



مدرسة البكالوريا - عمان
Amman Baccalaureate School

Amman,
29th September, 2021

Dear ABS Community -

As we returned to normal following the extraordinary experiences we all went through in the past 18 months, I know how very pleased we all were to see the ABS family reunited, and to see our children sharing real time once again with friends and faculty. Indeed it has been a joy to hear the smiles and to feel the buzz of excitement all around the campus!

However, it is unfortunately the case that our children's experiences of isolation and uncertainty have inevitably had an effect on many of them, not least in terms of their ease of socializing and their development as individuals within their peer groups.

As is the case in schools around the world, this is revealing itself at our beloved ABS as we see instances of anti-social behaviour and bullying - things that were never such an acute issue before the pandemic. It is unfortunately the case that a minority of kids are working through the trauma of recent times in destructive ways. It is also apparent that social media has encouraged certain anti-social behaviour - particularly 'TikTok' and 'HouseParty', amongst others, where teenagers are encouraged to commit acts of destruction, and physical aggression against other pupils.

We would ask you, as parents, to keep alert to the particular dangers posed by social media, and to work with us to bring our beloved children back to a full and freely developing social and intellectual life. Most of all, we would ask you to **trust us** at this challenging time.

Over the past week in particular we have monitored and assessed these developments and are taking deliberate and focused measures to help our pupils to get back to normal in every sense. We will use best practices to ease anxiety, and to improve our children's well-being, as well developing team building skills to help our pupils to make up for lost time in terms of social development.

However, we will also deal with any serious offences in the appropriate manner, and we remain steadfast in our resolve to eliminate any kind of fighting or intimidation, whether verbal or physical; these issues are all considered very serious and we have zero tolerance for all kinds of antisocial behavior and bullying.



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The past 18 months have taught us all that when dealing with crisis management in general, we must stick to our values, and to our moral compass...this will always guide us to our North Star ... I want to assure you that we are, and will always stay a value driven school guided by our compass, and we will always do what is right for our children, for our school, and for our community as a whole.

We ask you, as naturally concerned parents, to trust us in our response to these challenges. We understand the balance that is needed between student care and necessary discipline. The welfare of all our students is paramount. Their mental wellbeing and healthy social development are our priorities. We are all a family, and we care deeply about each and every member. But you must trust our knowledge and experience in assessing and understanding the needs of our children, even in these extraordinary circumstances. They are the reason we exist as a school and they mean everything to us.

Please be assured that this is a situation in which the special skills, resources and compassion of ABS will come to the fore. Our school is a community that will nurture and protect our children so that their future is as bright as they so rightly deserve.

وأود هنا أن ألتفت للجميع بأننا أسرة واحدة فداء سكة
والتجانية يميزها ويغلب عليها طابع الاحترام والمحبة ، وانما لي هو من
صاحبت مؤخر آ في المدرسة ، فيري ' أن أعلمكم بأنني قد اتقيت
بكافة الأطراف من أبنائنا وذويهم الكرام ، حيث كانت فرصة
هيبة اتصفت بالحب والاحترام ليس فقط للتصالح بل للتقارب
والمودة ايضاً ، واتني إذ أؤكد لكم بأنني أفت على صانه واهدة
من الجميع لأنتهن لهذه الفرصة لأعبر لكم لحيقاً عن فائق الشكر
والاعتنان لما لمتة منكم من حبة رايتماد لمدرستنا المحببة
وأسرتها الواحدة المتدايطة .

Sumaya bint El Hassan
Chair of the Board of Trustees

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