



**12 September 2018**

**RE: Headmaster Newsletter No. 2 2018**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The new school year is now underway, timetables have been clarified, effective teaching and learning is happening in classrooms and ECA's commenced last week. The first weeks of school have been whirlwind of action.

I was pleased to meet many parents during the "Meet The Teachers" events and over 200 school community members attended our community event last Saturday, 8th September. It was gratifying to observe the level of support from our community as this was the first time the school has planned an event at the start of the new academic year.

Many parents shared with me how much they appreciated the opportunity to meet teachers and other families in an informal social setting. We are planning another event similar to this at the end of Term 1 and hope to have community and staff participation in some performances and entertainment.

### **Strength of Our Curriculum**

Our school is making continuous efforts to realize its vision of emphasising personal development, academic excellence and sound preparation for a global future. We want our students to be creative problem solvers and independent learners. Appropriate measures have been put in place to implement an innovative and balanced curriculum at all levels throughout the school, and a professional learning community among teachers.

We are a small school but our subject offerings in Secondary provide students with a variety of courses that incorporate core subjects such as Maths Sciences and English plus additional courses in the Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages and opportunities for creative expression through Art/ Design and Media Arts.

Our primary curriculum from Early Years through to Year 6 provides the foundation during which students should develop good study habits, moral values, reflective ability, self-discipline, and the basic learning skills, i.e. literacy, numeracy, thinking and IT skills. They should learn to respect others, and take responsibility for their own learning. These attributes are far more important than scoring a few more points in school examinations. As RBIS provides a seamless transition from Primary to Secondary there is more scope for whole-person

development to prepare students better for secondary education where there is much more substantive learning of subject matter and higher demand on critical thinking.

Our new leadership team have ensured a successful transition of leadership within the school and I want to encourage parents to meet with our team members and establish a relationship. One of our aims this year is to improve communication between home and school and we seek your support. I am always available to meet with parents, to discuss concerns and I welcome and value your suggestions.

The new timetable we introduced this year has received strong support from the community and our focus on teaching and learning in the peak hours in the morning is already proving successful. Parents have shared the return to a weekly timetable rather than Weeks A&B has been welcomed and understood.

### **PUNCTUALITY**

RBIS has an ongoing problem with students be late for school. We are fully aware that exceptional circumstances arise e.g. Bangkok traffic, but the situation has reached a stage where 20% of our school population is arriving late. I need your support in ensuring your son/daughter arrives at school on time as arriving late impacts on the learning programme of other students and also can unsettle students who arrive on time. Continually arriving late at school will have a serious impact on learning.

Did you know.....

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • 5 minutes late each day  | = 3 days of school lost in a year   |
| • 10 minutes late each day | = 6.5 days of school lost in a year |
| • 15 minutes late each day | = 10 days of school lost in a year  |
| • 20 minutes late each day | = 13 days of school lost in a year  |
| • 30 minutes late each day | = 19 days of school lost in a year  |

Nineteen (19) days lost in a school year is likely to lead to one whole grade lower in student performance across all subjects.

**OUR STUDENTS NEED TO BE AT SCHOOL ON TIME**

### **Measuring Student Achievement**

We are delighted to be starting our working partnership with CEM (Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring) at Durham University in the UK. Students in Years 1-6 in Primary and in Years 7-9 in Secondary will participate in assessments each year. These assessments are implemented in the majority of international schools and provide valuable information to support teaching and learning.

This computer-adaptive assessment material will allow us to identify strengths and weaknesses in individual learning at this early stage in the school year. The assessments provide an objective measure of potential, and to measure progress in key developmental areas, which research shows plays a significant indicator of later academic success. We will undertake the assessment on a regular basis and over time will be able to provide data on how our students perform measured against the performance of students in other international schools.

The data from CEM will be used alongside our own tracking data to measure how the children are progressing.

### **Saturday School**

The Saturday programme commences on 22nd September and will run until 1st December.- The following activities are scheduled:

#### Early Years

Fun English ( 3-5 year olds)

#### Primary

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Fun English (6-10 year olds)

Chinese for Beginners

Chinese

#### Secondary

English as Additional Language

Photography (Year 2 and above)

*For further information see school website.*

### **Healthy School**

I am concerned that the current menus for snacks and lunch need some improvement and I will be meeting with the management of the cafeteria to consider some amendments to the menu. I am aware that many of our parents are trying hard to establish good, healthy eating habits with their children and our school needs to support those endeavours by providing healthy nutritious food choices for snacks and lunch items. We are currently looking at replacing many of the high sugar based ice-creams sold after school with more fruit based ice blocks that have significantly less sugar. If any parents have suggestions for healthy food items I would welcome your advice.

I can share at this time that our Student Councils at both Primary and Secondary levels will be discussing healthy food at school and will offer suggestions for new inclusions to the menu.

My office door is always open and I welcome the opportunity to meet with you on a personal level to discuss issues/concerns and also to receive feedback on school programmes.

I hope we can meet soon.

Kind Regards,

Dr Bruce Robinson  
Headmaster

