



*“Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything learnt in school.” - Albert Einstein (1879-1955)*

June 2010

Dear Parents,

The end of the summer term is upon us and with it draws to a close what has been a very busy year. Our junior musicians put on a splendid Summer Concert last week and demonstrated just how far they have developed during the year. Just a few weeks ago there was a wonderful exhibition of work of our students of Art and Design Technology, while the achievements of the school's athletes were recently celebrated at the annual Sports Dinner.

At the beginning of June the College entered a team in the national 'F1 in Schools' Championship which took place at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi. The 'F1 in Schools' competition is the largest of its sort in the world, attracting nine million competitors seeking to design, build and formulate a business plan for a F1 racing car. Competing against stiff competition the school team won the championship and now has the opportunity to compete in the World Championships to be held in Singapore in September. It is a great achievement and demonstrates the versatility and broad range of skills that the team members possess, made all the more impressive by the fact that the members of Team Impulse – all in Years 11 and 12 – managed to compete so effectively at the same time as they were sitting their GCSE and AS examinations.

All in all it has been a very busy year, and I should like to take this opportunity to thank the students for their active participation, the staff for making it possible, and parents and friends for your on-going encouragement.

The public examination programme has now drawn to a close. This has been the busiest schedule ever with Year 10 students sitting modules in a number of GCSE subjects and thus adding to the complex matrix of GCSE and GCE examinations. More than 4,000 separate examination papers have been sat. All students sitting exams have worked very hard, been focused and conducted themselves in exemplary fashion. We certainly hope that their efforts are rewarded appropriately when the results are published.

Students have already been informed of the arrangements for the publication of the results. Just to remind you, the **A level results** are published on **19<sup>th</sup> August** while the **GCSE results** will be published on **26<sup>th</sup> August**. For Edexcel examinations students can access their results directly using the PIN number issued to them. An email with the composite results for all exam boards will be sent out on the day to the email address supplied to the school.

On 11<sup>th</sup> June the FDC Ball took place and was a very enjoyable occasion. My thanks go to the FDC Committee for their tireless efforts in support of the school throughout the year. The extended life of the school would be the poorer without their energy and enthusiasm and we look forward to the Pavilion Project coming to fruition in due course.

During the course of the year students have supported a range of causes either directly by giving of their time to work with charity groups or through the raising of funds to support the work of NGOs. This support has been coordinated very successfully by the school's Charities Committee in which students and staff work together to decide on the causes to support. Prominent among these has been the College's on-going support of Medecins Sans Frontieres, an organisation with which the school has now established a strong relationship. In total more than AED 120,000 has been raised in a variety of ways, more than sixty percent of the money going to MSF in support of their work in Haiti following the earthquake in January. The other organisations receiving support include a charity for street orphans in Afghanistan, Gulf for Good, Breast Friends, Riding for the Disabled in Dubai, the Citizens Foundation (Pakistan) and Children of the Mountain in Nepal.

Many of you will have seen the five Young Enterprise groups selling their goods during the year, indeed you will have purchased items ranging from calendars to cookery books to tea towels to jewellery. Not only has the experience of running a company been hugely beneficial for the students themselves, but as a result of their financial success they have collectively contributed almost AED 23,000 to various charities including The Children's Hope Foundation, Little Wings, The Haiti Earthquake appeal, and even sponsoring the education of a child. In addition there are countless examples of students raising money for good causes on an individual basis. It was particularly gratifying to receive news last week that, as a result of a donation made by the school to the Dubai Centre for Special Needs, it has been possible to sponsor the education of an Emirati boy suffering with spina bifida.

During the summer holiday two new ventures are taking place. There will be a ten-day expedition to Nepal by seventeen members of the Sixth Form, visiting the foothills of the Himalayas and working to support the charity 'Children of the Mountain'. The link below explains the work of the charity and the context in which our students will be working - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1XPdpthqmw>.

**CHILDREN OF THE MOUNTAIN** is a registered charity whose aim is to address the needs of the poorest children in remote Nepal.

**Our primary objectives are:**

1. To provide a safe and secure learning environment.
2. To ensure every child has access to an education.
3. To overcome child labour.

<http://childrenofthemountain.com/>

Secondly, a group of fifteen Year 9 and 10 students will be spending three weeks taking part in Dubai College's first World Challenge expedition. Further details about the World Challenge organisation can be found on their website at <http://www.world-challenge.co.uk/>. These are tremendous opportunities for DC students to visit other parts of the world to work with communities whose everyday lives are very different from those in Dubai. I hope that these will be just the first such experiences.

**World Challenge** provides educational expeditions in the developing world which teach life skills and expand minds outside the classroom. Our bespoke one to six-week student travel itineraries foster team and leadership skills.

This year's edition of the **Shamal** magazine has been distributed to pupils. I hope that you enjoy reading it. Additionally pupils in Years 7 to 10 will receive end-of-year **reports** on the last day of term so make sure to check their bags. Please note that there are no Drama reports for Mr. Penson's teaching groups (7JS, 7ST, 9AA and 9PF).

You will recall that earlier this year I informed you that there would be slight changes to the school's daily routine from September 2010. These are designed to meet the KHDA's requirements with regard to the teaching of Islamic Education to Muslim pupils whilst not disadvantaging the remainder of our student body. On **Sunday to Wednesday** morning lessons will remain the same, while the Pastoral/PSHE session will be extended by ten minutes each day to run from 12.00 p.m. to 12.40 p.m. (currently 12.00-12.30 p.m.). Lunchtime and afternoon lessons will be ten minutes later than their current timings.

**As a consequence on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday school will finish at 3.30 p.m.** After school activities will take place thereafter. All afternoon **bus times** on Sunday through to Wednesday will accordingly run ten minutes later than their current times. **Thursday** lessons and timings will remain unaltered with school finishing at 1.00 p.m.

At the start of next term the Year 12 'sign up' day for AS courses will be on the morning of **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. This will be followed by the Induction Day for the all new pupils and all Year 12 students on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September**. The first day of the autumn term for the whole school will be **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September**. Details of the term dates for 2010-2011 can be found at the end of this letter and on the school's website.

In anticipation of the start of the new school year I would advise you not to leave the purchase of **school uniform** to the last minute. Please ensure that all items of uniform conform to the school regulations and that they are clearly labelled with your child's name.

The end of the school year inevitably brings some changes. This year's generation of Year 13 students and a number from the other year groups leave the College to move on to university, to live in other countries and to attend other schools. Whether they have been here for one year or seven, they have each in their own way contributed to the life of the school. As they travel to pastures new I hope that they take with them fond memories of Dubai College.

In addition to those pupils who are leaving, we shall also be bidding farewell to a number of teaching staff. **Mrs. Dabbagh** (Arabic), **Mrs. Aitkin** (Spanish and French), **Mr. Sell** (PE) and **Mr. Barnes** (Music) have individually brought colour and energy to the daily life of the school. Whether in the classroom teaching, in various pastoral positions or supporting the schools co-curricular programme they have enriched the school with their presence and contributed much to the College. They leave with the heartfelt thanks of their colleagues, pupils and parents, past and present.

Finally I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of you for your support, encouragement and best wishes. I leave Dubai in the knowledge that the school is in good hands and will continue to flourish. I extend to you all my best wishes for a relaxing, restful and safe summer, and above all a future of happiness and prosperity.

Yours sincerely,



Carlo Ferrario  
Headmaster



## Dubai College

### Term Dates for 2010 – 2011

[starting after Eid Al Fitr]

All dates are subject to confirmation.

*\*Islamic observances: actual dates to be confirmed*

*First day of Ramadan*

*Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010\**

A level results published

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010

GCSE results published

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010

#### **AUTUMN TERM 2010 (Term 1)**

New Staff Induction

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Staff INSET & Preparation Days

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Year 12 'Sign Up' Day

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (am)

*Eid Al Fitr*

*Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2010\**

*(Eid al Fitr @ 10 – 11<sup>th</sup> September\*)*

Term starts for **all New Pupils** and  
**Year 12 only**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Term starts for **all other Pupils**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Half-term (Week 10) including  
*Arafat Day and Eid Al Adha*

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
*(Arafat Day @ 15<sup>th</sup> November\*; Eid Al Adha @ 16<sup>th</sup> November\*)*

National Day holiday (Week 12)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010

*Islamic New Year (Week 13)*

*@Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010\**

End of Term

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010

#### **SPRING TERM 2011 (Term 2)**

Term Starts

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011

Half Term (Week 7) including  
*Prophet's Birthday*

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
*@Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011\**

End of Term

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011

#### **SUMMER TERM 2011 (Term 3)**

Easter Sunday

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Term Starts

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Proposed Staff INSET Day

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011 (Students not in school)

*Al Esra wa Al Miraj Day (week 10)*

*@Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011*

End of Term

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011