



EDUCATION EGYPT

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Dear GEMS Family

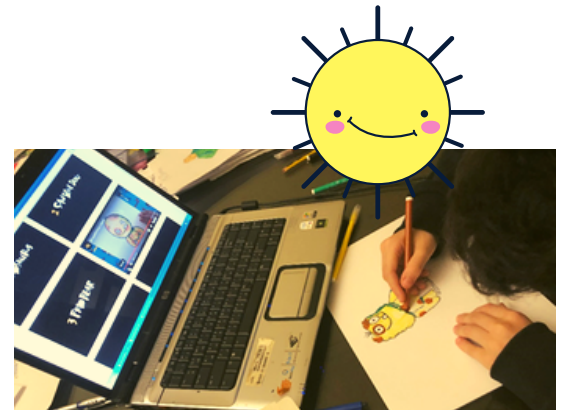
As we are entering the final few days of this most unprecedented and challenging of academic years, I am writing to offer my profuse gratitude to all members of our GEMS Egypt community.

Stuart Bryan

[Please click here to see a video version of this message](#) 

REMOTE - LEARNING UPDATE

I am sincerely grateful for your tremendous support, perseverance and determination in ensuring that we have done much more than merely survive the last few weeks, as, in fact, we have really demonstrated in so many ways the high quality of learning and teaching and student wellbeing that we provide in our schools for all to see.



With our fantastic success with offering both synchronous learning through Microsoft Teams lessons and asynchronous learning through our Phoenix Virtual Learning Environment, it is very easy to forget that just over three months ago, our schools were still on the cusp of introducing any form of virtual learning environment. Our success from this very low base to an average of securing satisfaction rates of 90 per cent week on week, is testament to the agility, flexibility and dedication of our teaching staff, the support of our committed parents and the enthusiasm and thirst for learning of our precious students.



Check out the 0% interest payment plan for your school fees offered by CIB to GEMS Egypt parents.

EXAMINATION CLASSES UPDATE

In particular, I would like to wish all our external examination students (and their parents) all the best with the forthcoming external examination results, which will be issued in the normal way by the UK examination boards. Although the results will be issued in normal, we appreciate that the process of gaining these results will have been far from normal and I would like to thank all students involved in this process for providing the appropriate evidence required by the examination board, before they start their standardisation process over the summer. Moreover, a huge thank you to all the teaching staff and senior teams in the schools, who have been responsible for collecting and reviewing all the evidence provided, ensuring that the examination board guidance has been followed to the letter, thereby ensuring that all our students have been treated as fairly as possible to enable them to gain the results which they deserve.



YEAR 12 GRADUATION AND UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS UPDATE

To our **Year 12 graduating classes**, whilst I am sorry that currently we are not able to give you the send off that you deserve, I can assure you that you have not been forgotten and we hope to plan a suitable graduation event to recognise your achievements just as soon as we can.



We are hoping to arrange this for early September and will be in touch with all graduating students in both schools in due course. In the meantime, many congratulations to our **33 graduates** in both schools on securing some really impressive university placements for next academic year, including no fewer than 12 prestigious placements at the **American University of Cairo**, excellent placements in Canada and Europe, and finally many conditional offers from some of the most competitive and highly regarded “**Russell Group**” institutions in the UK, including in no particular order **Imperial College London, Kings College London, Queen Mary College London, University College London, Cardiff University, Leeds University, University of Nottingham and the University of Birmingham**, amongst others.

GEMS EGYPT ART COMPETITION

Let Your Children Showcase their Feelings
Towards Covid19 World!

CHECK YOUR EMAILS TO KNOW MORE!



LEAVING STAFF FOR 2019 – 2020

I would also like to use this last newsletter of the year to recognise and thank our departing staff. Whilst, overall, our teacher retention rates have been stronger this year than average, in spite of the unprecedented situation, I would like to thank every single one of you for the contribution that you have made and wish you well in your future endeavours.

As previously announced, in particular, we wish all the best to Ms Lois Reed, Principal of BISM and to Mr Mazen Abelmoteleb, Head of Secondary in BISM, who are both returning to the UK this summer to continue their careers.



NEW STAFF FOR 2020– 2021

teachers★

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, our recruitment process for next academic year, supported by the **Times Educational Supplement (TES) portal**, has really gone exceptional well. I am pleased to inform you that we are now already fully staffed for next academic year and we look forward to welcoming (situation permitting) some exceptional teaching staff for the next academic year. Over the summer, we will be posting their biographies on our website so that you can get to know them a little virtually before the start of term.



START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2020

As I am writing this newsletter at the current time, as you would expect, we are planning for a number of scenarios regarding our scheduled **start of the new academic year on the 6 September**. We are particularly fortunate, as we do not just have the expertise and experience of a strong team here in Egypt, but also the superb guidance of our GEMS colleagues from around the world to support us in our planning. We are committed to the start of the new academic year and to supporting the learning of our students in whatever way this may be possible.



Whilst, we are still hopeful that our physical schools may open fully, with appropriate health and safety precautions in place, we are also planning for all scenarios, including continued, but further enhanced 100 per cent remote learning and the possibility of some sort of blended model of physical and remote learning, where we welcome some of our students

back to school for part of the time, but also maintain a proportion of remote learning. Of course, in the latter scenario, we be prioritising the return to school (if possible) of our youngest students.

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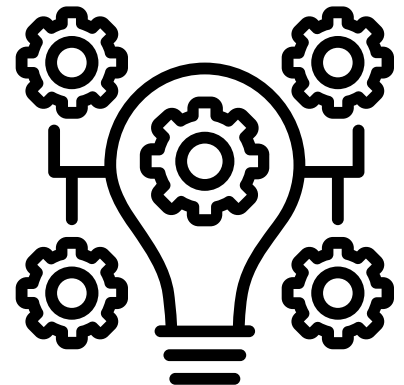
SEPTEMBER 2020 ARRANGEMENTS

In order to ensure the most professional and smoothest start possible to the new academic year, we have asked all our teaching staff to ensure that they are available in Cairo **from the 16 August 2020 onwards**. We are in the process of putting together an extensive orientation programme for both new and existing staff, together with enhanced opportunities for professional development, for example, enhanced guidance and training on remote learning provision for younger children etc.

We are also, of course, delighted to be welcoming Mr. Nigel Cropley, as the new, but highly experienced GEMS Principal, of BISM from August onwards.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

As also mentioned previously, we have also during this period not stood still on our planning for the future. Our commitment to providing the highest standard of learning possible and the overall wellbeing and holistic character development of your wonderful children remains our number one objective. To this end, we are in the process of updating our strategic plan to ensure, all aspects of the GEMS Education platform come together to support this aim. As part of this, we will be continuing our focus on providing personalised learning to all our students through enhanced tracking and monitoring of progress through our GL assessments, and other progress evaluations, where needed.



Moreover, as per the **GEMS Core Values**, we will continue our focus on **innovation** in all our schools. I hope that many of our secondary students took up the **exclusive opportunity here in Egypt to access the IBM platform for training and gaining certifications, which is still free of charge for GEMS students only until 31 August 2020**. We will also in the new academic year be expanding on our **STEM focused**, embedded curriculum, with the piloting of both the exciting **Global Futures Curriculum** (already started at TBS) and the introduction, as one of the very first schools in Egypt, of **virtual and augmented reality** at BISM.



Continued...

STRATEGIC PLANNING



In addition, we will retain and enhance our focus on character and values education throughout the schools. We will continue to embed the **GEMS Jewels of Kindness** into everything that we do. We will also endeavour to offer a greatly expanded range of co-curricular opportunities, especially for our more senior students, including enrichment activities, such as debating, MUN, performing Arts, not to forget, of course, expanding our existing after schools' sports provision.

Our intention is for all the above to continue our progress in creating that dynamic, positive and inclusive school community, which is a hallmark of all successful schools worldwide. As part of this positive progress, we will continue to value the feedback of all members of our community, especially our parents, which includes enhancing the role of our School Advisory Committees and ensuring that we have active and supportive partnerships in all aspects of our educational provision, as per our newly implemented Parent- School Charter.

COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS (CIS) MEMBERSHIP

We are confident that all the above progress will be fully recognised by our adoption of CIS as our preferred membership and accreditation partner.



We have already had a very favourable response from CIS to our application for both schools for membership and, following the completion of an

extensive amount of school review and the uploading of extensive documentation on to the CIS Weave Platform, we will be hosting virtual membership evaluation visits in September 2020.

How do you find our weekly well-being SMSs?

I encourage you to refer back to GEMS wellness programme to enjoy a healthy summer break!

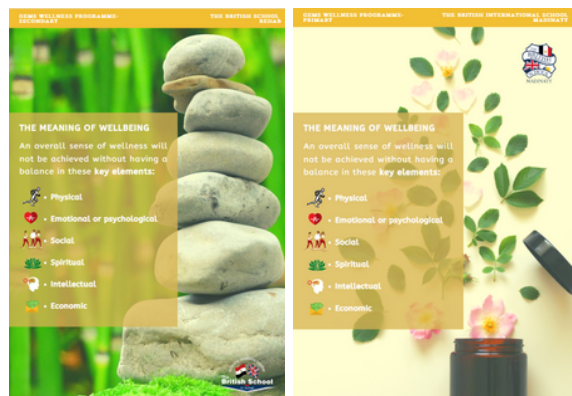
Primary Wellness Programme



TBS

BISM

Secondary Wellness Programme



TBS

BISM

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THE NEWLY-LAUNCHED VIRTUAL TOUR FOR BISM?

[CHECK IT FROM HERE](#)



SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

For now, however, I must conclude by wishing you all a very happy, and most importantly healthy summer holiday, secure in the knowledge that all of us here at GEMS Egypt will be busy doing everything we can to put in place the highest possible quality educational programme for the start of the new academic year.

With very warm wishes and see you in the new academic year!

Enjoy Your Summer

Safely

