

Principal's Letter 4 March 2022

Dear Parents,

Since my last letter, a great deal has been taking place at South View School and a number of firsts have been enjoyed by the school and its community.

The Kenya Trip

Our first overseas trip successfully took place with Year 9 visiting Kenya to take part in a week of learning, helping the local community and teamwork in a country very different from the UAE. This trip was a huge success where children experienced a very different culture and environment as part of their learning. All returned safely and are happier and wiser as a result of this wonderful experience. A huge thank you to Ms Coy and Ms Rahilly for organising and leading this superb learning and life experience for our pupils.



Focus Week

Another first has been our first Focus Week. This focuses on out of the class learning involving a variety of activities including residential trips and classroom activities. Adventure training, leadership development and fun were all very much on the agenda with pupils heading to Ras Al Khaimah for a wide variety of challenges and experiences. All have safely returned to be part of another first for South View, our first DSIB inspection.

DSIB Inspection

The inspection has taken place this week and involved a very thorough examination of our procedures, pupil learning, progress and attainment as well as welfare, community and leadership. SVS has been assessed against an array of stiff criteria geared to truly grade the school at this particular step in its development. Sadly, I am not permitted to release the result of the inspection yet as it has to be audited and approved by KHDA but, what I can say is that the outcome of the inspection is very much in line with our pre-inspection assessment. Now, our focus is to take the points that we and the inspectors have identified for development and ensure that these are addressed.

I would like to publicly thank all members of the SVS community for their support with our inspection preparations and point out that positive performance at inspection is largely dependent on the work undertaken throughout the year and cannot simply be "switched on" ready for the inspection team at short notice. Despite the impact of COVID, a sudden and unexpected change to the school week and a growth in the school roll of over 30%, the SVS team has demonstrated its professionalism and commitment to our pupils and to our school. **Thank you all very much indeed.**

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Sports Day!

Another first for SVS takes place next week in the form of our first Sports Day since the pandemic! With the further easing of COVID 19 protocols, this event promises to be packed with positive and enjoyable competition and efforts. Mrs. Teodoro and her team have organised a truly world class set of events for our pupils that will see them devote themselves to a variety of sporting challenges. I very much look forward to welcoming you to events with details being shared with parents shortly.

Online Safety: Guidance and Protection Audit, Education and Upgrade

Finally, we were visited this week by Teresa Hughes, a UK technology safeguarding specialist. Teresa worked with all pupils from Y4 → Y10 as well as all staff and some parents. Thank you very much to the parents who joined us for Teresa's sessions regarding a critical aspect of child protection and guidance; online threats. Teresa also conducted an audit of our IT systems. Whilst she was impressed with the overall quality of SVS provisions, she has made clear recommendations for further improvements and these will be undertaken as a priority. We have been very fortunate to have her join us at a time when threats to children online are at an all time high with no suggestion of a decline. Awareness and guidance for all technology users are therefore critical and South View is fully embracing this key aspect of safeguarding and education.

In the meantime, I wish you a restful weekend and a happy and positive week ahead.

Best wishes



David Flint
Principal