

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Now that we are well into the second semester, this is the perfect time to inform you of the latest school developments, and those planned for the upcoming academic year 2018 - 2019.

Routine and habit are an essential part of school life, so a huge thank you to those parents who bring their children to school on time in the mornings. As we role model good time keeping, the children begin to understand its importance, and how it helps our school community run more smoothly. Unfortunately parents who constantly choose to bring their children late are moving us in the direction of imposing stricter penalties, something we much prefer to avoid. Lateness and poor attendance of course affect results and can also affect lifelong habits. Other children are distracted when a child comes to class late, so is the teacher, so please do respect the school timings so that disruption is minimised. As a primary role model, a parent / guardian has a pivotal part to play in ensuring their child understands the importance of routines and good habits.

In the Kindergarten Section more reading books have been added to the classrooms, with reading schemes to be put in place from September, as well as additional educational games. More Art, Drama, Music and Personal Health and Social Education will also be built into the curriculum then. A very successful recent event was the 'Fruit and Vegetable Day', in March there is a planned 'Anti-bullying Day', 'Road safety Trip' to the theatre and in April an educational 'Farm Trip'.

Exciting developments are afoot in the Primary Section. From September 2018 there will be an increase of emphasis in the creative areas of Art and Design Technology, Drama and Music. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) classes will also be introduced. There will be dedicated ICT and Art and Design rooms to improve student's learning experience in these areas. A more 'traditional' Primary set up and a more 'integrated' approach will be used for those subjects taught through the English language, so that children can see the connections between subjects. New reading schemes are currently on order from the UK and will be in place to challenge and improve each child's reading level. The 'Class Dojo' system from September will improve children's awareness of their own behaviour as well as improve communication with parents. As you will appreciate, our parent and student body is incredibly varied, so expectations from both Moroccan and International parents are equally varied, demanding and challenging. We also currently have Ministry of Education requirements as well as British Curriculum requirements to fulfil, which together, explain the need for a long school day, as well as the need for a carefully planned and 'balanced' curriculum. From September, one less break time, but longer breaks, will improve the school day and cause less interruptions. The school day will be extended by 20 minutes to fulfil all requirements and better match up to the Kindergarten bus leave times at the end of each day, which has been a concern from parents with children in both campuses.

From September 2018 it will be obligatory for all Primary and Middle School children to take all 3 languages. KGS is a trilingual school, and one of our aims is to continue promoting the benefits of learning English, Arabic and

French. Primary and Middle School children will not be able to 'opt out' of any of the main 3 school languages, children will be placed in their appropriate ability level group.

Concerning French, which is taught as a foreign language, it will be subject to certification exams (DELFF Prim for primary school pupils and DELFF junior for middle and high school students). These diplomas, delivered by the French Ministry of Education, certify the students' level of French. All units are valid indefinitely and all over the world.

For the Middle school we now have a new library which will be operational soon and used for reference purposes and as a study room, with a new stock of 700 books to start with. We have improved facilities in the Science laboratories by installing new fume extractors and created a science preparation room. New subjects on offer from September are ICT and Global Perspectives. 7 new interactive whiteboards are now in place to improve the teaching and learning facility in this section of the school. Some Middle School highlights have been the October / November University Fairs and student participation in the January Maroc Model United Nations event. New subjects on offer in the Senior School for IGCSE this September will be Global Perspectives, Art and Design, and possibly Information and Communication Technology.

To support these changes, KGS is working hard to train its staff: a partnership has been signed with the French Institute of Rabat to provide all French teachers with new teaching methods in accordance with the new objectives of the school. Teachers of English have undergone training this month with the Council of British International Schools in 'Teaching and Learning Strategies' and 'Behaviour Management'. This is in addition to other courses provided continuously such as CELTA, TKT ...Arabic teachers profit from ongoing internal training. New Health and Safety and Child Protection Policies are being put in place.

School fee changes for September will be announced shortly. The fee changes will be in line with improved resources, staff recruitment needs and improved teaching and learning standards, as well as a slight increase in international teaching staff.

I hope this correspondence improves understanding of what is currently happening in the school and I sincerely wish parents and students a productive and rewarding last few months of this school year.

Mr. Stephen SIBTHORPE

Director of Education