



LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

<i>Term 1 - Issue 1</i>	Tuesday 01 September 2009	<i>www.cisdoha.com info@cisdoha.org</i>
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<p>In this issue: *** <i>From the Head Teacher</i> *** <i>What's new at the Gharaffa Campus?</i> *** <i>What's new at the Rayyan Campus?</i> *** <i>News from the Primary School</i> *** <i>News from the Secondary School</i> *** <i>Welcome Parties</i> *** <i>Sun Safe</i> *** <i>School Buses</i> *** <i>General Information</i> *** <i>Dates for your Diary</i> *** <i>Miscellaneous</i> ***</p>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Welcome back to an exciting new year of learning at Compass International School. If you are new to our community at Compass, I hope that you will settle in quickly. I am sure that all our students are going to have a great year making new friendships and exploring all the learning opportunities that our teachers have prepared for them.</p> <p>We have been very busy over the summer preparing for the new year and many of you have been checking out the website to see the latest photos of the building and development work at the Gharaffa Campus as well as our new Rayyan Campus.</p> <p>Our school has grown again and we welcome a number of new teachers in the primary and secondary school. We also welcome back so many of our teachers from last year who did such a wonderful job. We have a very experienced staff and they have been involved in preparing for the new term over the last week to ensure that all our students will learning well, enjoy life and exceed expectations.</p> <p>I am delighted that our new secondary school at Rayyan is open and welcome Julian Cottenden as the first Head of Rayyan Campus. Julian joins the School Leadership team from the British International School in Riyadh. Pauline Markey steps up as Head of the Gharaffa Campus and has a great wealth of experience that will continue to enhance our primary school.</p> <p>Have a fantastic year!</p> <p>John Todd Head Teacher</p>
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		 <p>CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE</p>
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An international school located in the State of Qatar owned and managed by Education Overseas Qatar LLC (CR No. 33520)

What's new at the Gharaffa Campus?

The new Library



The Swimming Pool—now protected from the sun



The new Reception Area



What else have we been working on?

- The campus has been repainted inside and out
- The Sports Hall has a newly insulated roof
- The new building has a newly insulated roof plus additional air conditioning
- The swimming pool has a brand new filtration and chlorination system
- The classroom block behind the main building has new front doors and a new IT work station area
- We have new teachers and many new and exciting resources to work with
- Our students will now receive weekly specialist lessons in Physical Education from our PE teachers in addition to weekly swimming lessons
- There will also be additional specialist Music and Art lessons to enhance our learning programme

What's new at the Rayyan Campus?



The entrance to the school



Reception Area



Outdoor play area



Science / Maths Classroom



Music Room



English / Humanities Classroom

Everything is new and exciting at the Rayyan Campus and we are ready for our first students to start. Please check out the website for photos from the first day.

News from the Primary School

Once again we open our (new, sliding) doors and welcome back all our Compass families. We hope you all had a restful holiday and that your children are keen to get back to school to share their holiday experiences with us and engage in some super learning this year. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families and are sure they will soon settle in and become part of the Compass community.

Much work has gone on over the holidays to improve the Gharaffa site with great success. The new look library is open and ready to go with lots of new books resources, including a bank of laptops for the children to use for research. Many other spots around the school have new laptops for the children to extend their learning across the curriculum...upstairs and downstairs in the new block, in the Early Years block and in the Year 1 / 2 block behind the main building. Almost every room now has a whiteboard with speakers to improve the opportunities for the children to extend their knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Through the use of a wide range of media, we hope to encourage the children to appreciate that ICT is a normal part of their learning.

We welcome many new staff to CISD. All highly trained professionals from within Qatar and overseas who join our existing, committed and experienced staff members, to help to continue to provide an exciting and stimulating environment for your children. They have planned learning opportunities that will help your children develop and grow, explore and investigate and rise to the challenges set for them on a daily basis. Through this we continue to strive to meet our vision to be a successful school recognized for excellence around the world and in doing so direct and guide our students to *Learn Well, Enjoy Life and Exceed Expectations*.

We look forward to another exciting year working as a team to ensure the very best learning for your children. Together we can make it a memorable year as we continue to move forward as a learning community.

The doors are always open so please come in to help, look around or share your ideas and suggestions with us at any time.

Pauline Markey, Head of Gharaffa Campus

News from the Secondary School

I have always been excited by new beginnings and being appointed as the Head of the new Rayyan Campus at Compass International School is an opportunity that I have sought throughout my career. I have been in Qatar, with my family, for four weeks now and it has been remarkable to be involved in such an educational development. Every day over the past month has see new resources and furniture arriving, interactive white boards and other computer hardware being installed, the library being set up, and continuous painting, planting and planning.

The new staff, who, to a person, share my enthusiasm and pioneering spirit for our new Rayyan Campus, have been working hard preparing their classrooms and resources and have been busy doing the million and one things that are necessary to turn a building into a school. The only missing ingredient now is the students.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am a graduate of Exeter University in the UK, where I studied geography and comparative education. I have taught IGCSE and A Level geography in a variety of

schools since then. Back in the 1970's, the 'comparative', meant looking at the education systems, pedagogy and philosophy in the USA and what was then the Soviet Union. I was fortunate enough, stimulated by this course, to travel to the United States a number of times and behind 'The Iron Curtain,' including studying at The University of Budapest. Thus was born a life-long passion for internationalism in education.

My teaching career has been split between teaching in UK state and independent schools and international schools, including in Australia, Kuwait and most recently in Saudi Arabia, where for three years I was Head of The British International School. I have also worked closely, over a twenty year period with schools and other organisations in Sweden, India, China and Sri Lanka and have taken a great number of school expeditions to these and other places.

I am excited by the opportunity to develop a creative and dynamic curriculum for the Secondary School. Over the coming weeks and months I will be providing detailed information for parents on such issues as curriculum content, standards, assessment and some of the particular features of our creative curriculum. I look forward to greeting our students on September 1st and to meeting you in the coming weeks and months.

Julian Cottenden, Head of Rayyan Campus

Welcome Parties

Every class in the school will hold a welcome party during the second week of term. This is a great opportunity for everyone in the class to meet up. The Class Teacher or Form Tutor will introduce themselves and set out their expectations. We will ask students to introduce their parents and parents to introduce their children. We will also elect one or preferably two 'Class Parents' who will help the teacher over the course of the year. The Class Parents help with coordinating class social activities, organising help for the teacher for special activities and helping to keep families in touch by making a contact list for the class. Please check the calendar for the date for the Welcome Party for your child's class.

Sun safe

The hot weather is likely to continue through to the end of October and students will be kept inside at break time until it is safe for them to go outside during the day. It is vital that whenever students do go outside they wear a hat—this includes walking into and out of school. Our School Nurses will speak to every class in the school about the importance of drinking water throughout the day. Please continue to talk to your children on this subject to avoid any problems in the hot weather. If school hats are not available from the uniform shop, please ensure your child wears a different hat.

School Buses

Our school bus service is run by TriLogistics and full details can be found on the website at www.cisdoha.com/Students/BusService

For parents who have children at both campuses, we will be running a bus to help. The bus will leave the Rayyan Campus at 7.10 AM prompt—we will not wait for latecomers and would require parents to take responsibility in such cases, but there will be some extra time allowed in the first week. The bus will have a monitor to take care of the students. The bus will leave the Gharaffa Campus at 1.40 PM to return to Rayyan Campus. If your child is coming from home on the bus, it may be easier for them to use the Gharaffa bus service directly.

General Information

- Arrival Time** The school gates open at 7.00 AM and staff are available in covered areas to supervise students. The bell rings at 7.20 AM and students may then move to their classes. Please note that school starts at 7.30 AM and children are expected to be in their classrooms ready to learn by then. We do understand that traffic in Doha can be a challenge, but arriving late can not only disrupt your own child's learning, but also the learning of other children. Please make sure that your children arrive at school on time.
- Absence** If your child is absent from school for any reason, please inform the Class Teacher or call the school office. This should be done before the event in the case of a planned absence (e.g. holiday / visit to the dentist). For sickness, or other unplanned absences, please send an explanatory letter when your child returns to school.
- Clothing** We do expect all students to attend school in the appropriate school uniform. Please ensure that all items of clothing and other personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. Personalised iron-on labels are available from Zaks, the uniform suppliers.
- Snacks** Please provide your child with something healthy to eat at break times (e.g. fruit, cereal bar, etc.) in a suitable container marked with their name. Please provide drinks in containers other than glass, which can be dangerous. Children are encouraged to drink water during lessons to ensure that they remain fully hydrated for optimal learning.
- Sun Safe** We operate a NO HAT - NO PLAY policy. Make sure that your child brings their hat to school otherwise they will not be allowed onto the field to play. Please ensure that your child knows that they need to drink regularly to remain properly hydrated in the hot weather.
- Lost property** There is a lost property box in the bus office by the gate at school. If you lose something, please check there in the first place. There are many items waiting to be claimed.
- Parking** Please take care when parking at the start and the end of the school day and ensure that you follow the instructions of our security personnel. The car parks in front of the Gharaffa Campus are for the use of school buses and staff only. Parents are asked to use the roadside parking areas at the Rayyan Campus and the land next to the school at the Gharaffa Campus. Please do not park opposite the Gharaffa Campus entrance as this upsets our neighbours.

Email Communications

If you did not get this newsletter by email, then please speak to Mrs. Cheryl Paladino (gharaffa@cisdoha.org) or Mrs. Kay Tilley (rayyan@cisdoha.org), our School Secretaries, and we will add you to the mailing list.

Dates for your Diary

Your child has been given a copy of the school calendar for either the Rayyan or the Gharaffa Campus. Copies of the calendars are also available to download from the Parent Login section of the website.

Gharaffa Campus

Rayyan Campus

September 2009

Week 1

Tue 01 Resumption
School Newsletter
Wed 02 EY/MP1 Assembly 7.45am
Thu 03 MP 2/3 Assembly 7.45am

Week 2

Awards: Teacher's Choice
Sun 06 Milepost 3 Welcome Meeting 7.30 AM
Mon 07 Milepost 2 Welcome Meeting 7.30 AM
Staff Meeting 1.45 – 2.45pm
Tue 08 Milepost 1 Welcome Meeting 7.30 AM
Wed 09 EY/MP1 Assembly 7.45am
Thu 10 MP 2/3 Assembly 7.45am
Early Years Welcome Meeting 7.30 AM

Week 3

Awards: Enquiry
Sun 13 Student Council (SC) Election Week
Mon 14 Staff Meeting 1.45 – 2.45pm
Tue 15 School Consultative Group Meeting

Wed 16 EY/MP1 Assembly 7.45am
Presentation of SC Representatives
Thu 17 MP 2/3 Assembly 7.45AM
Presentation of SC Representatives

Sun 20 – Thu 24 Eid il-Fitr*

Week 4 Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) begin

Awards: English
Sun 27 Coffee Morning 7.30am
Mon 28 Staff Meeting 1.45 – 2.45pm
Tue 29
Wed 30 EY/MP1 Assembly 7.45am

September 2009

Week 1

Tue 01 Resumption
School Newsletter
Wed 02
Thu 03

Week 2

Awards: Enquiry
Sun 06
Mon 07 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
Tue 08
Wed 09 Years 7/8/9 Welcome Meetings 7.30 AM
Thu 10

Week 3

Awards: English
Sun 13 Student Council Elections
Mon 14 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
Tue 15 Parent Assembly 7.30 AM
Presentation of Student Council Representatives 7.30 – in Assembly
School Consultative Group Meeting
Wed 16 Years 7/8/9 Maths/English Assessments
Thu 17

Sun 20 – Thu 24 Eid il-Fitr*

Week 4

Awards: Adaptability
Sun 27 Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) begin
Mon 28 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
Tue 29 Secondary Curriculum Information
Evening 6.30 PM
Wed 30

Miscellaneous

We are always available to consult with parents about your children, so please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries. If you do wish to speak to your child's Class Teacher, the Head of Campus or the Head Teacher, then it is advisable to make an appointment. Teachers cannot come out of classes except in an emergency. Your cooperation in this area is appreciated.

Head Teacher: Mr. John Todd head@cisdoha.org
Telephone: +974 6869304

Gharaffa Campus:

Head of Campus: Mrs. Pauline Markey p.markey@cisdoha.org
Secretary: Mrs. Cheryl Paladino gharaffa@cisdoha.org
Telephone: +974 4877 445 Fax: +974 4877 446

Rayyan Campus:

Head of Campus: Mr. Julian Cottenden j.cottenden@cisdoha.org
Secretary: Mrs. Kay Tilley rayyan@cisdoha.org
Telephone: +974 4414288 Fax: +974 4877 446

School Website: www.cisdoha.com

Login to parents section on website: Username: dohaparents
Password: compassISD

Thank you for your continuing support.

John Todd
Head Teacher

Compass International School Doha

The School's Mission Statement:

**Learning Well, Enjoying Life,
Exceeding Expectations.**

The School's Vision Statement:

**To be a successful school, recognised
around the world for excellence.**

The school's Definition of Learning:

**Learning is making connections
between new and existing knowledge,
skills and understanding to adapt to
our changing world.**