

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we reach the end of another term at UAE I'd like to take the opportunity to let you know about some of the significant developments that have happened at the school which will have had an impact on your child's education.

For all students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 the Day 10 programme has provided a range of educational visits, community work and projects in and out of school. The programme was launched at the start of the year and has been enthusiastically embraced by the students as it gives them a range of exciting experiences and opportunities beyond their normal curriculum.

We have also started using RM Unify and Google Classrooms. Your child will have a login for RM Unify and it would be very helpful if you could spend some time familiarising yourself with how this works with your child over the holiday. It is the portal through which they can access a range of applications that their teachers have recommended for them, including Google Classroom. We anticipate that parents will look at their child's Google Classroom online regularly to see what homework they are getting, and also to see what they are learning in lessons.

There have been changes in the leadership of the Parents and Families Association. The Chair of the PFA, Jennifer Lawrence, is stepping down from this post. I would like to publically thank her for all the hard work and thought she has put into building and running the PFA over the past few years. Through her the PFA has been able to offer great support to the school and provide a platform for parents to engage with the leadership of the school. A new Chair will be elected at the next meeting which will be on Thursday 17 January from 5.30pm to 6.45pm. If you would like to become involved in the PFA in any way then please email pfa@uaesouthbank.org.uk

Our year 11 students finished their mock examinations at the end of last week. They all worked very hard before and during the examinations and we are very proud of the effort they have put into their learning over this period. They will be our first year 11 cohort and we look forward to many of them choosing to join our sixth form from next September. The sixth form open evening is on Thursday 31st January, so if you have a child in year 11 please make sure you come along to see what our sixth form can offer.

One highlight of the term was yesterday evening's Winter Concert. To see so many students go up on stage in front of an audience of their peers and parents was inspirational. All the participants should feel really proud of what they achieved. I'd like to thank Ms Campbell who organised the event and supported the students as they prepared their performances, along with many other teachers and support staff. Participating in a performance to an audience is an opportunity to increase the confidence and the ambition of students and we will continue to increase the opportunities for students to do this over the next year.

Next module we have our annual production which this year is going to be the musical Aladdin. The performances will be on the 12th and 13th of February. The cast and crew have been rehearsing for a while and have also been to see the musical in the West End for inspiration. Tickets will be on sale in the new year, they are priced at £1 for children and £2 for adults. Please do come and see the show,

I expect it will be an impressive show demonstrating the talents and hard work of our students and the various staff involved.

We have a number of staff that are leaving the school at the end of this term. Ms Thomas in English, Mr Garcia in Science, Mr Romero in Spanish and Mr Izilein in Design and Engineering. They have all put time, effort and care into teaching and supporting students throughout their time here. Both staff and students will miss them all and we wish them the best as they continue to educate young people elsewhere. Ms Bhowmik is also leaving the school. Over the past few years, as the school SENCO, she has ensured that all the students in the school, whatever their individual needs and barriers to learning, are given expert support and sustained care to support them both in the mainstream classroom and in the extra tuition run in the SEN department. I and many of you will be very grateful for her work and her commitment to supporting individual students and we wish her all the best for the future.

Over the Christmas period I urge you to encourage your child to read a book. If there is one thing a parent can do to support the education of their children it is to help them to develop a love of reading books. Becoming a fluent and fast reader has a greater impact on a child's educational success than almost anything else. And please remember that the teachers have an INSET day on Monday 7th January. The next term starts on Tuesday 8th January for all students.

Finally, I sincerely wish you all a safe and joyous Christmas with your family and friends. I look forward to meeting you all in the New Year.

Yours sincerely