



10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

### Thank you

On behalf of all our staff teaching and non-teaching, an enormous thank you, for your support over the course of the term. We have always said learning is a partnership, and even more so in these challenging times. We need to be able to rely on each other and work together to ensure your children are well-served. We are so grateful for the support of our parents and parent groups. We hope you enjoy the winter break and look forward to seeing you all back on Sunday 3rd January.

For your enjoyment, I attach links to two items created within the busy-ness of the term. The first is a collaboration between our guest from the West end Musical 'Hamilton' – **Tarinn Callendar and staff** and dedicated to our wonderful student body. [Click Here](#)

The second is another special piece lead by Resonance with cameos from a variety of staff from across the Academy – [Elton John's "I'm Still Standing"](#) was chosen for its title after a long and challenging term.

We hope you enjoy those.

### Going 100% onsite for Learning – Sunday 10 January (Week 2 onwards)

We hoped this day would come, and while for some it has been a little too long in the making, we are pleased to say we are preparing well for the return to school of all children, at all year levels.

We are making changes to entry and exit points, rooming and home corridors, timetables, cleaning schedules, duties at breaks, use of outdoor areas etc as part of this adjustment and it is all underway. Significantly, in class, students will now be sitting at ends of desks facing towards each other with a perspex screen dividing them. Masks are still required at all times. These screens are being used in a substantial number of schools both primary and secondary, around Dubai.



EDUCATION

All this change allows us maximum functionality of the building whilst retaining the highest health and safety standards. Our biggest challenge is the timing of release of information as we will be working through the winter break to prepare. Our communication with you as parents will be in the Zoom Information sessions in Week 1 (see below) and in my next newsletter on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January, which will come to you from the Vice Principals.

What you and your children need to know at this stage is that the week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> (Term 2, Week 1) will be a continuation of the timetable they knew in Term 1. New timetables and rooming will be released end of week 1 for a week 2 start.

Today, you will be sent an online form to indicate whether your child is on or offsite. Please note, the choice you make now should remain through until at least half-term if not the full term. Please complete this form as quickly as possible and with some thought given to your choice. Without question, space is tighter with all students potentially onsite, so accurate lists of 'in-school' and 'remote learners' are vital for us to function efficiently. Your attention to quick completion of this form is much appreciated.

Mock Exams for Year 11 start immediately after the break – you have received all the required material [HERE](#). Any changes will be emailed to Year 11 parents directly.

Finally, in regard to the changes, we invite you to join us online in one of two Zoom information sessions, where Vice Principals Daniella Aschettino and Rob Curry will go over final details and respond to questions.

These sessions are scheduled for Monday 4 January 8.00am – 9.00am and Tuesday 5 January 5.00pm – 6.00pm. Both sessions will be recorded and made available for all families to view. We hope you may join either or both. The links are in the Key Dates below

Thank you again for your support as we make another vital change for learning at WSO.

Have a happy and restful Winter Break

Warm regards



Andy Kai Fong



## Key Dates

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|--------------------|---|
| Sunday 3 January   | Term 2 begins / Year 11 Mock Exams begin  |
| Monday 4 January   | Zoom Information / Q&A Session 1<br><br>Topic: WSO plans for return of students to 100% in school learning (session 1)<br>Time: Jan 4, 2021 08:00 AM Dubai<br><br>Join Zoom Meeting<br><a href="https://gmseducation.zoom.us/j/84054304877">https://gmseducation.zoom.us/j/84054304877</a><br>Meeting ID: 840 5430 4877 |
| Tuesday 5 January  | Zoom Information / Q&A Session 2<br><br>Topic: WSO plans for return of students to 100% in school learning (session 2)<br>Time: Jan 5, 2021 05:00 PM Dubai<br><br>Join Zoom Meeting<br><a href="https://gmseducation.zoom.us/j/82726383428">https://gmseducation.zoom.us/j/82726383428</a><br>Meeting ID: 827 2638 3428 |
| Thursday 7 January | Principal Update with further information for 'Going 100%'  |
| Sunday 10 January  | 'Going 100%' begins   |