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حملة العودة للمدارس للعام الدراسي 2021 / 2022
Back-to-school campaign for AY 2021 – 2022



Message from the Headteachers Desk



Saturday 28th August 2021

Dear Parents

My name is Gary Williams and as most of you are aware I am the newly appointed Headteacher for Victoria English School. I am delighted to be writing to you for the first time as we open our doors for the academic year 2021-22. I do hope that you all had a restful Summer vacation and that you are recharged and excited to get back to a routine of school life. I am looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

On behalf of myself and my wonderful team we would like to welcome you all back to school whereby we will be opening our doors for a closer-to-normal new year once more on Sunday 29th August. Whilst the past eighteen months have been challenging, we remain optimistic about the coming year and the many opportunities awaiting our students. I would like to assure you that we have taken precautionary measures in all aspects to create a safe learning environment for your children.

At VES we are totally committed to providing your children with a variety of rich learning experiences. I personally believe in and take pride in always doing what is best for my students. I will continue to use this guiding principle when making decisions about our school.

Our teachers, staff and administration have been working tirelessly to prepare for our students' return. Our buildings are sparkling clean and await the traditional busy pace that each day brings. It's our intention, to maintain a five-day in-person learning model. In order to be successful with this model we must employ a layered approach of mitigation strategies that embraces attendance for all students.

It takes the cooperation of all of us to ensure consistent in-person attendance for our students. In my discussions with everyone, we all agree that our students need to be in school. In order to provide our students this opportunity we are dedicated, as a school system, to institute best practice. In addition to the sanitizing protocols and excellent hygiene practices, all staff and students will continue to wear masks whilst in the building to minimize any potential derivations of COVID. This will enable us to keep our employees and students safe. The masks will also aid in contact tracing as per the current SPEA health recommendations.

We are very proud to inform you that we have been inspected and approved by SPEA throughout the week in our preparations for a safe re-opening and return of our students. All strict Health and Safety protocols have been implemented and followed. We will endeavour to continue to reflect and evaluate our current policies and practices throughout the year.

While no one can predict what the future holds, rest assured our VES team is prepared to come together to address any challenge as we remain committed to making our school a fantastic place for our students to learn and grow. I am confident, even though our school year is starting off different, we will have an incredibly positive and successful year. Please feel free to email me on my address headteacher@ves.ae at anytime if you have other questions.

Thank you for all your continued amazing support during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully

Gary Williams (Headteacher)





Message from the Head of Primary Desk



Dear VES Community

I would like to welcome everyone back to school and extend a special welcome to all of our new students and their families.

The staff and I are looking forward to another exciting year of learning at Victoria English School. I would also like to extend a welcome to our new staff members: Ms. Jane FS2, Ms. Caoimhe FS2, Ms. Samantha Year 4, Mr. Bradley Year 6.

We will post regular newsletters from myself, and several of the Year Leaders to keep you up to date as to what is happening here at VES and in the classrooms.

Please help us by communicating with our school staff as well. We are excited to begin the 2021-2022 school year at VES. We will strive to provide the best education possible for your child. If at any time during the school year you feel the need to contact me, please feel free to contact me by email at c.pozza@ves.ae.

Remember the start time of 7:45 am (drop offs beginning at 7:30 am) on the 29th August. The Primary staff and I cannot wait until our VES children are back over the threshold of our school together once again as a family.

Your children's smiles and our smiles will be the beginning of a wonderful and enriching academic year filled with fun and also with lots of learning and character forming.

Welcome and we are proud that you are part of the VES family!

All the best for the coming year.

Mrs. Carla Pozza

Head of Primary



Message from the Head of Secondary Desk



Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure and excitement to welcome our students back to VES and particularly our wonderful Secondary and 6th Form students. We gained some outstanding results this year in the secondary school with 60% of our Year 11 students gaining a Level 9 to 7 and 25% gaining a Level 9. This is an exceptional performance related to both the UAE and the UK and places the school in the top 10% of British Schools globally.

Our 6th form students achieved even higher with 51% of students gaining an A* or A grade and 71% of students gaining an A*, A or B grade. This is a sensational effort and we are very proud of our students as I am sure a lot of parents and families are as well. We wish our students all the best as they continue their educational journey.

We look forward to welcoming all students back on Sunday and we will have an exciting week getting everyone back into the school routines and systems. I know lots of students will be excited to return and I also know lots of students may be anxious and concerned, especially if they have not been in the school building for a while.

We are going to make the first few weeks very supportive and we are placing student and staff wellbeing at the forefront of what we do. There will be lots of exciting opportunities coming up this term especially as we can now restart our after-school activities and school trips.

I look forward to seeing everyone bright and early on Sunday morning.

Do not hesitate to contact me on my email address deputyhead@ves.ae for any concerns that you may have.

Mr Matthew Keyes
Deputy Headteacher and Head of Secondary



Message from the Head of Secondary Desk



The results in the Secondary school are among some of the best in the UAE, UK, and internationally. Our high expectations, positive behaviour ethos and our holistic and balanced vision of teaching and learning have shown in the efforts of our young adults.

iGCSE results for 2021

60% of students gained a Level 9 to 7 (25% gained a Level 9)

86% of students gained a Level 9 to 5

99% of students gained a Level 9-4

iAL results for 2021

51% of students gained an A* or an A

71% of students gained an A*, A or B

82% of students gained an A* to C



Message from the Head of Arabic/Islamic Desk



Dear Parents and Students

I would like to congratulate you on your return to school, so we can begin a new year full of productive work and activities. I hope you had a wonderful Summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year.

I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff have been planning and preparing for your children.

Our enthusiastic office team is registering new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files. Our hard working and conscientious facilities team have spent the Summer thoroughly cleaning the facility.

We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.

I would like to wish you all a happy new year, in which we continue to strive to achieve our ambitions and continue to be proud of the achievements we as a school have grown accustomed to.

If you have any worries or concerns, please do hesitate to email me at w.zaino@ves.ae

Kind regards

Weroud Zaino (Head of Arabic/Islamic)



Well-being of Children



Dear Parents

Children within the same class will have very different experiences of the pandemic. They will also have varying levels of coping skills and resilience in dealing with those experiences. Our teachers will ensure that they have an open mind about what children may be going through, how they will be coping and what support they will need, will be important.

We recognize that some children may not feel able to learn at the same pace as they have done previously, and we would like to assure you that we will be very focused on looking for these signs! Disrupted ability to focus is a common experience for children and young people who have experienced bereavement or trauma.

As a team at VES we will aim to find the time to allow them to work through their experiences and plan for what they need so that they feel supported and ready to learn. However, we recognize that it is important to acknowledge that some students, particularly those who are entering exam years, may be anxious to start learning again and we will aim to plan a curriculum that adapts accordingly to lost time.

Whilst we anticipate that lesson time might feel challenging for some children as they are asked to focus on learning whilst the pandemic continues, it is also important to remember that unstructured time in school hours (break and lunch times, before and after school) may also be a difficult time for some children.

It may sound like dramatic language to use, but the coronavirus situation has been a shared experience of trauma for communities as well as for individuals. There is a need to process and understand exactly what has happened, to grieve the losses that the community has experienced, and to work together to find a way to move forward. Children and young people who have experienced trauma will need to be supported by teachers and schools that are actively listening, understanding, and responding in appropriate ways.

Here at VES we will understand that our children may have lots of thoughts and questions about the virus, the current measures that have now been implemented and how it will affect their education. Of course, there is a need to make sure that our students will be able to catch up on work they have missed. We will aim to balance our academic lessons with creativity and a more hands on approach where possible, as one approach to allowing our students to explore their thoughts and questions that they may have in a supportive school environment.

Certainly, as a school we will be aiming to repair lost connections, as we do recognize that it is important to make sure that our children who need it, have a chance to talk to us individually. Even those who have had a relatively straightforward experience so far, may appreciate the chance to reconnect.

Whilst it is incredibly important to acknowledge the challenges and losses of learning that we have all experienced due to the virus, a positive approach to the future will be our key focus here at school. We will be focusing on building strong relationships and looking to the future with confidence and energy.

This article written has been supported by the Mental Health Foundation/UK research into the well-being of children during the pandemic (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/returning-school-after-lockdown/support-pupils-return-to-school>)





Message from SPEA – COVID Protocol



In order to ensure the safety of students and staff in educational institutions, attached are the procedures for returning to schools for AY 2021 - 2022.

- ✓ A negative PCR is required from all employees and students, 12 years and above, to enter the educational institution facilities at the beginning of AY 2021 - 2022.
- ✓ All employees must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 (at least two doses) in order to enter the educational institutions, except for those excluded from vaccination with an approved medical report.
- ✓ Those excluded from vaccination are obligated to perform a PCR examination on a weekly basis.
- ✓ New employees from abroad who don't enter the country vaccinated are exempt for a period of 2 months, in order to obtain at least two doses of the vaccination within that period. They must provide a negative PCR examination on a weekly basis.
- ✓ Students are currently not required to have the vaccine to enter educational institutions (just a negative PCR test at the beginning of the academic year).
- ✓ SPEA encourages parents to vaccinate their children in support of the UAE's efforts.
- ✓ Physical distancing reduced to 1 metre apart.
- ✓ Bus capacity increase to 75%.
- ✓ In person school tours for all prospective students and their families.
- ✓ FS1/FS2 – will now work in 'bubbles' of 15 students





What's Back!



Vital that all Children RETURN TO SCHOOL!

- ✓ PE & swimming to RETURN!
- ✓ Extra –curricular classes to RETURN!
- ✓ Assemblies to RETURN!
- ✓ Trips and residential to RETURN!
- ✓ Sports events to RETURN!
- ✓ School cultural events to RETURN! (subject to SPEA approval and health and safety guidelines).
- ✓ 98% of our staff have now been fully vaccinated (unless health condition and medical certification).
- ✓ All SPEA Health & Safety protocols of the school linked to sanitization remain in place implemented by our VES dedicated Blue Team.
- ✓ Vending machines and water dispensers to RETURN!





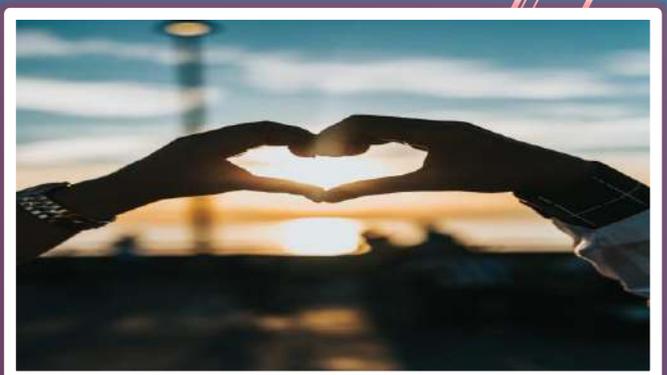
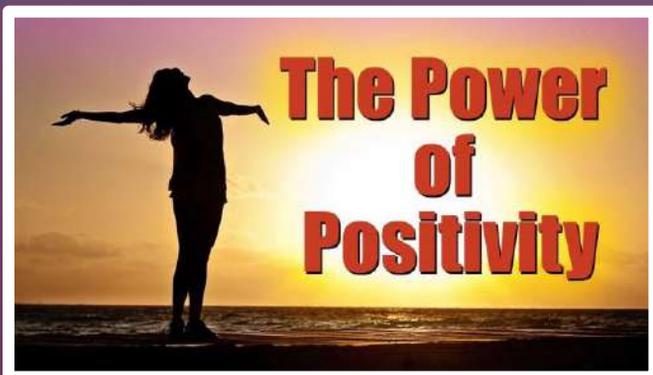
All Children to RETURN!



VES Key Focus

Whilst circumstances are currently challenging, we would like to assure you that we continue to reflect on your feedback (students/parents/teachers) on how improvements and adjustments will occur:-

- ✓ Teachers more readily available to meet with and address student and parental concerns
- ✓ Greater emphasis on planning that focuses on student well-being
- ✓ Planning to include increased elements of modification and personalisation of the curriculum suitable for individual needs
- ✓ Appropriate balance of integrated learning activities
- ✓ Increased opportunities for 1:1 with students and provision of additional time for students who need extra support and guidance
- ✓ Reduced assignments and home learning – students to be able to manage their work loads (healthy balance)
- ✓ To further support children in the Early Years
- ✓ Maintain continuity and momentum in our children's learning
- ✓ Create greater opportunities for children to connect with their peers and teachers – high emphasis of visibility
- ✓ Increase regular breaks and physical activity when possible



Meet The VES TEAM



Miss. Tracy

We are very excited to welcome this year's new FS1's. We know it can feel a little daunting or scary in the beginning, but we are going to have a great time together.

We will sing songs, read stories, make projects and learn so many wonderful things. Of course, there will also be lots of new friends waiting to play and learn with you too. We can't wait to watch you all grow and learn!

Kind regards

Miss Tracy Cawood
FS1/Pre-KG Year Leader



Miss. Hester

I am Hester Ellis and I am the Year Leader for FS2 for the new academic year.

I have taught at VES for five years and I have 'loved' teaching and working with your children daily as it has been magical experience.

We are all super excited and we are really looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school.

Kindest regards

Miss Hester Ellis
FS2 Year Leader



Miss. Andrea

Dear Parents and Students

My name is Miss Andrea Swart and I am the Year 1 Leader. I am 28 years old and I am from South Africa. I love being a teacher and I am super excited about this new academic year. We will laugh, sing, dance and learn A LOT! This is going to be a great year!

Kindest regards,

Miss Andrea
Year 1 Leader/Science & Topic Coordinator



Meet The VES TEAM



Ms. Sarina

Dear Parents and Children

My name is Sarina Wepener and I am the Year 2 leader for this academic year 2021/22. Our Year 2 team is excited to meet all our new learners and are extremely happy that things are starting to get back to some form of normality. Hope you are looking forward to the new year and are ready to learn many new things! See you soon.

Kind regards

Ms Sarina Wepener

Year 2 Leader



Ms. Janica

Dear Parents and Students,

We hope you had a great Summer and are ready to get back to school and LEARN!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the students and parents back to the new academic year 2021/2022.

We would also like to welcome all new students to Victoria English School and hope you will enjoy the year. We are excited to have you as part of the VES family.

Kind regards

Janica Geldenhuys (Year 3 Leader)



Miss Luzaan

I am Miss Luzaan Wepener and the Year 4 Leader. I am super excited for the new school year. I know that all of you are ready to get back into the classroom and learn new things with your teacher and friends.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Summer with your family. I'm looking forward to hearing all about your news. I can't wait to meet all of you on Sunday.

Miss Luzaan
Year 4 Leader



Meet The VES TEAM



Miss. Sunett

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome back to school!

My name is Miss Sunett Voigt and this is my 6th year teaching here at Victoria English School.

I am also the Year 5 Leader and the Mathematics Coordinator for the Primary Department.

We are going to do so many fun things together as we learn all about reading, writing, math, science and more.

I hope you have had a fabulous Summer. I can't wait to meet you and guide you through the Academic year of 2021/2022.

Kind regards

Miss Sunett Voigt
Year 5 Leader



Miss. Annaline

Welcome back to school!

I am Miss Annaline and I am thrilled to be the Year 6 Leader and 6E's homeroom teacher this year! I am very excited about all that VES has to offer and can't wait to see your children learn and grow!

My main goal for Year 6 will be to ensure that the transition to secondary goes as smoothly as possible. We will face challenges and successes together this year.

I will help you reach your child's dreams, encourage them to achieve more than they thought they could and inspire them to be the best possible version of themselves. I look forward to a fantastic year together!

Kind regards

Miss Annaline Boshoff
Year 6 Leader



Meet The VES TEAM



Miss. Melinda

Dear Parents/Students

A big welcome back to all our VES students and their families, especially to all my Key Stage 3 students!

I hope you all had a fantastic Summer and well-deserved rest. Last year was extremely challenging and I am proud of all of our students for their efforts and perseverance throughout.

I am sure you will continue to show the same dedication this year. I can't wait to see all of your faces again and I am looking forward to another great school year!

Melinda Bandy
Head of Key Stage 3



Miss. Karima

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome back, VES Students. I can't wait to see all your smiling faces again!

Let's walk down our hallways to a great year filled with learning new things, working together, and having a lot of fun! I wonder how many students remember our three VES CORONA VIRUS behavior expectations (Hint: H, F and S). See you soon!

Please know as you walk through the hallways of your school that you are surrounded by people who deeply care about you, who are guided by a passion for helping you to reach your potential, and who wholeheartedly believe in you...every day...always!

We're all in this together.
Stay safe, and best wishes for a GREAT year.

Kind regards

Karima Slama

Key Stage 4 Leader



Meet The VES TEAM



Ms. Tayyaba

Dear Parents and Students

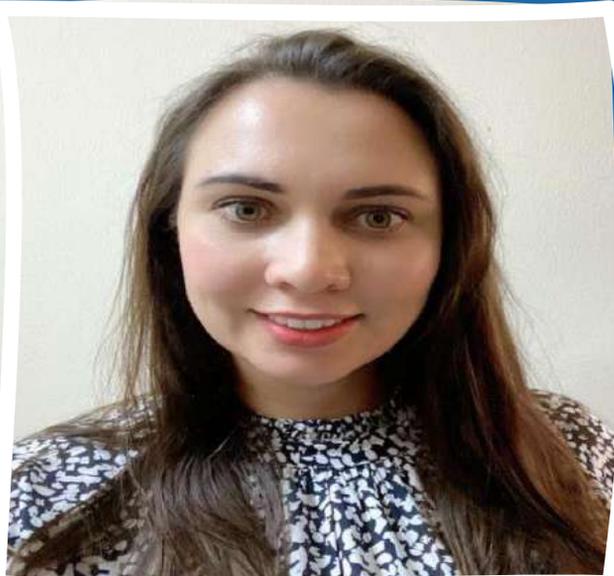
I am Ms. Tayyaba Shameem, your KS4 Mathematics teacher. I am now the HOD of the Mathematics Department. I hope you had an exciting Summer break?

You must be very excited to start the new academic year with onsite classes. I welcome all of you warmly on behalf of our Department.

My energetic and innovative team and I are eagerly looking forward to seeing you and start working earnestly from next week.

I would like to wish all the children every success for the new year.

Kind regards
Ms Tayyaba Shameem
HOD Mathematics



Ms. Melissa

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome back from the Humanities Department!

During this year, you will not only learn about the world and the people around you, but also how to value and respect other cultures, produce ideas on how to solve problems and develop your critical thinking and analytical skills.

I will look forward to get to know all of my students personally by supporting you at every stage in your learning, guiding you towards success.

Kind regards
Ms. Melissa Blaine
Head of Humanities



Meet The VES TEAM



Ms. Tammarin

Dear Parents/Students

A warm welcome to the new academic year!

As we step into a new academic year, I think of the renewed hope, the joys of learning, new opportunities of exploration, reflection, growth and above all, a spirit of gratitude.

As the Head of English, I will look forward to supporting each and everyone of you as you continue to develop your reading, writing and listening skills.

May the year ahead be everything you have hoped for as we all strive to work together with the goal of collaborative holistic success.

I am excited to get started with the new academic year and I look forward to being on this journey with you as we leave the COVID pandemic behind.

Kind regards

Ms. Tammarin Young

Head of English/6th Form

And Finally



A huge congratulations to Mr. Abdul Azeez our HSE Manager with the birth of his beautiful baby girl.

The VES family would like to wish him and his wife all the best for the future.