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Thursday 19th April 2018

Dear All,

As the newly appointed Head of Education at QP I am writing to introduce myself to staff, students and parents and also to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received to date. My wife and I arrived in Doha from Hong Kong two weeks ago and have already noted that the weather is a tad warmer than we are used to, I am told it will get hotter so I may have to invest in some short-sleeved shirts!



My background as an education professional goes back to 1983 when I first taught as a secondary school PE teacher in Coventry in the UK. Since then I have had a variety of roles including Headteacher, Head of Education in a local authority in England and Director of Education for a group of international schools in Hong Kong. Throughout all these roles I have remained passionate around the difference teachers can make to the life chances of children and believe firmly that the quality of any education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers. As such, I very much look forward to working with colleagues at both Dukhan English School and Mesaieed International School, in ensuring we have the highest expectations for all our learners and that with the support of parents we deliver a quality education that benefits all students.

On visiting both schools I have been hugely impressed by the attitudes of students to their own learning and by their obvious pride in their schools. This was reinforced by having the privilege to be in the audience for the Qatar National Choir Competition that took place earlier this week. The students from Dukhan English school performed magnificently and despite competition from many schools in Qatar managed to achieve third place overall with the prize for musical director of the year being awarded to Mr Young, head of music at the school. Very well done to all students who took part, they are a credit to their school and their families and thanks to all the staff and parents who supported on the night.

I am aware that this term will be a busy one for all staff and students, examinations will be taking place, recruitment of staff is in full swing and school admissions need to be finalized for the next academic year. Ramadan is just around the corner with Eid al-Fitr to follow so there will be plenty to occupy the mind. There are some exciting school events to look forward to and I hope to meet many parents and families as well as getting to know students and teaching staff. I apologise in advance if I meet any of you then ask for your name the next time we meet, it must be my age!

Have an enjoyable weekend and again, many thanks for the welcome, it is very much appreciated.



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