



Jeddah Prep and Grammar School

Keeping in touch...

Head Master's Headlines: 14/08/16

A WARM WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to those new to Jeddah Prep and Grammar School, and for those who return, welcome back!

The School has a genuine family atmosphere and true community spirit which members of staff and the Board of Governors have worked hard to foster and support over the years, and I remain truly grateful for their continued efforts in this most important element.

Our involvement in the community of Jeddah and the Kingdom as a whole is very important to us. Together with the Board, I wish the School to become more of a focal point for community projects and help bring people together. Last term, I spoke to the whole School about those factors such as language and culture which split us apart, and how with effort and understanding, we can overcome them and come together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. Only by working together can we achieve our aims and aspirations.



Welcome from Jonathan Warner

If you have had the chance to speak with me personally, you will know I view it as vital to bring all parts of the School and community together to under common purpose. This investment in cohesion will be a key theme running through much of our efforts this year, driven through different whole School events, our educational delivery and a reinvigoration of the House system.

We have a large number of new initiatives which you will see in this coming academic year. Firstly, I am proud to say that we have some superb new colleagues joining us this year, and we look forward to welcoming our new teachers to the team. Most have arrived already, whilst a few will be with us very shortly, visas permitting.

We also welcome Del Monte as our new catering team in the Cafeteria, who will be offering us all a wide range of tasty snacks, drinks and meals, together with education on healthy eating to support learning.

Furthermore, we aim to widen and increase the number of activities on offer both in our current enrichment slot, and in time, later in the evening in both sporting and cultural: more on this in time.

I look forward to the journey that lies ahead for us all both this year and in the future with great relish.

THE NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER

We aim to ensure that all members of the School community are aware of all that goes on within the JPGS.

The staff are working hard to ensure that this will be the best term at JPGS yet. A great deal of work has gone into improving and maintaining the School buildings over the summer holiday. With just over a week before term is due to start, fresh new ideas, events and activities are being formulated and finalised for both the coming term and the year ahead.

This new format of the Head's newsletter is intended to ensure you remain in touch with all that the School has to offer, regardless of the age of your child, and that you never miss an important event.

Every two weeks, we shall report in this newsletter on different events and happenings within the School, reflecting the full range of year groups of the pupils. This will be released on Firefly, available on the School Website and displayed on notice boards in School.

We will also give you prior warning of what

is coming up. The Calendar Update on the final page will show the plan for the following two weeks. This will mirror the online version of the full Autumn Term Calendar which will be accessible to you all via the School's website.

Any last minute alterations from the website will be highlighted on the calendar here in blue, and events which we recommend parents should attend will be highlighted in yellow.

We hope you will find this useful and informative, and we look forward to receiving your feedback as the term progresses.

How to contact us

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MEET THE NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have a number of new faces joining us at JPGS this year in various positions across the School. As we say farewell to Janet Elision and Steve O'Shaughnessy as Heads of School, we welcome Paul Green and Marie Green (no relation!) to Jeddah to join the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and take up the baton.

Paul Green, our new Head of the Grammar School joins us from the Epsom College in the UK where he has served as Assistant Headmaster for many years. Paul has had particular responsibility for academic standards, recruitment and monitoring pupil progression in this prestigious and highly successful British boarding school. Jeddah will be his first international post.

Marie Green is an experienced Head of Prep who has led and managed Primary Schools both in Britain and a number of the Gulf States, including Qatar and the UAE, most recently. She has brought her previous schools through the challenging accreditation processes for both CIS and the IB Primary Years Programme with flying colours. Marie is accompanied to Jeddah by her husband, Miller, who will join the PE department.

Context, understanding and long-service are as important to any successful team as fresh perspectives, so I am glad to report that Tom McGarry remains in post as Head of the Sixth Form. Tom's years of experience in JPGS and profound knowledge of the culture of the region is both invaluable and essential to the new team.

Mirroring Tom's position at the other end of the age spectrum and bringing his expertise to the leadership of the Foundation Stage is David Jackson. David has been with the School for one year and is an Early Years Specialist teacher. He has led Foundation and Primary Phase Schools both in the UK and internationally. Tom and David will assist Paul and Marie, respectively.

We have many other new colleagues joining the teaching staff this year, and you will be most welcome to join us to hear them introduce themselves and have a chance to speak with them at a special afternoon tea coming up shortly. I know I can speak for all of those for whom this is their first experience of Jeddah Prep and Grammar School in thanking the parents, pupils and existing colleagues for a very warm and heartfelt welcome they will receive.



School Calendar update: upcoming at JPGS

WEEK 1 August	Sunday 21	0715-0730 0740-0815 0815-0845 0845 onward 1415 1430-1515	First Day of School for Y3 to 13 Pupils No Enrichment Sessions this week Whole Staff Briefing, Prep School Hall Registration and Tutor/Class Teacher Period, <i>Classrooms</i> Whole School Assembly (Y3-13), <i>Sports Hall</i> Lessons Begin: normal timetable from Period Two onward Dismissal and Collection time for all pupils, <i>Blue and Red Gates</i> New Staff Session with Human Resources Department, ICT Room
	Monday 22		First Day of School for Y1 and 2 Pupils
	Tuesday 23	0750-0845 1430-1630	First Day of School for Foundation 2 Pupils PSME Session for all pupils (no assembly this week), <i>Classrooms</i> Senior Leadership Team Meeting, <i>HM's Study</i>
	Wednesday 24	0800-0900	Parents Coffee Morning 'Meet the new Heads of School', <i>Cafeteria</i>
	Thursday 25		
	Friday 26 Saturday 27		
WEEK 2 Aug/Sept	Sunday 28	0715-0730 1245	First Day of School for Foundation 1 Pupils No Enrichment Sessions this week Whole Staff Briefing, Prep School Hall Dismissal and Collection for Foundation 1 Pupils
	Monday 29	1430-1515	Whole School Staff Meeting (Emergency Evacuation Procedures), <i>Prep School Hall</i>
	Tuesday 30	0750-0825 0750-0825 0825-0845 1430-1530	Announced Fire/Evacuation Drill to take place today Prep School Assembly, <i>Prep School Hall</i> Grammar School Assembly, <i>Sports Hall</i> PSME Session for all pupils, <i>Classrooms</i> Parent's Information Evening (Y5-7 cultural Trip to New York), Prep School Hall
	Wednesday 31		Announced Lockdown/PEC Drill to take place today
	Thursday 1	1430-1600	New Parent's Induction Meeting, <i>Prep School Hall</i>