



Dear Parents,

There is so much we can share in the coming weeks. We are now preparing students for a world that we cannot predict. We need to embrace the future with optimism and we now have to use new technologies, not just to develop a world beyond the local community, but to also maintain it and meet its changing needs.

We can build on the conventional but we can also challenge it. We have to develop a virtual school environment that still encourages socialisation and civilised behaviour, that is values driven. Ultimately, we need to be at ease with risk and uncertainty because we are part of an amazing school and a huge GEMS network made up of so many incredible individuals. If you think of all of the small changes we make, and share, then we can undoubtedly create a major transformation. This isn't just about growth mindsets and high performing mindsets, we are now creating the future mindset.

Teachers will hold online learning opportunities across the course of the week, approximately equaling the amount of time given to each lesson. In this way, we hope to reduce additional hours/days of make-up instruction that would be required otherwise. In order for this program of study to be successful, students must attend e-learning the same as they would a regular week of school, even if they are not currently in the UAE.

Teachers will keep roughly to the regular school schedule as a basis for lesson timings. Students should therefore be ready to access the lessons according to their regular timetables, so that their teacher/classmates will be available for online discussion, collaboration, and support. Teachers will be taking 'attendance' at each lesson time in the regular schedule.

I have two teenage children and for my family we are creating opportunities for our children to work with their friends over this time. Collaboration with other children creates more opportunities for deeper learning. This helps keep them accountable to their timetable and expectations of the online learning schedules. This also supports our friends' children who need to be free to go into work. In fact, our dining table has now become the classroom! This is where, as a community, we support each other.

The E-learning program will involve a variety of activities which MAY include:

- Lecture notes+ online responses/threaded discussion (Microsoft Teams/My Learning)
- Documents/provocations + online responses/discussion
- Narrated PowerPoints/Webinars/Videos+ online responses/discussion
- Instruction followed by independent learning
- Teacher-Student individual conferences, or shared documents to support learning and answering questions
- Collaborative learning/projects using Office 365 platforms or other online platforms
- Quizzes/Kahoots/Etc

Teachers will use platforms that they and students are already familiar with, so that no one needs to learn new technology in order to keep up with the class. Teachers will be flexible with assignment deadlines or planned tests, as well as the kinds of responses to tasks they expect.

Parents can support their children's learning by:

- Making sure the student has a quiet place to access their laptop/internet between the hours of 7:45am and 2:30pm
- Ensuring that students find lesson details and instructions
- Where possible, supervising student's during those hours and helping them with any technical issues
- Allowing for regular breaks, but also focus on the tasks and learning assigned
- Sending questions about the tasks/lesson content to the teacher involved
- Checking emails for updates and information
- Discussion of the learning and practice taking place each day to help the student clarify the content and methods being used

We are all part of the World Leading K12 Education Group keeping our stakeholders at the heart of everything we do both in, and for the future of education.

We will embrace this difficult situation, rolling our sleeves up and striding headlong into the future. There should be no fear of online learning and virtual classrooms. They will not replace schools, only strengthen them and give the young people of today an even better level of preparation for their future.

Our staff are ready and I am sure we will see great success with a few bumps in the road along the way, but that is normal!

Sincerely,



Lachlan MacKinnon  
CEO/Principal

*Fortune Favours the Brave*