



Sunday 1 Oct Monday 2 Tuesday 3 Wednesday 4 Thursday 5 Friday 6 Sat 7

Start of week 4
6:00 to 9:00pm
QS World MBA
Tour – Doha at
Radisson Blu Hotel

18:00 to 19:00
ManageBac
Information Session
for MYP Parents
(Library)

17:15 to 19:45 Back
to School for Grade
6 & 7 parents
[Grade 6 & 7
classrooms]

12:10 to 12:30pm
The University of
Sheffield

6:00 to 9:00pm
ISN College Fair
Sheraton Hotel



See our complete
calendar here

Message from the Head of School, David Monk

As the school year progresses there will undoubtedly be times when you want to contact school in order to check on your children's progress, or to follow up on issues concerning your children. In order to help with communication I would like to share with you the following 'Communication Protocol' to give you some guidance about who to contact and when.



Open and timely communication between parents and teachers can help to clarify misunderstandings, permit staff to put a stop to undesirable behaviours or counter-productive arrangements, and improve a teacher's understanding of a student's needs. The teachers and administrators of ISL Qatar welcome contact with you and would stress that most concerns or issues are easily addressed if the person responsible is made aware of the situation. Only when a teacher or administrator is informed can they take steps to deal appropriately with an issue. When the school and parents work together, students will always benefit.

Therefore, when you are concerned about something that has happened at school, I would encourage you to follow the steps outlined below:

Step 1...if there is an issue or concern, communicate directly with the staff member involved. If you are unsure who to approach, the following should serve as a guideline:

- Class or Subject Teacher – if you have concerns directly related to your child's learning.
- Homeroom Teacher or Counsellor – if you have concerns regarding the behaviour of your child, or that of another student, that is impacting upon your child's progress at school.
- IB, PYP, MYP or Diploma Coordinator – if you have general questions about the curriculum or programme your child is following.

Step 2...if concerns still exist after this then you are invited to contact the Head of the Primary or Secondary School, after informing the staff member that you intend to do so.

Step 3...if a parental concern is not addressed sufficiently at the Primary or Secondary School administration level, parents are invited to discuss their concerns with the Head of School.

How to make contact...It is possible to make direct contact with teachers by email. Alternatively, you can leave a message with the School Office staff:

Email: mail@islqatar.org
Tel: +974 4433 8600

Your message will be passed on to the teacher who will then contact you at their earliest convenience. Discussion can then take place via a phone call, email or by setting up an appointment at a mutually agreeable time. Teachers will make every effort to get back to you as quickly as possible but as a teacher's day is very busy with students, it may take a day or two. However, it should not take longer than two working days for a teacher to reply to you.

It is important that parents do not make unannounced visits, as teachers or school leaders might not have the time to meet with you and give you the attention that you respectfully deserve. If you make an appointment with your child's teacher, he/she will be able to provide you with more time to adequately address any issues you may have.

All communication should be conducted in a mutually respectful manner in order to ensure the child's well-being continues to be the priority. By working together, we can strengthen our commitment to excellence.

MYP Information Evening

On Wednesday of last week, Ms. Jeffery (MYP Coordinator) facilitated a presentation in Room D in which she invited parents to consider key components of the Middle Years Programme (MYP). Throughout the 90-minute presentation, the participants were involved in learning engagements that modelled the inquiry approach that is expected in the MYP classroom. In small collaborative groups and armed with tins of different sized buttons, participants were encouraged and enabled to explore the foundation of the programme; one that is designed to help young learners find a sense of belonging in an ever-changing and

Different Types of Inquiry



What can I do with these buttons?



Moving Forward in the MYP

Additional interactive workshops for parents are scheduled to take place over the coming weeks.

Wednesday, 27 September: The Personal Project Described as the 'jewel in the MYP crown' the Personal Project is a compulsory element of the MYP where students will spend approximately 8 months involved in a research-based investigation into a topic which has a specific personal interest. Led by Ms. Jeffery, the Personal Project coordinator, explained what the Personal Project involves and the role of the parent throughout the whole process. Several of our G11 students also presented at the event – **Veruska Stepenka, Karim Elgammal** and **Lara Exton** – as they explained their experience of the IB assessment criteria. The four presenters – both young and old(!) – focused on the findings of those scientists who have been studying motivation and have given us a new approach. This is one around the desire to do things *because* they matter, *because* we like it and *because* they are interesting or part of something important!

Wednesday, 18 October: MYP Assessment

Assessment is defined as the gathering of information about student performance and it is, of course, integral to both the learning and teaching process. One of the fundamental concepts of the MYP is holistic learning and in recognition and support of this, the IB MYP model takes into account the development of the whole child. Assessment is the tool by which teachers identify what students know, understand, can do and feel at various stages of their learning. This 3rd MYP workshop aims to introduce parents to the tasks, strategies and tools both designed and applied by our teachers working with our students at our school.

Primary School News

Message from the Head of Primary

During our September school wide events like the Primary Assembly, the Parent Evening Information Sessions, the Extra Curricular Activities, and as a new member of the Primary Leadership team, I have had the opportunity to meet some of you and to spend time in classes and with students and teachers. I have been warmly welcomed into the ISL Qatar community. I believe that working together; teachers, staff, and parents for the welfare of our young ones, as partners in their education, we can look forward to a truly successful year. I am certainly looking forward to it!

They say 'a picture speaks a 1000 words' and if you were to venture into our Primary School this past month you would have seen that famous saying in action! I invite you to take a stroll around our school along the corridors, between classes, and to look carefully at the displays. I did that this morning and what I saw was our school's mission and vision reflected in the visuals, especially Diversity and Identity. I saw your sons and daughters working together to understand who they are, where they come from, how are they the same and different. Using the languages of art, geography, history, mathematics, and literature, they made connections between themselves, the world, and their peers. Here are some snapshots from the walls. What do you see?



Find more photos on our Website

Diversity

Understanding

Identity

Passion

Secondary School News

Message from the Head of Secondary

After a high-energy start to the year typified by smiling faces and open arms, the academic work has now begun in earnest. It has been really uplifting to hear that our G6 students have made such a positive start and that our 50 or so new students have settled quickly and are already making a noticeable contribution. With Extended Essay drafts due in last week and many university deadlines looming, our G12 students have hit the ground sprinting. Those that are considering applying to Oxford University began their interview preparations by attending the first of a series of thought provoking lunches with Mr. Monk, Miss Isherwood and myself. This week they were asked to respond to the following questions: "Why are you here?" and "What trait would you like to rid yourself of?". Next week they will be grilled on International Economics.



Parents of students in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 have received notification of planned trips to Sri Lanka and London in February. These exciting opportunities are part of our "Week Without Walls" project which will involve all students not taking part in the overseas trips in a series of both indoor and outdoor activities focusing on our 4 pillars, diversity, identify, understanding and passion. To begin the year a number of presentations took place involving parents of students in G10, G11, G12 and those whose are new to the MYP. As well as hearing about crucial information that will help parents in supporting their child they was also an opportunity to play Kahoot and create models, for example, of the Eiffel Tower with buttons. It was great to see so many parents enjoying learning!

News from the Maths Department

September has been a busy month in the Maths Department. Students have explored algebraic relationships, numbers and shapes through a range of engaging and rigorous activities. It has been my privilege to see our students challenge themselves, be resilient and risk takers. After school sessions on Monday's and Wednesday's have begun for students requiring additional support or who want to explore an idea in greater depth. There's no need to book a slot, just drop in with your queries. G12 students have begun an individual exploration into a mathematical topic of their own choice and all diploma students have been reminded of the importance of having (and bringing to school!) their own graphical calculators. To help this happen the finance department now have NSpire Calculators for sale. (Hurry while stocks last!) If you're looking for ideas of how you can support your child outside of school, why not consider a trip to a museum (consider the symmetry of the art work at the MIA for example) or take a look at where you live using Google Earth. If you fancy becoming a published mathematician why not submit an answer to a live problem at <http://nrich.maths.org/weekly> or just take your time reading the published work of other young minds. And finally, a puzzle for all the family. What comes next? S,M,T,W,T ...



Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs)

The majority of the ECAs are now up and running. It has been a joy to see all happy faces when students are meeting new friends and participating in, for them, new experiences. The links for the sign-up sheets are now taken off the School's website. For any changes and possible additional sign-ups please contact Robert Nidsjo, rnidsjo@islqatar.org Kindly note outdoor activities, Football and Bootcamp, will start in the week commencing with Sunday 1st October.



Our young sailors are enjoying their ECA!

Solar Art and Gymnastics!



Yearbook!



Floor Hockey and Irish Dance!



Find more photos of our activities on our Website

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Global Citizenship and Community Action (GCCA)

To take Action is in the core of the IB. Action can be:

- To take part in the School's different events.
- To engage in Community Project and make the difference for people.
- To take what you learn in the classroom and use it in the community.

Through the years, students at ISL Qatar have proved they are ready to meet new challenges. Initiatives from the Student Council, the Student Motivation Team as well as from individual students are constantly being submitted to the GCCA office. We are only a couple of weeks in to the new school year and students are already engaged in different major projects. To just mention a few:

- The Roof Top Garden has been attended by a new group of students who are weeding and looking after the irrigation system. It is remarkable how well the plants have acclimatised up on the roof and it has turned in to green and lush oasis.
- The Cancer Awareness month of October is coming up followed by November and project groups have been established.

Please contact Robert Nidsjo for any additional information rnidsjo@islqatar.org



Physical and Health Education

The Physical and Health Education department (PHE) has been very pleased to see a number of boys take responsibility for their own fitness after a long Summer break, and recognising the importance of having a balance in their lives between study and remaining physically active. They have been turning out for early fitness training sessions before school starts in the morning. The PHE Department is hoping that this will be a catalyst for others, including parents to increase their own activity levels. There will be a few different campaigns from the PHE department through the year aimed at both students and parents regarding activity levels, nutrition and sleep.



Student Support Services

Update from Pastoral Leaders – Attendance & Dress Code

As we welcome all students to the new academic year, we wish to emphasize the importance of consistent attendance and punctuality each and every day. Attendance and punctuality are both life skills which additionally help students to manage workloads, be fully aware of all aspects of school life and to develop relationships with teachers and other members of the class or homeroom group.

We would also like to remind everyone of our dress code which requires respectful, comfortable clothing, with knees and shoulders covered. On days with Physical Education lessons children should wear their ISL Qatar white Polo shirt and blue shorts or track suit bottoms. Some details of the dress code are as follows:

- Shoulders, midriff (stomach) and knees should be covered and underwear should never be visible
- T-Shirts should not have offensive slogans
- Ripped jeans should not be worn
- Boys shorts can be above the knee but not excessively short
- For girls, leggings may only be worn with a top that comes below the hips (leggings are NOT trousers)
- Boys and girls should seek permission from Pastoral Leaders before wearing traditional/national dress to school

From the Human Resources Office

We are currently looking for candidates to fill the following vacancies for September 2017:

- Marketing Officer
- Shadow Teacher

Only applicants with a graduate calibre and expertise in the field will be considered. Fluency in English is essential, Arabic is an advantage.

Please apply through our website & provide references, contact details [here](#)

From the Admin Office

The Uniform supplier will have a **Pop Up Shop** at ISL Qatar on the following dates at the Atrium:

8 October 8 – 11:30am
22 October 8 – 11:30am
5 November 8 – 11:30am
19 November 8 – 11:30am
3 December 8 – 11:30am

To learn more about the Pop Up Shop and how it works, please click [here](#)

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Overdue books

Any outstanding books from the last academic year should be returned to the library as soon as possible as students will not be allowed to check out books until their accounts are cleared.

If a book has been lost or damaged, there are two options:

1. Buy a new copy of the book and send it to the library.
2. Pay the QAR 200 fee. This is the standard fee across the school for lost or damaged library or literacy books. This covers the cost of sourcing the books in either UK or US, the freight charge, and the processing and cataloguing costs.

General Information

Drop Off and Parking

With a school of about 1000 students, more than 800 of whom arrive by car every day, there are problems of traffic and people congestion at certain times of the day. To ensure the safety of your children, we ask you follow the advice below.

- Parents should not park at the back gate of the school.
- Parents are requested to ensure that students arrive in good time to attend classes at the specified time in the morning.
- Parents arriving by car in the morning should drop children in the clearly indicated drop zone and follow the directions of our staff.
- Under no circumstances should cars be left unattended in the drop zone as this creates problems for other drivers and leads to greater traffic congestion.
- Parents who wish to park should arrive early enough to secure a parking space. Only very young children should be walked to their class by parents, others should be dropped off to make their own way to class.

Information, Communication and Learning Technology (ICT)

ManageBac Information Session for MYP Parents:

On Monday October 2nd there will be a ManageBac information session for parents of students in the MYP. If your child is new to the school or has just entered Grade 6, you may find this session extremely useful. Through ManageBac you can view your child's assignment calendar, upcoming deadlines, timetables, grades, reports and other information. This session will be facilitated by our Leader of Innovation Learning, Dave Curran, and our MYP Coordinator Helen Jeffery.

Location: Library (1st Floor)
Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00pm

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

All students in Grade 6 to 12, are required to bring their own electronic device (laptop, notebook or other) to ensure they can make use of the on-line resources we offer.

Learn more about our [BYOD Privacy Policy](#) and [Smartphone Policy](#)



Newsletters and Bulletins

Please note that a full and comprehensive newsletter will be produced at the end of each month and sent home to you. A brief, weekly bulletin will be sent home every Thursday providing an update on forthcoming events.

Useful Links

- [Parents Sign Up for the Library](#)
- [BYOD Policy](#)
- [Smartphone Policy](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Universities Visit Schedule 2017-2018](#)

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Website: www.islqatar.org