



***LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS***

<b><i>Term 2 - Issue 1</i></b>	<b>Wednesday 06 January 2010</b>	<i>www.cisdoha.com</i> <i>info@cisdoha.org</i>
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<p><b>In this issue:</b> ***</p> <p><i>From the Head of School</i> ***</p> <p><i>Learning Opportunities</i> ***</p> <p><i>Rayyan Campus Building Update</i> ***</p> <p><i>News from the Primary School</i> ***</p> <p><i>News from the Secondary School</i> ***</p> <p><i>IPC Personal Goals</i> ***</p> <p><i>Dutch First Language Programme</i> ***</p> <p><i>Hot Topics</i> ***</p> <p><i>Dates for your diary</i> ***</p> <p><i>Sun Safe</i> ***</p> <p><i>School Buses</i> ***</p> <p><i>General Information</i> ***</p> <p><i>Miscellaneous</i> ***</p>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our Compass families. We hope that 2010 will be a year of great success for everyone and a year of great learning for our students. We look forward to working closely with all families in our community to ensure that we learn together and continue to work for an even better school.</p> <p>We are always conscious of the support and encouragement of our community and there is a new section in the newsletter this month which focuses on the feedback we have received from parents and actions we have taken to respond to your comments. A special thank you to Class Parents and Jill Chomowicz for her coordination work.</p> <p>Road safety has been an ongoing concern, particularly at our Gharaffa Campus and we hope that the newly installed road humps will help to slow traffic. We are also trialling a new drop off system to help improve both safety and traffic flow. The road works at Rayyan have caused some challenges, and I thank parents for their patience.</p> <p>Many of our students will be starting new units of work this term and you should receive information on the learning goals that they will be covering. Please check with class teachers for more information. Details of the termly curriculum plans for secondary will be posted onto the website very soon. We hope that the information will help you to help your children learn more effectively.</p> <p><b>John Todd</b> <b>Head of School</b></p>
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## Learning Opportunities

We will be giving you regular LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES and hope that you will find out more about the programmes we offer at school.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES for parents in January include:

- Weekly assemblies for Early Years / Milepost 1, Milepost 2 / Milepost 3, and Secondary
- International Primary Curriculum Information morning on 26 January at 7.45 AM - Gharaffa
- Quiz night for Rayyan parents on 13 January



## Update on Building at the Rayyan Campus

There have been no further developments on our Rayyan Campus building programme. We continue to work with the municipal planning department on the subject. I cannot make any firm prediction about the progress of the building work.

## News from the Primary School - Playtimes at Compass

*Children treasure their playtimes, in fact for most children it is the best time in their day. Through play they develop and build relationships, learn social skills, de-stress and let off steam, exercise and most of all they have fun.*

Playtimes at Compass are split into three:

**Early Years 1** use the play area at the rear of their classrooms for outdoor development and play. They also use the climbing areas at other times of the day to develop the children's gross motor skills on large apparatus. They eat in class, under the supervision of an adult, before going out to play.

**Early Years 2 and Milepost 1** have their breaks at 9.00 – 9.30 and 11.30—12.00. This is just for playing. They eat their snack inside usually before break but sometimes afterwards depending on individuals timetables.

**Milepost 2 and 3** have first break (9.30 – 10.00am) outside for half an hour. They eat for 15 minutes and play for 15 minutes. Their second break is 12.00 - 12.30

Adults encourage the children to eat their healthy snack first before any chips /crisps or sweet items.

However, we need to work together to:

- Make sure our snack boxes are healthy with options,
- Not send in too much food that can be quite overwhelming
- Discourage swapping of items from snack boxes.
- We also need to remember children are quite often not as interested in food as we are as adults, so make sure they have food they enjoy.

After eating, the children get to play where they have a range of options:

- Climbing area
- Sand
- Field with football nets
- Blackboard
- Range of equipment ranging from balls to the giant connect four games
- Chilling out with friends

Our Student Council children are at hand, (wearing bright yellow caps) at break to deal with any questions, quarrels or play with anyone who needs a playmate. They are also happy to show other children games, include them in their games and to solve any peer conflict.

*Pauline Markey*  
*Head of Gharaffa Campus*

### **News from the Secondary School**

May I first wish you all a Happy New Year. Having finished last term 'very busy', we are looking forward to another busy 'learning' term.

This term we are focusing on consistency and standards. With students in the school from all around the world and from different education systems, it was important last term to be 'inclusive'. By this I mean helping all students to engage with the school, feel confident, safe and included. We started getting them into good work habits, but with the term, that last term was, achieving consistency was quite difficult. This term we will be raising the bar and you and the students will be receiving guidelines and expectations re writing, reading, homework and classwork. It is important that good routines are established both in school and at home and we will of course be looking for your support in this.

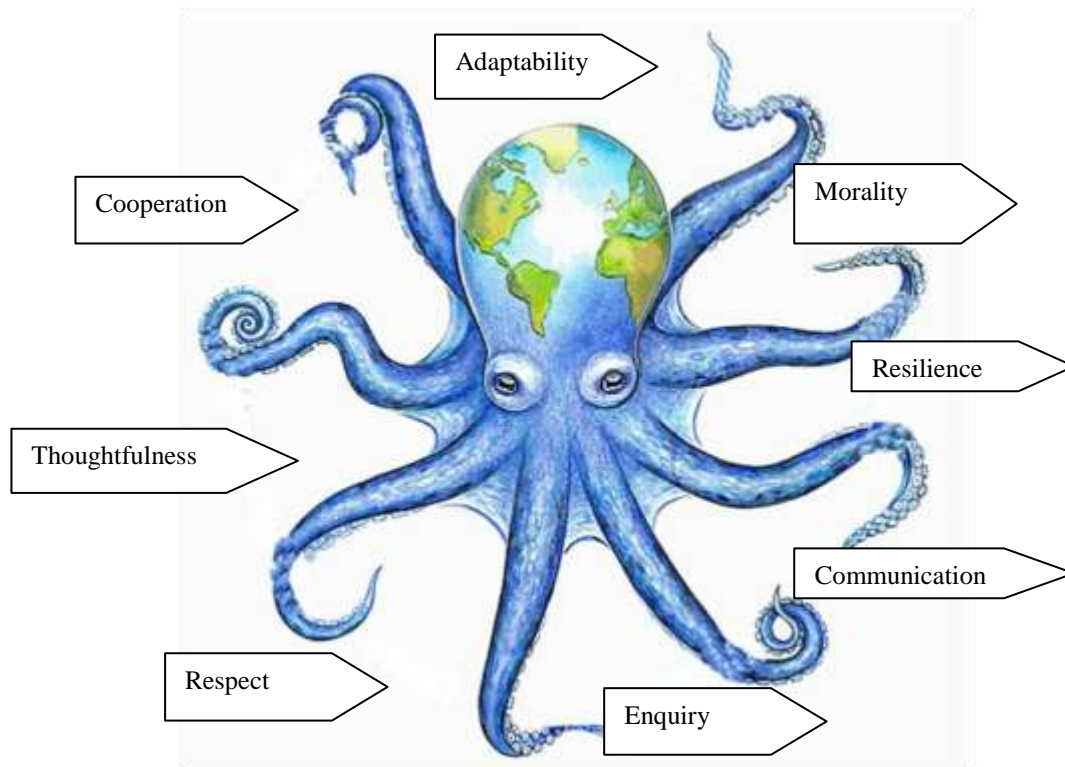
The daily timetable aside, we will continue to develop our creative curriculum for learning, for example, next week is 'Science and Maths Challenge week', a vehicle to get science and maths out of the classroom and a stimulus to get the students to engage at all times and in all places. The week culminates with a 'star gazing' trip on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January. We'll leave at 17.00 and go out into the desert to get some clear and light pollution free skies. More information to follow.

We had a number of fundraising events last term and on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January we are having an 'International Theme' quiz night, for parents and students that will also be a fundraiser for one of our charities. Again, more information to follow shortly. I hope that you will be able to support this event.

*Julian Cottenden*  
*Head of Rayyan Campus*

## Personal Goals

As part of our ongoing teaching and learning in the International Primary Curriculum, there is a strong focus on children's personal development. We want our children to develop the personal qualities they need to be good citizens and to respond to the changing contexts of their future lives. We also have a clear idea of the skills we want to develop: children who are risk takers, not afraid to make mistakes; children who are effective communicators; children who can adapt easily to their surroundings; children who are inquisitive; children who keep trying and do not give up easily; children who are internationally minded; and, for these reasons we have developed eight personal goals which children can work towards achieving.



You will see these goals on the School Report that you received at the end of last term, and your child's level; Beginning, Developing or Mastering will be indicated by bullet point. By their nature, the personal goals are not age-specific. They apply to children – and adults – of all ages. They are incorporated into the subject goals and tasks of the IPC unit your child is learning and are independent and interdependent. For example, part of a subject recording task may be to work with a group and assign each member a task (cooperation) or through learning in international tasks, children are able to consider and respect the views, culture and traditions of other people (adaptability).

In order for children to improve, they have to understand what the personal goals mean and what the next step to improve would be. In the table below, I have summarized the goals and what children would be expected to achieve, their targets, within each goal. We discuss the goals and expectations in school, but it would also be helpful, when reviewing your child's report, if you could also discuss how they can move along the route of beginning → developing → mastering.

Personal Goal	Children's targets
Enquiry	I can ask interesting questions to get information. I am able to plan and carry out an investigation. I can find things out by myself using books and ICT. I can use what I find out to answer a question. I can use what I already know to find out more. I can keep on trying to learn new things about my subject.
Adaptability	I am able to get used to something new. I am confident when I try new things. I am comfortable with myself when I'm doing different things I work well In many different group situations I am able to think about things in different ways I like to know about my friends' views, countries and cultures.
Respect	I am kind towards other children. I listen to other children and adults. I think about ways I can look after our environment. I think about what other living things might need. I look after my own and other peoples' things. I think about the needs and feelings of other people.
Morality	I think about what is right and wrong. I am unselfish in my actions. I can give reasons for my actions. I respect other people's beliefs. I can tell my friends if I think they are doing something wrong. I can stick to mu own ideas about what is fair.
Communication	I can talk in more than one language. I can speak with a loud, clear voice. I can use words and actions to make my meaning clear. I can listen to what other people have to say. I can share what I think in different ways. I can use technology to share my ideas.
Thoughtfulness	I think about and take care of other people. I can use my thinking skills to help solve problems. I can find ways to get better at the things I want to improve. I can think about other people's point of view. I can think about what I have learned and what I am good at. I help new children in my class and school.
Cooperation	I can work in a group to achieve a goal. I can work with different people in a group. I can take turns to talk and listen in a group. I know that everyone in a group has a job. I can accept other people's ideas. I can share jobs and resources with other people.
Resilience	I try hard and keep going until I have finished a task. I am not disappointed when I get something wrong. I am determined. I always try again if I can't do something first time. I am able to accept a challenge. I keep trying, even when things seem too difficult.

*Mrs Ann Djedid, Learning Improvement Leader, International Primary Curriculum*

### **Dutch First Language Programme**

Last term was exciting and challenging first term with many highlights.

We had a wonderful Sinterklaas celebration. Sinterklaas' horse was not feeling well and had to stay in his stable to recover from flu, but luckily Sinterklaas and his Peters managed to make it to Compass in a bright orange Hummer pick up. They looked extremely cool on their arrival with their sunglasses on,

but no mobile phones glued to their ears, a must when you're driving a Hummer. I will let them know for next time. After a warm welcome we played games and celebrated Sinterklaas' birthday in the school hall with lots of singing and dancing and the Peters joking with us. Thanks to the DSA and all who helped out to make it such a great celebration. I only saw happy faces that day.



Another highlight was the visit of the Dutch Inspection. For one week Mr. Rozenburg stayed with us to go around the classrooms, talk to the parents, teachers and the children. He was very happy with what he saw and he could see the progress we are making towards profound learning. We received the draft report and were allowed to respond to any concerns we had. The final report will be issued very soon and will be available on our website.

*Christa Sterk, Dutch Coordinator*

## **HOT TOPICS**

This newsletter introduces a new column titled "Hot Topics". In it we will communicate the concerns, suggestions and other feedback that have been 'Hot Topics' discussed within the Compass Community of Parents, Students and Administration. Our primary goal is to broaden our lines of communication. The Class Parents are bringing your feedback to us. "Hot Topics" will be one way for us to communicate back to you the questions and concerns that have been raised and how we have responded. Within this forum we will only address common issues. We trust that issues specific to individuals will have been separately addressed.

Two additional committees have been formed to enhance communications and facilitate parent involvement at Compass. The School Consultative Group (SCG) has initiated a Welcome Committee and a Social Committee.

The subject of much of your feedback, suggestions and concerns has involved Health and Safety. Appropriately so! Health and Safety are always the highest priority in our learning environment. The subject is never complete, rather it is a process of continual improvement and we especially welcome your feedback in this area.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *If you observe any unsafe condition or imminent danger to any of our children or community – seek the nearest Compass member of staff so that it can be addressed immediately or where possible see to it then inform a member of staff - whichever is most appropriate.*

**HOT TOPIC: Pool Security**

Parents observed some singular instances of security related safety – with the gate to the pool being left open.

*RESPONSE / ACTION TAKEN: Quite often this is when the maintenance company are attending to the pool in the morning and working inside. The company staff have been made aware of the element of danger and instructed to keep the gate closed when they are working inside. We have installed a new locking mechanism and the key now has to be signed out from the security staff. Staff have been asked to be more vigilant and ensure that the gate is kept closed at all times.*

**HOT TOPIC: Traffic and Pedestrian Safety**

A tragic accident at one of the Doha schools heightened awareness of the dangers to pedestrians during drop off and pick up.

*RESPONSE / ACTION TAKEN:*

*The School has been able to install speed bumps in front of the school.*

*A new 'drop off' lane has been introduced as an immediate attempt to manage the congestion and improve traffic flow.*

*A pedestrian crossing has been painted on the road between the side of the school and the wasteland where many parents park.*

*It was observed that pedestrian safety is not just a matter of traffic flow and speed. It is largely a behavioural issue. How do we all drive, walk, and act during school drop off and pick up? A group is being formed to formally study the traffic and pedestrian patterns and behaviors and consider solutions. Their findings and proposals will be considered for implementation as appropriate and possible.*

*PLEASE NOTE: - If you have a keen interest in and/or experience with this issue – please talk with Jill Chomowicz about how you can help. You can email her at [jilldotchom@gmail.com](mailto:jilldotchom@gmail.com).*

**HOT TOPIC: H1N1 Flu Virus**

This hot topic is addressed in formal communications elsewhere. Parents are discussing this 'Hot Topic' among themselves – especially the vaccination question. Vaccinations are available at Primary Health Care Centres and the school is discussing the possibility of a vaccination programme to be held at Compass.

**HOT TOPIC: Sanitary conditions and Cleanliness**

Sanitary conditions around the school, particularly the bathrooms were observed and noted to be unsatisfactory in some area.

*RESPONSE: Compass have employed an extra cleaner whose job it is to attend to the toilets only. He checks the toilets several times per day, replenishing stock and cleaning. The school is also looking at the possibility of hand dryers and new toilet paper dispensers.*

**HOT TOPIC: Breaks, Food and Drink**

A concern was raised about the time and opportunity children are given to eat and drink during the day. A question was asked – Can the teachers encourage the children to eat and drink more?

*Response: See article in newsletter*

**HOT TOPIC: School Uniforms**

Various questions were raised about school uniforms, PE kits, and swimming. A question was asked about the quality of the uniforms.

*RESPONSE: The school are reviewing the uniform supplier and a group of parents is assisting in trialling some new uniforms to check for quality.*

**HOT TOPIC: Communications.**

Some parents suggested there was too much communication, others suggested there was not enough. A concern was raised about the lead time for communications. Another issue raised was the difficulty reading communications for some of our non native speakers.

*RESPONSE Part I: We're a diverse community! This is consistently a subject with a wide range of*

opinion. We received feedback that there is too much information being sent home with the children and that there is too little. We strive for a happy medium. As such:

- We implemented a system to eliminate the duplication of memos within a family. The youngest child in a family will bring home any notice that is school wide.
- If you have a specific concern regarding the amount of paperwork your child receives, please talk with your child's class parent or teacher.

**RESPONSE Part II:** There were a few concerns about the timeliness of communications. Our teachers make every attempt to keep parents informed with as much notice as possible. A copy of the class timetable is in every child's communication book. They provide weekly summaries of the week's learning targets, and each new IPC is introduced with a summary description. The school calendar is updated each term and lists events both social and academic. Please take the time to review these in some detail as you plan your week. Calendars are available on the school website.

There may be times when it is not possible to provide as much advance notice as we would like. These may include 'enhancements' or additions to the schedule for a particular class like a class trip which can often only be booked at shorter notice.

Other changes to our schedule are beyond our control – such as the recent communication from the SEC declaring that all schools must be closed on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of the National Holiday. We let you know as soon as we were informed.

**RESPONSE Part III:** A suggestion was made for assisting parents for whom English is not their primary language - especially for those who are new to the school. It can be difficult to read the written communications and/or understand the verbal communications at class meetings or parent workshops. The Welcome Committee is implementing a suggested language specific network that can connect non-English speaking parents with others that speak their native tongue and can assist them in translating the written communications, homework etc.

Pauline Markey and Jill Chomowicz

### Sun safe

The weather is cooling down and we are allowing all students to play outside at both break times. We do review this daily, particularly for our younger students. 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. We rigorously enforce our **no hat - no play** policy.

### 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](http://www.cisdoha.com/Students/BusService)

For parents who have children at both campuses, we are running a bus to help.

## Dates for your Diary

Copies of the calendars for the term are available to download from the News & Info section of the website.

### Gharaffa Campus

### Rayyan Campus

#### January 2010

##### Week 1

Awards: Cooperation

- Mon 04 Term Starts  
Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
- Wed 06 School Newsletter  
EY / MP1 Assembly 7.30 AM
- Thu 07 MP2 / 3 Assembly 7.30 AM (Sailing Club  
Demonstration)

##### Week 2

Awards: Art

- Sun 10 Coffee Morning 7.30 AM
- Mon 11 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
- Wed 13 EY / MP1 Assembly Y2 Jones 7.30 AM  
Yr 5 / 6 Football Competition  
Quiz Night at Rayyan Campus
- Thu 14 MP2 / 3 Assembly Y3Cunliffe 7.30 AM

##### Week 3

Awards: Respect

- Sun 17 Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) begin  
1.45 PM – 2.45 PM
- Mon 18 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
- Tue 19 SCG meeting
- Wed 20 EY / MP1 Assembly Y1 Breitenbach 7.30 AM
- Thu 21 MP2 / 3 Assembly Yr 6 MacDonald 7.30 AM  
Yr 5 / 6 Rounders Competition  
School Photographs

##### Week 4

Awards: Geography

- Sun 24 Road Safety Week
- Mon 25 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
- Tue 26 IPC Information Morning 7.45 AM
- Wed 27 EY / MP1 Dutch Assembly 7.30 AM  
Yrs 3 – 6 Cross Country Competition
- Thu 28 School Photographs  
MP2/MP 3 French Assembly 7.30 AM

##### Week 5

Awards: Enquiry

#### February 2010

- Mon 01 Staff Meeting 1.45 PM - 2.45PM
- Wed 03 EY / MP1 Y2 Harrison 7.30 AM  
School Newsletter

#### January 2010

##### Week 1

- Mon 04 Term Starts  
Staff Meeting 13.45 - 14.45
- Wed 06 School Newsletter

##### Week 2

- Sun 10 Science and Maths Challenge Week
- Mon 11 Staff Meeting 13.45 - 14.45
- Wed 13 Student Council meeting  
Quiz Night – International themed charity  
fundraiser
- Thu 14 Star gazing trip to the desert 5 PM

##### Week 3

- Sun 17 Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) begin  
13.45 – 14.45
- Mon 18 Staff Meeting 13.45 - 14.45
- Wed 20 Student Council meeting  
Extended curriculum day – normal timetable is  
suspended

##### Week 4

- Sun 24 Road Safety Week
- Mon 25 Staff Meeting 13.45 - 14.45
- Tue 26 Information evening – responsible use of the  
Internet 6.30 PM
- Wed 27 Student Council meeting
- Thu 28 School Photographs

##### Week 5

#### February 2010

- Mon 01 Staff Meeting 13.45 - 14.45
- Wed 03 Student Council meeting  
School Newsletter
- Thu 04 Mufti Day – charity fundraiser

## 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 students. 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 / Form Tutor 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.
- Swimming** Swimming is part of the school curriculum and children should be reminded to bring their swimming costume and a towel.
- 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 security 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. Helen Stevenson ([gharaffa@cisdoha.org](mailto:gharaffa@cisdoha.org)) or Mrs. Kay Tilley ([rayyan@cisdoha.org](mailto:rayyan@cisdoha.org)), our School Secretaries, and we will add you to the mailing list.

## 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](mailto:head@cisdoha.org)  
Telephone: +974 6869304

### *Gharaffa Campus:*

Head of Campus: Mrs. Pauline Markey [p.markey@cisdoha.org](mailto:p.markey@cisdoha.org)  
Secretary: Mrs. Helen Stevenson [gharaffa@cisdoha.org](mailto:gharaffa@cisdoha.org)  
Telephone: +974 4877 445 Fax: +974 4877 446

### *Rayyan Campus:*

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

School Website: [www.cisdoha.com](http://www.cisdoha.com)

Thank you for your continuing support.

**John Todd**  
**Head of School**

# **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.**