



Sunday December 4th 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

I have always believed that it is about inspiring people, one conversation at a time, with a **shared vision and a common purpose**. That there is no defining action, no grand program, no killer innovation, it's about building momentum with courageous people over time. To this end we continually nudge ourselves to be better.

At the end of last year we have received the [OPTIMUS Wellbeing Award](#) and the [OPTIMUS SENDIA Award](#). Last week **we achieved** the [OPTIMUS LEADING PARENT PARTNERSHIP Award](#). These whole-school awards lead us through a process of self-evaluation, action planning and evidence collection before verification and accreditation over 12 months. The inspections have a focus on 'impact and outcomes' for our school and community so that we are able to demonstrate specific and wider impacts on our policies and interventions.

Recently CIS hosted its first ever **cross-cluster competition** (GEMS Founders Mizar, GEMS Founders Al Barsha, GEMS Metropole, GEMS First Point, GEMS Wesgreen, GEMS Royal Dubai) who came to compete in a **Spelling Bee and Poetry Recital competition**. The students ranged from Year 1 to Year 6, performed OUTSTANDINGLY and won numerous first and second places in each category. Overall, CIS students were **awarded overall winners of the Year 3/4 Spelling Bee** and had the **highest number of points overall for the Poetry Recital**. Their confidence, and ability to perform shone throughout.

Following this our students again shone brightly recently **winning the ADNOC STEM Energy for Life challenge** and are finalist for the **iCAN Children Summit with "Learn On Call"**. In both activities special consideration was given to projects that have a lasting impact, were innovative and were easily replicable. Last week we also received the Maths Whizz Education award, **Whizz Education Distinguished School status** in recognition of the continuous progress and attainment achieved across your school, by our teachers, and by our students.

Recently you would have received an email from the **School Support Centre** regarding the termly **school survey**. Each survey we are **hearing your voice**, in parents who are completing the survey and where more of you are engaging with us and recommending us.

The survey **is about** how we engage with student Voice, Wellbeing and Efficacy, it **is about** student personalized learning, it **is about** preparing students for the next transition either to the next grade or university. This leads us to one of the questions, **if your best friend asked you, would you recommend a school to send their child to, and your answer is Cambridge, then you would score Cambridge a 9 or a 10, a promotor**.



Let us hear your voice. As educators we are always **restlessly dissatisfied**, even when we are achieving well. **Disruption** allows us to **evolve** into a better school. We are **constantly** reviewing and **renewing** what we do to provide education that benefits all that are on this journey: Students, Teachers and Parents alike. We are **constantly in change** and embrace every day as we strive to be **better than yesterday**.

Feedback helps us create a better future. It's about **constant nudging**, it's keeping to our **core ideology**, it's **pushing at the edges**, it's keeping to the **20mile march** and changing the game when you are on top and not just being satisfied with the status quo even when the status quo is working well. At Cambridge we continue to keep to our core ideology yet with a **fierce determination to change and improve ourselves**. Constantly trying new methods, new strategies, pushing forward. We are our own hardest critic.

We are an **awesome school** with **awesome students** with **awesome parents** who are **committed to Cambridge**, otherwise why would you stay, when there are so many other outstanding schools in Dubai!!

Please do spend 5 minutes completing the school survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lachlan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lachlan MacKinnon
CEO/Principal

Fortune Favours the Brave