

Head of School's Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

December is upon us and with it comes a period of assessments and reflection.

Your Coordinators will have by now informed you of the specific schedules for assessments, with room allocations and times. I know that it is a time that can be filled with nervous trepidation, therefore a reminder that we have a new Counselor, Ms. Huma Ali who is more than happy to receive students who may be anxious about the weeks ahead. She has some excellent techniques to help students focus and prepare for their assessments.

Once the assessments have been completed it will be followed by Parent/Student/Teacher conferences where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers. To allow more time and quality feedback we have adjusted the style of conference this year. For this to run smoothly MYP students (except grade 10 students, who will be working on their portfolios until 21st) will be going home at 12pm on Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th of December. EY/PY will be going home on Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th December. Please make suitable arrangements for collection.

The Senior Leadership team have collaborated to ensure, wherever possible, parent appointments allow you to see your child's teachers all within the same day. If for any reason you are unable to meet the time slots offered we have prepared a backup day that can be availed. Please contact your Coordinator if you require this.

The DP team are delighted to share that 20% of their DP2 students have received interviews for Oxbridge. I know you will join with me in wishing them the very best. It is a reflection on individual students' potential and confidence but also on those working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every opportunity is made available to them.

The EY/PY PBL presentations were simply mind-blowing this year, with all students displaying their skills, knowledge and ability to present to their peers, parents and teachers at the highest of levels. It was very clear to me that the quality of the learning and teaching has improved beyond my expectations this year. I know that parents' feedback supported my opinion and staff allowed the processes and the delivery to be student led throughout. Often the most difficult role of a teacher is to facilitate, which is not simply standing at the side watching! I know that the dissemination of the training for PBL that took place in June of this year has had a massive impact on how staff plan, with students, to enable the authentic practices of PBL to emerge throughout the chosen topics.

Our Grade 1s, as part of their project 'h2O for life, managed to raise 63500/ for the supreme court dam fund. They held a painting exhibition as well as created craft items that were sold at the Haryali market to support this cause, as part of their water safety campaign. The amount will soon be sent to the Chief

Justice of Pakistan through our Subject Matter Expert, Mr. Kamal Ali Haider, who was also present at the project presentation.

A short update on where the houses are standing after the very popular Math competition, which was run with superb precision by Mr. Shalem, head of Math and his student supporters from DP.

First	Second	Third	Fourth
Pegasus	Dragon	Griffin	Phoenix
120 points	90 points	80 points	40 points

As a whole school, the four houses have managed to raise over 100,000 rupees (in 4 months) which will be shared out between the four charities and an additional 100,000 rupees was raised for our very special Support our Staff charity, through non-uniform day and a bake sale. I know that with the winter holidays coming up, the donations they receive will be gratefully accepted. In January there will be an assembly where we will invite our external charity reps in to receive the money raised for them.

I have thrown a challenge out to our House captains and their respected houses, that from January onward, they will begin raising money for their chosen charities separate from the rest of the houses. I felt that in August it was fitting to work together to establish a good system and practice to enable organized collections at appropriate times and now that each house is familiar with what can and cannot be done, it will make it more fun (and competitive) to see who can raise the most in the second term. Good luck to you all!

I would also like to wish you all a very happy winter break. Friday 21st December will be the last day of school. We re-open on Wednesday 2nd January for staff and Monday 7th January for students. For those of you who will be travelling I wish you a safe, smooth journey. Happy holidays!

Warmest regards,



Ms. Diane Metcalfe

Head of School
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