



Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

This invisible enemy COVID is still with us and I reach out to all our families to **vaccinate** as soon as possible. Mass vaccination is a clear way to make sure **#covidbegone**. Please do remember, if you are a **close contact** you must remain at **home for 10 days** and watch for any symptoms. After this, with no symptoms, you can return to school, seeing the School Medical Team before heading to class.

This week I was lucky to be able to celebrate with a number of students that deserve to be recognised at the '**The Principals Breakfast**', albeit via Zoom! The purpose of this breakfast meeting is to provide an opportunity for students to meet me and engage in an informal meeting so that we can **celebrate and recognise their contributions**. To recognise our awesome students that may not always get a shout out. Sometimes, these are the students that are the quiet achievers.

The criteria for this recognition include; progress in academics (not attainment), attitude to school, relationships with others, attendance and finally attitude to work. We believe this is an excellent way to highlight the outstanding commitment and progress made by individual students.

FS1-1	Rhiel Mikhail Ferreira
FS2-2	Thayyib Ismail
Year 1-5	Fathima Liyana
Year 2-2	Hiraanmayi Rakesh Kumaran Shafeek
Year 3-2	Ayana Mathew Varghese
Year 4-4	Sophia Abraham
Year 5-4	Oshba Mohamed Alqemzi
Year 6-2	Aryan Habbu
Year 7-6	Farah Ibrahim
Year 8-3	Soha Abdulla
Year 9-3	Rana Mohamed Babikir
Year 10-4	Sara Behera
Year 11-6	Rishab Reji Nishad
Year 12-8	Aryan Shah
Year 13-4	Rasha Jameel

Congratulations to all and thank you for being a part of our school.

During our last **parent survey** there were some parents who requested **more detail** about a number of areas, in particular **student voice, student wellbeing, preparing students and personalised learning**. Over the coming newsletters and videos, I will endeavour to provide you with more information.

So, let's start with Student Voice.

Student Voice is extremely important to us. This is a mechanism for personal development, helping to build confidence and prepare our students for roles in society. Research shows us that students who believe they have a voice in school are **seven times more** likely to be **academically motivated** than students who do not believe they have a voice. Student Voice gives them an opportunity to input into what happens within the school and classroom. Our desire is for students to know that their expertise, opinions and ideas are valued in all aspects of school life.

Some of the ways in which we currently provide opportunities for Student Voice are:

- Student Wellbeing Team
- Student Leadership Teams (House, Prefects, CCAS, Innovation, Environment, Council, STEM)
- Student Newsletter
- Student Radio
- Student email address - studentvoice_cis@gemsedu.com
- HPL Student Champions
- HSE Ambassadors
- Student Counselling Services
- Student Speak Up Flow Chart in Classrooms
- House Families
- Pupil Perception Surveys – PASS
- Student Environment Learning Walks
- Student Led Workshops

As always, we will continuously aim high and want our **Student Voice to get louder**. So, if there are any suggestions from the community that will add to this growing list of opportunities for our students please let us know.

Finally, **re-enrollment** for Academic Year 2021-22 has opened. While we fully understand that there continues to be a great deal of uncertainty that may make it difficult to confirm plans moving forward, we would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your intentions. Families will receive a system generated email which will ask you to confirm 'yes or no'. If you are unsure at this time, please speak with our PRE, Ms Pooja, who will be able to support you further. I thank the **1840 families** who have already **secured their seats** for next year.

As always, I wish you every happiness.

Sincerely,



Lachlan MacKinnon
CEO/Principal

Fortune Favours the Brave