

## From the Principal's Desk



# Newsletter

22nd September 2016

[Pg.1 From the Principal's Desk](#)

\* [Pg. 4 Secondary School](#)

\* [Pg. 6 Primary School](#)

\*[Pg. 8 GCP](#)

### Dates to diarise

**29th September 8-9.30 Secondary and New Library opening Coffee Morning.**

**27th September 8-9am PYP new parents Information Session.—PYP building room TBC.**

**5th October 8-9.30am GCP and Parent Relations Officer Coffee Morning. IT will talk parents through the use of the Communicator and Slices will chat about healthy lunches, the service they provide and answer any questions**

Dear Parents,

I take great interest in following the progress of our senior students after they have left our school. Where have they gone to study, what careers are they following and how have they defined and made their successes? They will always be our children and their accomplishments give us great pride. That's what makes teaching without doubt the most rewarding career. As a school we keep a record of the universities at which our students have enrolled. I have attached a copy of the class of 2016's universities for your interest.

Looking back over the last three years of the International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career results here at Greenfield an interesting pattern has emerged. Our top Diploma students all arrived at the school not speaking a word of English. In a few years they not only mastered learning in a new language but achieved the highest results, often outperforming many mother tongue English speaking students in their home language! It speaks of their determination and self-discipline and is a reflection of the dedication of both our subject and English Additional Language support team. All three arrived in Grade 8 or 9 and in a few short years had adjusted to their new school and country, made friends and set high goals for themselves.

Each realised their success was in their hands and took real ownership of their learning. I remember Guiseppe Modica walking around the school soon after he arrived, looking confused and lost, relying on his Italian classmates for help. One day he arrived in Dolores Allison's class with his Extended Essay instructions in his hand, and asked her, 'Ma'am, what is a hypothesis?' She explained the term, and helped him to understand what the essay required and he went on to produce an outstanding piece of research. What impressed me is that he did not sit back and feel sorry for himself: he got up, got out and went out to find the help he needed. No-one told him to go Mrs. Allison: he took the first step.



### From the Principal's

### Desk

## Newsletter

There is a lesson and a word of encouragement in their story for all of us. A determined attitude, coupled with self-discipline and resilience, makes all the difference. Of course, a nurturing school and home environment play an important part, as do inspirational teachers and a school dedicated to supporting all its students. Agreed, we do need to have a base level of talent or ability, but a positive attitude and good old fashioned hard work are fundamental to success.

Giuseppe Modica, our 2016 Valedictorian, is now studying Economics at one of Europe's top Economics schools, Bocconi, In Milan, Italy. Mae Otsubo, our 2015 Valedictorian, is studying Law at Waseda University in Japan while Abdelbari Lakhim, 2014 Valedictorian, is studying Economics at the University of Nottingham in England. He is from Morocco.

There is a lighter side to this, too. A few years ago I realised that I had reached a milestone in life when one of my past students arrived at my school with his son on the first day of the year, about to start Kindergarten, and said, 'There's my old teacher, Mr. Wood.' I realised, with some shock at the reality of getting older, that I now have academic grandchildren! I must say with pride that the student had won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford and gone on to choose a career in environmental management in the US.



Name	University
Aleksandr Kingston	Manchester University
Aleksandra Janus	University of Singidunum - Belgrade
Alina Barsamyan	King's College London
Allar Henri Kivi	Aarhus or Birmingham
Anagha Arunkumar Nair	Tipps Global Institute (India)
Anastasia Dryaeva	Groeningen
Conor Riain George	Belfast Institute
Danya Sarafina Naqvi	University of Toronto
Desiree DeWet	University of Cape Town or University Stellenbosch
Megan Humpel	Middlesex Dubai
Melissa Dando	Possible Gap Year (in process)
Najla Bader A Ghouth	Middlesex Dubai
Nouha Fakhoury	American Uni of Beirut
Ramin Arnecke	Kent University
Rhea Denise Carvalho	Formed own company
Valerio Maria Ghidini	(Holland)
Yasmin TalalA Beheri	American Uni of Sharjah
Zoya Hani Abu Zhamra	The Hotel School of the Hague
Ali Saif Ali E. Albaghash Al Shuwaihi	National Service
Eleni Estifanos Seyoum	University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Elmahdi Bennani Lahkim	University of Leuven - KU Leuven
Evan Robert Scott	Waterloo (Canada)
Fawzi Ghassan Mashal	London City
Giordan Luc Pierrepont	SAE (Dubai)
Giuseppe Ascone Modica	Bocconi (Milan)
Jade Caitlin Roy	Gap Year
Joseph Michael Farrell	UWE (Bristol)
Kacper Eligiusz Rozanski	Primary assistant
Lena Kraus	Gap Year
Maha Krueger Sabbagh	Beloit College
Mathilde Anna Lauenbach	Gap Year
Max Thomas Littmoden	Harriet Watt
Mayya Potvar	University of Dundee
Mikko Ramos	University of Calgary
Muhammad Romman Shoaib	Glasgow University
Pauline Sophie van der Linden	Hospitality Management School Maastricht (Holland)
Philip Alexander Meyer	Middlesex University (Dubai)
Shereen Raslan	University of Kent
Daniel Stevenson Lazaro	High Wycombe College .



## Secondary School News



**Mr Neil Bunting**  
Head of Secondary



We are very proud of the graduating class of 2016 and all of their personal achievements. [For the first time](#) in GCS's DP history we have achieved results above the world average, including some fantastic personal achievements, and we wish them all luck and best wishes as they head off to universities in the UK, Europe and across North America.

Next year's graduates have a challenge now to match and our target is to achieve 100% successful graduates and to consistently achieve above the world average in the future.

We welcome our new DP coordinator, Ms Dianne Vella, and believe that her partnership with our current CP coordinator, Mr Michael Worth, will result in a dynamic and rigorous improvements to the quality of our programmes in Grade 11 and 12.

We also welcome Ms Anthea Addison who, in collaboration with Mr Bishop, will provide fantastic university counselling and advice. We also welcome Mr Shahid Hussain, the new Head of Technological Integration, and our Business Manager, Mark Seymour. His wife Bennie will be giving vital administrative support to the secondary school.

It was great to meet so many parents at the Back to School Night and to hear the vote of confidence from parents and students with regards to our new staff.

I am confident that our students will reap the benefits of the new and additional staff supporting students in the secondary school.

There is a lot of work to be done and we will be working hard to raise standards and to make Greenfield Community School a place of academic rigour and personal growth.

At the end of the month we will be releasing an initial progress check via Managebac. This will report on students' progress only – how they are settling at the start of the year against our expectations. The first interim report will come out at the start of November and this report will include student scores. Please attend the first secondary coffee morning on Thursday 29th September at 8:15 am to officially open the new secondary library and meet the library staff. The Personal Project and Managebac training for parents will be high on the agenda.



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There will be a parents meeting for the parents of Grade 6 and Grade 11 only on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please attend the first secondary coffee morning on Thursday 29th September at 8:15 am to officially open the new secondary library and meet the library staff. The Personal Project and Managebac training for parents will be high on the agenda.



Marc Seymour's the newly appointed Business Manager experience includes time spent in a British Private Boarding School, a British State School system and an Overseas British School in Lome, Togo, West Africa. Marc is married and has 4 children all grown up and working in the UK. Marc arrived in Dubai on the 22nd July 2016 with my wife Bennie who also works at GCS.

Bennie Seymour arrived from the UK where she had worked in schools for the last 12 years in various administration positions, and has spent 3 years in Togo West Africa working in a British School.

Bennie and Marc have 4 grown up children who all live & work in the UK. They are enjoying living in Dubai and are looking forward to welcoming friends & family from the UK for vacations.

Bennie's interests include reading, cinema, listening to music and socialising with friends. A very keen equestrian who loves anything to do with horses although she no longer rides herself.

**Please note the deadline for the KHDA registration is the 30th of September**



## Primary School News

### Mr Gary Mallon Head of Primary



Dear Parents,

I trust you all had a wonderful Eid holiday and were able to spend some quality time with your children in the company of family and friends. Now we have been back at GCS for a few weeks it is noticeable to see how well the students are settling into their daily routines. There is some wonderful learning taking place throughout the school and a really positive vibe amongst students and teachers.

The well renowned strong student-teacher relationships are as always evident to see and it fills me with such delight to see the smiles on the children's faces as they arrive at school each day eager to start a new day. I have witnessed this first-hand now as a parent myself and have seen the way my own son Leandro eagerly leaves home every day calling out his teacher's name and with a spring in his step as he accompanies me to school. Seeing this as Head of Primary with other children is one thing, feeling it as a parent just emphasises even more to me the wonderfully unique learning environment we have here.

Talking of learning environments I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the imminent opening of the Primary Library which will officially begin operations on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. A tremendous amount of work has gone into the renovation and stocking of the library and I know that so many people have contributed so much. In particular I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those parent volunteers who have assisted over the last few weeks as well as to Ms Faith, Ms Ezele and their wonderful team of School Assistants who have worked tirelessly to have the facility up and running again.

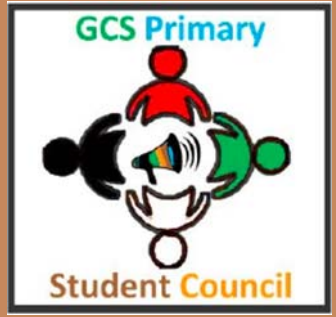
I popped in to the library yesterday to see some students trialling the new facilities and enjoying reading a good old fashioned book as opposed to an iPad. 2016 has been declared by H.R.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashed Al Maktoum as being the *Year of Reading* and so it is with great delight that we can now press on with our plans of utilising the new library facilities to maximise learning outcomes for students in terms of reading.

I know that Ms Wistrand our Head of Language in Primary as well as Ms Shadbolt our PYP Curriculum Coordinator have great ideas in the pipeline.....more to follow on that!

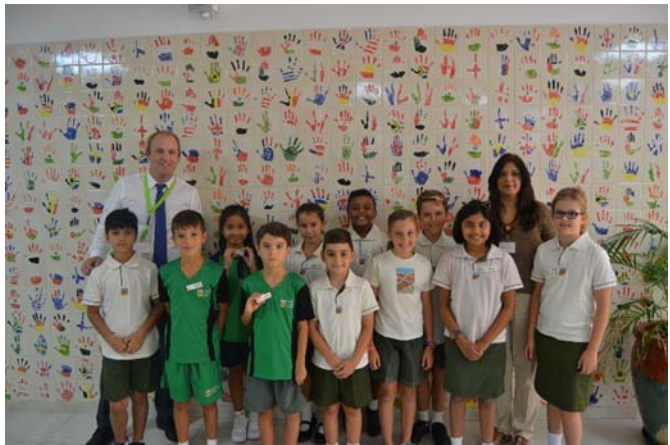




## Primary School News



### Primary Student Council 2016-2017



The Primary Student Council for this academic year had their first meeting during the first week of term with Mr Plunkett and Mrs Khawaja. During the meeting the outlines for the year were set and discussed. The main focus for the new team this year will be to further raise the Student Voice in the school.



News and information will be available in the weeks to come as the team settles into their new roles. During the meeting last week Mr Mallon made a special visit to present the team with their badges for the year.

Good luck to the Primary Student Council of 2016-2107

#### Mission Statement

To ensure every GCS Primary Student feels like they have a voice and can contribute towards the improvement of the school by modelling the IB Learner Profile.

#### Vision Statement

To ensure every GCS Primary Student feels like they have a voice and can contribute towards the improvement of the school by modelling the IB Learner Profile.



# GCP UPDATES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GREENFIELD COMMUNITY PARENTS COMMITTEE



## Important Reminders!

### Secondary Coffee Morning and Library Opening

8:15 AM – 9:30 AM  
29<sup>th</sup> of September

### GCP Coffee Morning

8:00 AM Wednesday,  
5<sup>th</sup> of October in the  
PYP Collaboration Room

Find out how you can provide your child with some delicious and healthy lunches provided by our school caterer, Slices. Learn how to efficiently use the School Communicator. Also, get to know your GCP!

### Car park

Every child is YOUR child in the car park, every person is YOU in the heat, **please drive slowly and park considerately.**

### Security

To ensure the safety of our children, **please make sure you have your School Badge or Emirates ID on hand during pick up and drop off**

### GCP Lost and Found Sales

Enjoy the satisfaction of not paying too much for your child's uniform. **Sales are held every Second Tuesday of every month. Located above the Secondary Library in**

Room C23

Next sale is

**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> of October  
2:00PM – 3:00PM**

## Welcome and Marhaban to all our New and Returning Parents!

A PLACE WHERE PARENTS MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR CHILD'S ACADEMIC LIFE HERE AT GCS!

The first week of school has been an exciting one with hugs and hellos and excited chatter of "Oooh how big you have become!!" "Did you see the new cloak room?" "The reception looks swanky", "Can't wait to see the new library, "Mama I needd the new PE uniform."

You are in a school that believes its strength comes from the strong bond that exists between parents, students and staff. Here each one of us has an important role to play in taking our school from one stepping stone to another.

The GCP Committee is a team of dedicated parents who love to volunteer their talents and time to add just a little extra to our already awesome school! We've already had a great turnout at our **GCP Meet and Greet Presentation** on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September. New parents to GCS, as well as returning parents came together to learn what the GCP was all about. Many signed up for volunteer positions already! And many made new friends from the meeting. Minutes from the meeting, as well as, the GCP presentation can be found in the School Communicator under the Resources Section.

Every year the GCP puts together our much loved **"Staff Appreciation Day"** where we parents and students show our thanks for all the hard work the GCS Staff has done for our children. We also arrange for community sponsors to provide us with some amazing "extras" that we can use throughout the year during our school events, such as National Day, Sports Day, and our Swimming Galas.

Of course, what the GCP is famous for is our organization and production of the **GCS International Day!** Somehow with the love and enthusiasm of our school, this event gets bigger and better every year! With the help of our parents, our children get a chance to show off home-country with displays of colors, song and dance, and delicious foods from all over the world. With the funds raised from International Day, as well as, our famous Lost and Found Sales, the GCP has and will continue to contribute to school projects such as the Ethiopia and Tanzania Projects and the Student Councils!

The **"Live Your Dream" Column** is a special feature in our newsletter where we highlight amazing success stories of our very own GCS family fulfilling their life-long dreams!

**With your involvement and support in the GCP, we can continue to make GCS a great school!**



Dipika Kalra Sarah Lumb Patricia Ojeda Iman Ahmed Wadiwala Fiona Benger Heidi Horsjaker

Tanja Vinsen Sarah Carter Renata Simkova Angela Mahall Windemuth Kerstin Habmann Sabine Strommer

Contact the GCP by email at [GCP4GCS@gmail.com](mailto:GCP4GCS@gmail.com). We're also available on Facebook on The Greenfield Community Parents Group page.