

Thursday 11th February 2010

Dear Parents,

We welcomed our students back from their trip to Paris last week. They had a very enjoyable and edifying time. For some the many visits to museums and art galleries were the highlights, for others it was the rides at Disney World and for others yet it was the joy of hearing choirs sing in Montmartre.

Our next trip out will be the Year 7 and 8 Green Turtle Adventure week. Year 7 and 8 students will be having a presentation on this trip next Tuesday. They will have literature to bring home after the presentation and we will also have a presentation to interested parents soon.

As you know, many of our boys play for the local Rugby Club in Al Ain and they are preparing for a tour of the Far East when they will visit Kuala Lumpur. We wish them a successful tour. May I also remind parents that while this is a wonderful opportunity for our boys, there is also the matter of their examinations in June. They will be expected to be responsible for their own catch up work and parents should send a letter in to respective teachers that they fully understand that it is the responsibility of each boy to catch up on work missed.

International Day will be held on 22nd March. The students have many activities planned for this very special day and I hope many parents will visit our exhibitions from 11.50 am onward. Last year I was very impressed with the generosity of families who cooked sumptuous food for the event and who also lent artifacts and costumes to lend authenticity to the day. There will be a concert in the evening which I hope many of you will attend and I will give more information about this at a later date.

Year 11, 12 and 13 students are knuckling down to some serious study in the lead up to their June examinations. You should all have received a report on the progress of their sons and daughters this week. Many Year 11 parents took the opportunity to discuss these reports with teachers at the parents evening last night. Year 12/13 Parents' Evening is on Wednesday 17th February.

You should also have received the examination entry printout for all those students taking I/GCSE and GCE examinations. Teachers are responsible for putting students forward for examinations so please take the opportunity to discuss these entries at Parents' Evening. The timetables for the June examinations are on the website. Students will be given their examination codes by their teachers and again parents can check these on Parents' Evening. The codes are complicated so parents are urged to seek clarification from teachers.

AAESS

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I hope that all year 11 students have taken heed of the excellent revision hints which Mr. Evans and Mr. Rowley sent home with the reports. I would like to remind parents that a minimum requirement of 5 A to C passes are required for entry into Sixth Form.

Year 9 Options Week will be the week beginning 28th February and the Parent Information Evening for students progressing to year 10 next September will be held on Wednesday 3rd March from 6.30 pm. This is an important meeting for parents and I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to come.

There will be an information evening for those interested in the International Baccalaureate Programme on Tuesday 16th February at 7.00 pm.

We are welcoming 2 new teachers to AAESS after the break. Feiruz Kateregga will be joining the English Department and Peter Wild-Grant will be joining the Science/Mathematics Departments. As I mentioned in my last letter, please be assured that the Heads of English, Mathematics and Science will continue to monitor this situation. Thank you all for your patience and trust in the school while we have sought to recruit the high caliber teachers you have come to expect at AAESS. Please welcome these new teachers into our community.

I hope you all have your tickets for our play 'Robina Hood' on 22nd & 23rd February.

As you know, school will be closed from Thursday 11th at 1.40 pm and will reopen on Tuesday 16th February at 7.50 am.

May I wish you a calm and peaceful break.

Mareve Kilbride-Newman M.A., NPQH.
Head of Secondary School.