



**BELVEDERE**  
British School

# BELVEDERE NEWSLETTER

10 January 2019 – Edition (196)

## News and Events

### Diary Dates

#### Week 1 Winter

**Term 2 Starts**  
**06 Jan 2019**

**BBS Open Day**  
**17th Jan 2019**  
**Starts @10am**

**Year 10 & Year 11**  
**Emirates Auto Museum Trip**  
**20 Jan 2019**

**Year 10 Saadiyat Beach Trip**  
**21 Jan 2019**

**4th**  
**Parents' Coffee Morning**  
**27 Jan 2019 @08:00**

**3rd BBS Bake Off**  
**27 Jan 2019**

**Year 5**  
**Eastern Mangroves Kayak Tour**  
**27 Jan 2019**

**Year 3 & Year 4**  
**Eastern Mangroves Kayak Tour**  
**27-29 Jan 2019**

**BBS International Day**  
**31 Jan 2019**

**Continuous Assessment**  
**3-13 February 2019**

**Half Term Break**  
**Students and Staff**  
**14-17 February 2019**

**5th**  
**Parents' Coffee Morning**  
**24th February 2019 @08:00**

**Controlled Assessment**  
**17-28 March 2019**

Dear Parents,

Happy Thursday to you all. I hope that you and your families are well and ready for the start of our winter holiday period.

The Romans had a god named Janus, the god of two faces. The two faces of Janus symbolised the past and the future. Janus was so important in Roman times that most households and public buildings would have had an image of Janus in the doorway. This was to remind those people entering and leaving each building of their past and their future.

As a teacher of History and Politics, I regularly taught about the importance of the past; however, it is also important to understand that one of the key reasons for learning about the past is to be better prepared and equipped for the future. We, like the Romans of antiquity, can sometimes get too caught up in thinking about the past, or planning for the future, missing out on taking full advantage of our present experiences.

*"The past is history, the future is a mystery, but today is a gift; that is why we call it the present."*

Lisa Unger

2018 was the Year of Zayed. H.H. Sheikh Zayed left us with his legacy, providing us with opportunities to make the most of. We take that legacy with us as we enter into both a new year and theme - the 2019 Year of Tolerance. Actions rather than just words, used to show kindness and generosity to each other and work on building up our own legacy to pass on to our children.

I will leave that with you as a parting thought, so maybe as a family you can talk over your individual and shared principles on current topical issues over the weekend. I wish you all the very best for 2019.

Many thanks for your continued support,

**Ciarán Cunningham-Watson**  
**Principal**  
**Belvedere British School**



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## Letter from School Principal

We strive to provide our students with the highest quality of education and of care, however, we can only accomplish this effectively with the continued support of families. We are grateful to receive suggestions from families to help us make improvements and feedback in order to address any serious concerns that may arise.

We would like to make the process as easy as possible for a complainant to submit their complaint to us and we accept that the process should be simple, impartial, timely, honest and reasonably flexible. We appreciate all assistance we receive from you in this way, knowing that we wish to make Belvedere British School a memorable learning environment for your child, and can only do that when any existing problems are brought to our attention. We will do all that we can to ensure that complaints are dealt with seriously and respectfully by all members of our staff, and we hope that all others will respect this vital procedure equally.

We will record the progress of each complaint from the moment it is brought to our attention, including details of all actions taken in response to achieve a resolution and the outcomes of those actions. The BBS Administration staff will hold these records and parents can be assured that all concerns and complaints will be treated seriously and confidentially.

- All parents are members of the BBS Community and have the right to make a comment or complaint about any services, activities, experiences or the way that they are treated.
- Staff at school and in other services must listen to parental complaints and let them know the outcome.
- If any parents have a complaint about any aspect of the school, they should raise it to the attention at the School Reception, so that it is appropriately lodged as a complaint; it would help if they tried to provide a solution too.
- The Administration Staff will log the complaint and pass it on to the most appropriate person to deal with it in the first instance.

1. Primary Class Teacher/Secondary Form Teacher
2. Head of Key Stage/Assistant Principal Pastoral – Mrs. Anam
3. Head of Primary/Secondary – Mrs. Leanne/Mr. Tony
4. Principal – Mr. Ciaran
5. BBS Board of Governors
6. ADEK

The full BBS Complaints Policy, along with all BBS policies, will be made available on Engage very soon.

**Ciarán Cunningham-Watson**  
**Principal**  
**Belvedere British School**



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## Letter from the Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

A very happy new year to you all. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday.

I was lucky enough to travel with my family to Finland during the winter break. Whilst there we stayed in a wonderful remote setting which gave me a tremendous amount of family time (playing games, having discussions and lots of laughter). Sometimes it's good to step back and truly appreciate the important things in life, such as valuing those around us, giving them our time and telling them how much we love them. Whilst there I had plenty of time to reflect on the past term. I thought I'd share some of my reflections with you.

**Reports, attainment and progress** - The majority of our primary students have made the expected or more than expected progress. I understand that you may feel a little confused with what this means. So I'll explain a little further...

A child should make a minimum of 6 steps of progress during an academic school year. If children make beyond this amount then it allows us to bridge some gaps in learning so that children are at the expected level as quickly as possible. This is called accelerated progress.

If your child is below the expected level, it could be for a variety of reasons. The most common in the UAE is that students speak English as an additional language and cannot access the curriculum as quickly as native speaker. It could also be that a child did not go to nursery or FS1/FS2 prior to starting school. This can sometimes result in the personal, social and emotional development being affected thus making it more difficult for students to feel comfortable in an environment. From experience, the largest amount of progress typically happens by the end of term 2. This is usually because language and confidence has improved.

At the moment after just 1 term, the attainment/achievement is not a concern, if children are making the correct amount of progress or beyond then they are on the road to success! (even if they are below the expected level). If teachers are concerned, they will contact you to discuss your child's progress in detail. Our teachers are equipped with the skills required to provide interventions to all our children.

**CCP's** - We had a very successful CCP program in term 1 with over 300 students signing up to clubs.

**Weekly communication** - We have improved our communication considerably, the Engage application has been launched as well as weekly updates from the year group as to what the children are learning.

**Homework** - We have streamlined our homework procedure to ensure that Arabic and English curriculum subjects are all sent out and returned on the same day. I also sent out a homework feedback form and the majority of parents are very pleased with the new procedure. We also introduced many home learning applications and websites for your children such as Education city and word mania. If your child does not have their log-in please contact the class teacher.

**Events** - We hosted a wonderful National Day event and the new addition to our December schedule - the Winter Performance and picnic was a huge success too. We had monthly bake offs and I have to say I am a very big fan of this. As well as seeing the creativity displayed they also tasted amazing. I'm looking forward to many more in the future.

**Staff** - Teachers and staff at BBS are very hardworking and dedicated a lot of their free time to plan engaging and innovative lessons, I'm sure you will join me in thanking them for this.

Continued on next page...





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## Letter from the Head of Primary

Looking ahead I will be-

- improving the amount of resources that we share with parents. At the end of every topic staff will send out the activities/ slide shows used so that you can remind your children about their learning.
- Creating more opportunities for parent workshops and parental involvement so that you can get involved with your child's education and support us in delivering the correct methods.

I'm sure you'll agree we made a great start to the academic year.

Below you will find some general notices and information for your attention.

### **Uniform**

Zaks is our uniform supplier. They are situated in Al Raha Mall. They have some wonderful offers on uniform at the moment where you can get some of the PE t-shirts at 50% reduction. It is definitely worth taking a look in store or online. You can also top up on any winter uniform you may need as the temperature drops. Please remember to follow the school rules by sending your child to school wearing the correct uniform daily. This includes black shoes for general uniform and white sport shoes for PE days.

### **International day**

Our International Day will take place on 31st January. If you would like to get involved please contact our reception.

### **Like and share us!**

As a very proud Head of Primary, I would like to share our school life with others so please add any photographs you may have taken at our events to our Instagram and Facebook pages. Please also tell your friends that we have an open day on Thursday 17th January. More details will follow in this newsletter.

### **Illness and absence**

Schools can be a breeding ground for germs and viruses, particularly during the winter months. If your child is ill or displaying some signs or symptoms of being ill, please keep them at home. We will encourage a good hygiene routine however we cannot guarantee that children will not get infected. If your child has a fever please do not send them to school, similarly if they do not seem themselves, maybe they are more tired or than usual despite their regular routines, this could be a sign that they are in the earlier stages of an illness. If your child is ill and are staying at home to rest, please send an email to your child's class teacher to inform them.

**Tip:** You can help boost your child's immune system by providing healthy foods and snacks for them to eat. Keeping our school free of viruses and germs is of upmost importance to ensure that our children and our staff stay as healthy as possible.

I wish you all a very healthy and happy 2019.

Have a great weekend,

Leanne Woodward  
Head of Primary  
Belvedere British School



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## Pastoral Message

Dear Parents,

A big warm welcome to our Term 2. I hope you all had wonderful vacations with your family and friends. First week of term is already over. Just a reminder to all our students to follow school rules and regulations. Be polite and respect each other. We expect all the students to attend school regularly and on time. I hope we have a very productive Term 2.



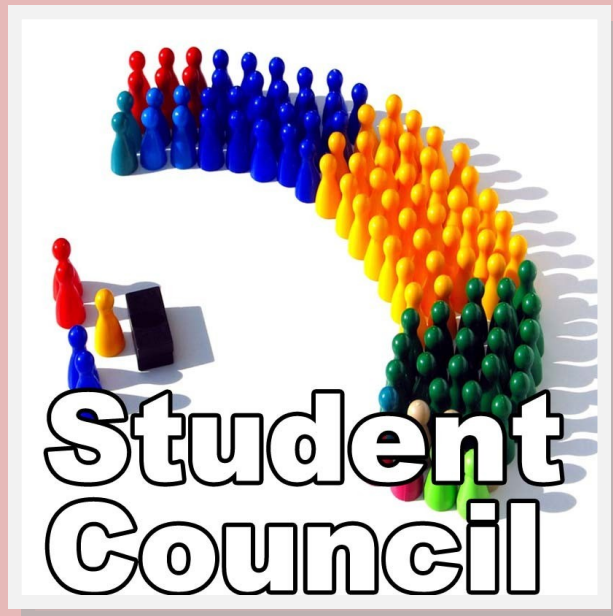
Primary student Council Elections on Tuesday,  
15th January 2019.

Kind Regards,

**Anam Zulfiqar**

**Assistant Principal Pastoral**

[pastoral@belvederebritishschool.com](mailto:pastoral@belvederebritishschool.com)





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## Pastoral Message

Charity Committee – Term: 1  
Academic year – 2018-2019

By the end of term 1, charity committee was able to carry out: a bake sale and a campaign for workers in our local community at Abu Dhabi.

The following are donations we received for the campaign:

- 4 boxes of non-perishable items, including- toothpastes, toothbrushes, shampoo, towels, and tissues.
- 1 box of books
- 3 boxes of clothes and shoes for adults and children
- 2 boxes of toys (hard and soft toys)

The donations have been sorted as above, we will be donating things that are suitable for the workers and the remaining amount of donations will be donated to charities in the UAE – Make A Wish and Red Crescent.

We would like to thank everyone- parents, students and teachers of Belvedere British School who have helped making this campaign possible. Thank you for helping the parts of our society who are in need, we believe that this will not only be meaningful for the students but also create a positive impact for our society.



Sen Sen Li  
Year 11G

Anam Zulfiqar  
Assistant Principal Pastoral  
[pastoral@belvederebritishschool.com](mailto:pastoral@belvederebritishschool.com)



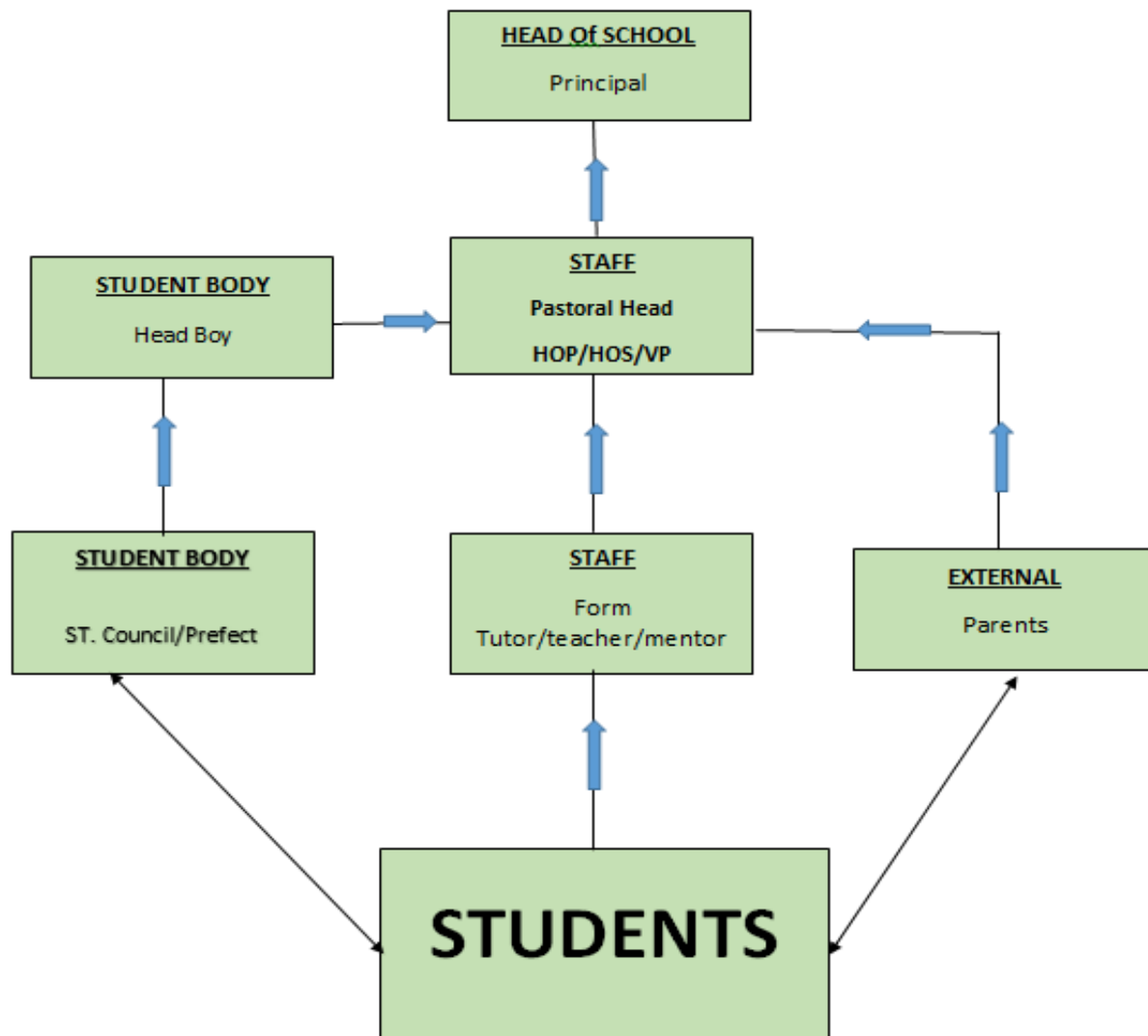
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# Pastoral Message



**BELVEDERE**  
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Students' Voice – How do we hear it?





# Attendance Letter

## Attendance Matters



Dear Parents,

A child who is late for 12 minutes each day for a whole week loses 1 hour their learning. It is very important to ensure that your children are in school on time everyday.

We begin each day at 7:30 sharp. Please ensure your child arrives at least 5 minutes before the start time. The playground doors open at 7:10am.

If your child arrives after 7:30am, they are LATE. You cannot hold us accountable for the academic success of your child, if your children are not on time and present to learn.

Our aim is for attendance to be its highest compared to previous years. I know that we can do it because **you** want your children to succeed just as much as we do here at BBS.

### What are we doing to improve attendance?

If your child has-

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| • 100% attendance for a full half term | = Bronze Attendance Award  |
|  | = Bronze Punctuality Award |
| • 100% attendance for a full term      | = Silver Attendance Award  |
|  | = Silver Punctuality Award |
| • 100% attendance for a full year      | = Gold Attendance Award.   |
|  | = Gold Punctuality Award   |

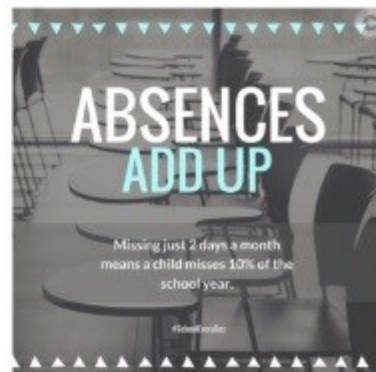
The class with the highest attendance, will win the Attendance Stars Class award .

The class with the highest punctuality rate, will win the Punctuality Stars Class award.

### How can you help?

You can support us by:

- Sending your child to school daily and on time.
- Discussing with your child that it's important for them to come to school.
- Celebrating their success with them.







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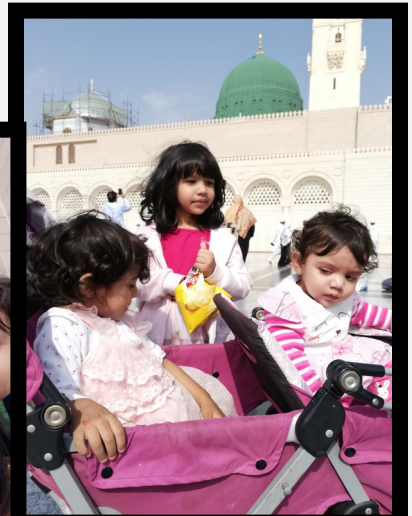
# Holiday Pictures

Yusef Amro Elsaeed 4B



Ayesha Shahbaz FS2B

I ♥  
**Winter  
Break!**





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# Holiday Pictures

Rao Arslan 6B2, Rao Aayan 5B and Amna Rao 1B

Winter Break



**SRI LANKA**







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# FS2 Stars of the Week

*Congratulations!*



**Photo Credit to:  
Miss Stacey Gregory**

# KS2 Certificate Winners

Year 3 and Year 4

**Congratulations!**



Photo Credit to:  
Miss Chane van Jaarsveld