

Principal's Update

AAESS

February 2009

BSME

The concerns over the new Primary building have been passed to the architects and plans have been drawn up to resolve the issues. We are hoping that the changes will be made quickly so that the students can fully use this excellent new building.

The other new buildings are progressing and are currently on schedule, the new Secondary building will have the ground floor used by grade 5 and 6 allowing them to move out of the old buildings and the first floor will be used by the Secondary School.

There have been many sporting activities over the last few weekends and the teachers have given their time freely to take students to these events, I would like to say thank you to all those that have helped and supported our students in their competitions and activities within the School and travelling to outside venues.

Exams are always a stressful time with many worries and concerns for all those involved.

The “expected” grade or “predicted” grade can be misinterpreted, the results for AS and A2 level are the hardest to predict. There are many tables and data sheets available that will show a predicted or expected grade, these can be confusing and sometimes add in many variables and historical statistical data. The Fischer Family Trust provides a “not for profit” statistical service that can help schools reliably predict grades for GCSE and AS/A2 levels based on information from thousands of schools over a number of years which is then applied to the group of students entered from the participating School.

The basic expectation is that a student who achieves 5 C's or above, including English and Maths, at IGCSE has a 98% pass rate (A to E) at AS and A2. This is statistical data for the average Independent School within the UK, many Schools, especially International Schools achieve results better than this average.

The KS2 test will go ahead this year, however, the KS3 tests will probably not happen due to the UK Governments decision to cancel the KS3 test for the whole of the UK. It is interesting that this move has led many Schools, within the UK and internationally, to compress KS3 into two years, 7 and 8. This then allows for year 9 students to start the IGCSE curriculum and take some of their exams in year 10 reducing the pressure of taking all the exams in year 11. This also gives the opportunity to become very creative in the number of subjects taken and the possibilities of resists to improve grades before the move to AS levels.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hodge BEd, DipHE, MSc, MBA
Principal