

Thursday, 30 April 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope this finds you and your family members well and in good health.

As the outgoing and incoming Heads of School/CEOs of GEMS World Academy, Dubai (GWA), we are writing to update you on the latest developments at the school and share with you details of the work being carried out to ensure everything is in place for the start of the 2020-21 academic year.

As you may be aware, Giles Pruet, Head of Secondary School, will be leaving GWA at the end of this academic year, so we would like to pay tribute to his many achievements since joining GWA from Jumeriah College in January 2016. During his four and a half years with us, he has led the Secondary School with distinction and put in place systems and processes that have seen average IB scores improve dramatically – from 30 to 34 in three years. He also set up the socio-emotional structures of our school's advisory and house systems, which support all students, as well as introducing the intervention programmes that ensure students who are not meeting progress targets are provided with suitable support.

Under Giles' leadership the depth and quality of middle leadership in the Secondary division has been greatly strengthened, which has resulted in most of our leadership positions being filled internally. Giles has also used his extensive sports knowledge and experience to enhance the sports programmes at GWA, and he will be particularly missed by the GWA Golf Team, which he has been leading since joining GWA. Giles has also served with distinction as the Deputy Head of School.

We are delighted to announce that Luise Lowndes has been appointed to lead the Secondary School after Giles leaves. Luise is a highly experienced global educator with 20 years' experience with IB programmes. She has worked in schools in the UK, Arabian Gulf, Hong Kong and Indonesia, as well as in her home country of Australia. She is currently Deputy Head of Secondary at the highly regarded British School Jakarta, where she led the introduction of the IB Middle Years Programme and IB Career-related Programme, as well as heading the Sixth Form and IB Diploma.

A member of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL), Luise holds a Bachelor's degree in Education, a Certificate in Advanced Education Leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education and is in the final stages of completing her



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Master's in Applied Educational Leadership and Management at University College London's Institute of Education. Luise believes passionately in the philosophy of the IB and in student-centred holistic education. She has presented on student well-being and has been at the forefront of British School Jakarta's pioneering collaboration with MIT on Compassionate Systems Learning.

Luise is delighted to be joining GWA and we look forward to introducing her in person to the school community in due course. In the meantime, please continue to look after yourselves and your families in these unprecedented times.

Kind regards,

Mr. Stuart Walker
Head of School/CEO