning more effectively. They also provide an excellent way for you to communicate with the school more easily and please do continue to sign the 'Parent / Carer & Teacher Comments / Other Activities' section on a weekly basis.

Sims Learning Gateway (SLG) will also be launched in the New Year and this again will improve communication between home and school. SLG will provide all our families an easily accessible and up to date check on their child's progress, attendance and behaviour at the Academy. For future information please see attached letter.

Parents' Evenings will also change with the introduction of a more traditional approach where you will be able to discuss your child's subject based performance with all their individual teachers.

We have also spent a good deal of time updating and refreshing the Academy website to improve the accuracy of published information. We are also working hard to make the website easier to use in the future.

The Academy's Library/Learning Resource Centre (LRC) has transformed from having around a hundred books to currently over a thousand, with more to come. Every student at the Academy now has a reading book; developing literacy and a love of reading remains high on our priority list. The LRC is managed by Miss Thomas, who opens before and after school and at break and lunchtime every day. The LRC is now always full and a great resource for our students to enjoy.

From January onwards there will be a new timetable at the school. I shared with you previously my concerns with the long 1 hour 30 minute lessons and the new timetable is made up of 1 hour lessons instead. This will make learning more efficient and make the day more enjoyable for our students and is a significant step forward in the quality of provision. The amazing after school enrichment programme will continue but with a significant amount of added prep time and Home Learning support time built in too. The new timetable will allow us to provide focused learning support and supervised enrichment for students in similar structure to the current model but most importantly will

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allow students to finish slightly earlier in the day. This was an important objective for the new timetable as a good number of students have shared their concerns around their safety when travelling home after the current longer day model. The new timetable structure and key information will be available for you to see on our website.

I am also delighted that we now have a Parents and Families Association (PFA), who I'm really looking forward to working with in the future to improve the overall learning experience of all our students. I know how important this partnership will be in ensuring we create the outstanding educational experience we all know our community deserves. I would be delighted if you would like to get involved with the PFA and please do feel free to contact the Academy if you'd like to know more or you'd like to get involved.

Finally your opinion and views on our school is very important. As families and parents play a pivotal role in the success of our children here at UAE South Bank, please can you find a few minutes to complete the survey below, I would really appreciate it'

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XRBHH2V>

In summary, we have had an amazing few weeks at the Academy with the team here working very hard to continue to importantly provide an Engineering-based experience for our students but also establish new important strategies to make UAE South Bank the very best secondary school available to you. I genuinely believe this is achievable and is the only acceptable outcome in the future.

I look forward to working closely with you in the future to achieve this.

The very best of wishes over the festive season and please do contact the Academy if you'd like to know more.



Gary Nelson
Principal
UAE South Bank.