

Wednesday 31st March 2010

Dear Parents,

This term has been a busy one for AAESS. Since my last email we have had the very successful school production, Robina Hood. This year we staged the show over two evenings and both were very well attended. I am sure that you all enjoyed it as much as I did and will join me in congratulating the Expressive Arts Department on another resounding success.

The Friends Art and Craft Fair was also a great success. Those who attended enjoyed a day of family fun and great bargains under a blue Al Ain sky. We very much appreciated the support given by the Friends throughout the year. They have been very much in evidence at our various Parent's Evenings providing support and refreshments.

Romney is being very active in getting the Secondary School Buddy system up and running. If anyone feels that they could help her then please get in touch with FOS. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve communication in the school. Her last email was very informative.

All the hard work put in by our Student Representative Council paid off well for International Day. This is one of my favourite events of the school year. The array of national dress and ethnic foods really is a statement to the truly international ethos of our school. A big thank you to all parents who gave so generously towards our celebration not only with food but also with costumes and artifacts.

There was a disappointing take up for our Year 7 and 8 Green Turtle Camping trip but those students who did go had a rewarding time. This sort of outward bound trip is very good for developing independence and self confidence. It gives students a little taste of things to come when they can enroll in our Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Our silver and gold award candidates for the Duke of Edinburgh are currently completing their programme in Chiang Rai, Thailand. From the reports sent back the facilities at the centre are good and the food is excellent. The gold candidates are well on with their trek through the rain forest and have survived camping out overnight along the way. We are very fortunate to have such an excellent programme leader in Ms. Holbrook. Many schools have 2 or 3 students attempt the gold award in year 13 but AAESS has 7 in total attempting gold and of those many are in year 12.

Year 9 students have chosen their subjects for I/GCSE. The I/GCSE is a two year programme and students will take a total of 9 I/GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. Students will need a minimum of 5 passes at 'C' level or above to enable them to continue into our Sixth Form.

Our Year 11 students have also been busy making their choices for the 4 subjects they will sit for their AS examinations at the end of Year 12.

Next term we have some events happening quite quickly.

Year 9 Parents' Evening is at 5.30 on Monday 19th April. Year 7 Parents' Evening is at 5.30 pm on Monday 26th April. Year 8 Parent's Evening is at 5.30 on Sunday 2nd May and Year 10 Parents' Evening is at 5.30 pm on Monday 10th May.

Prize giving for Year 10 and Year 11 will be held on Wednesday 21st April at 7.00 pm. I do hope that all Year 10 and 11 parents will attend to support us in celebrating the achievements of their sons and daughters.

The Year 11, 12 and 13 examination performance evening is on Wednesday 28th April and again I hope that many of you will attend this very special drama event.

We are holding our annual Talent Show on Thursday 29th April at 6.30 in the school hall. Also on 29th April we will hold our annual Swimming Gala. Please note that this is different to the date that was initially advertised on the events calendar on our website. The Swimming Gala has been moved to make room for a visit from WOMAD who will be working with our students in school on Sunday 18th and Monday 19th April.

Thursday 29th April is the official start of Examination Leave for Year 11 and 13. Year 12 classes will continue at the request of teachers.

Examinations will begin towards the end of April with some practical examinations. An examination timetable will be published in the first week back to school after the holidays.

School closes for the holidays on Thursday 1st April at 12.15 pm and reopens on Sunday 18th April at 7.50 am

May I wish you a calm and peaceful time with your families over the holidays.

Sincerely –

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