



جمعية المدارس الدولية البريطانية بالقاهرة

المشيرة برقم ٢٢٧١ بوزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية

تقاطع شارعى الدكتور محمود عزمى والسنى - الزمالك

THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS SOCIETY, CAIRO

September 15, 2011

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you all to a new academic year in BISC.

As we begin what may prove to be another quite challenging year, I would like to share with you the accomplishments and achievements BISC was able to attain last year despite the obstacles put forward.

Post revolution last academic year, the Board of Directors met frequently to ensure that any decision needed was taken in a timely manner. Just to name a few main decisions:

1. Establishment of a Finance Committee – in addition to the existing Education Committee, the Board established a four member Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer of the Board. The committee's duties include revision and development of all purchasing, financial policies, budgets and monitor all financial matters. In this respect, I am pleased to advise you that, with the help of the Business Office, we have substantially reduced the cost of various services provided to the school. The committee is further studying the creation of a long term school fund.
2. Board/Parent Communication – to encourage direct communication with the Board and Parents, an email address was established to allow Parents to directly communicate with the Board. The email is: bod@bisc.edu.eg
3. BISC Parent Teacher Association (PTA) – The Board agreed to reintroduce a PTA structure as of September 2011. The new PTA structure will be designed to allow maximum Parent assistance and contribution to social and charity events of the school while avoiding the problems and irregularities of the previous structure. The guidelines will be communicated to Parents shortly and the Annual General Assembly will take place later this month. A detailed letter will be distributed to all Parents.
4. Arabic Program – The Board decided to continue with the strengthening of the Arabic Program for all Arabic speaking students.
5. British International School Society (BISS) – As you all know, the school is owned and run by BISS, a non-profit organization supervised by the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Justice.

Parents are always encouraged to join BISS when they join the school and annually thereafter through letters and the school bulletin. Any questions or queries can be directed to biss@bisc.edu.eg.

Briefly, the Board of Directors of BISS is comprised of 9 members who are elected for a 6 year term, during which 3 members are required to step down every two years and elections are held. Society members are comprised of parents, this may also include parents of BISC graduates and alumni of the school may also be society members provided they have completed their higher education. In the event that as a society member an alumnus or former parent wishes to run for the Board, amendments to the by-laws will ensure that only one of the two may serve during a single Board term.



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Changes to the by-laws will be recommended to be taken during the next Annual General Meeting of BISS and we will send our suggested changes well in advance of the meeting to allow parents to consider and provide their suggestions and comments thereon before the meeting. This will include revising the 3 year stipulation for voting rights for new members.

Some parents may be aware that a Ministry decree has been issued from the Egyptian Ministry of Education for all International Schools in Egypt to be integrated into the Ministry of Education and as a result would be required to teach certain subjects in Arabic to all Arab students. This would not affect the expat student body in the school.

While this has not yet materialized, the Board had decided to take a proactive role and work with the Ministry on an advisory basis. Dr. Amr Shabrawishi, Vice-Chairman has been appointed on the working committee set up by the Ministry to further investigate as to how feasible such a decision would be to the benefit of International Schools in Egypt.

Parents will be updated as things progress on this particular issue.

Finally, as to achievements and accomplishments, the Board would like parents to join in congratulating students and staff in the academic achievements of last year. Despite the interruptions students faced in their learning, the dedication of Staff and Management enabled all year groups to complete their curriculum; resulting in a very successful year with very pleasing results.

In the Junior School, the year 6 students took the Senior School entrance exam as well as the National Curriculum Test (NCT). 52% of our pupils achieved Level 5, the top grade in the exam, in English and 52% achieved Level 5 in mathematics, as compared with the UK average of 23% and 35% respectively.

In Senior School, our year 11 GCSE students achieved 63% A*-A with a 97% pass rate. These are very strong results: UK independents had an A*-A average of 52%, UK selective maintained an A*-A average of 55%. Nearly 50% of students achieved grades of A or better in all subjects.

Our year 13 IB graduates achieved an average of 34 points with seven students achieving scores of 40 or higher. Our graduates have been accepted and gone off to leading universities such as MIT and Georgetown in the United States, Oxford, Imperial, Kings and LSE in the UK and the AUC in Egypt.

Again BISS is enjoying the leading position of IB schools in Egypt and is ranked 20th among the top 200 IB schools in the UK. Parents and Staff are to be congratulated on a job well done.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish you all a very successful school year.

Sincerely,

Yasser Hashem
Chairman