



31st August 2020

Dear Parents and Students

Academic Year 2020 – A very different year ahead

Welcome back to Al Jazeera Academy for the start of a new and possibly very different year and a special welcome to our new Year 7 students who have moved into the secondary phase. I trust that you and your families are well and have been able to stay safe over the summer break. I am writing to set out some of the basic information that you will need to know for the weeks and months ahead as we work together to maintain a high quality education and protect each other from the impact of Covid-19.

The Academy will operate under the direction of the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education and Higher Education to provide a blended learning approach of face-to-face teaching on site combined with high quality on-line learning. Our program has been designed to maximize contact with students whilst maintaining a safe and hygienic environment. All the necessary measures have been taken to prepare the school site for the new year and we will be sharing with our students in the coming days the revised routines that will operate in Semester 1.

The biggest difference that students will notice this year is that teaching groups will be much smaller and the number of learners on site will be far less than has been the case previously. Although this will create some new challenges, it will also ensure that students are able to access their teachers more easily whilst in school. Movement around the school will be limited with students in most year groups remaining in a set classroom each day – the exception to this will be in Years 10-12 where option subjects may mean some movement.

Classrooms have been sanitized and set out according to official guidelines and will be cleaned each day to maintain the highest possible level of cleanliness to keep students and staff safe and well. In order to further safeguard all members of our learning community, we ask that students adopt a positive approach to their own safety. This will include:

- bringing the correct equipment each day as sharing will not be allowed
- washing hands or using sanitisers placed in every classroom on a regular basis
- bringing in pre-cooked food and utensils to eat with as no canteen facilities are available
- maintaining a social distance at all times in and around the school site

We will take a zero tolerance approach with any student who intentionally places others at risk through inappropriate behaviour or failure to follow the rules – this is for everyone's safety and those students who are not able to comply will be asked to stay away from the site until parents are seen.

Individual timetables will be issued to students in the coming days and tutors will go through general expectations with all students on their induction days taking place between the 1st and 3rd of September. As we all learn to grow with our new systems, there may be changes that we have to make to systems and timings but we will try to keep these to a minimum and inform you in plenty of time. However, I am confident that if we all work together in the coming weeks we will achieve all the things we have set out to do.



Please find below some further information that will be of use to all students and in particular Year 7 students in their first few days. Your child **MUST** bring the following with them every day with their exercise books for their lessons:

Blue/Black pen
Green pen
Colouring pencils
Pencil
Eraser
Sharpener
Ruler
Fully charged working Tablet

Some textbooks and workbooks are not needed in school every day but will be used at home for homework, extension work and revision. Students must take responsibility for their books to help with our Covid-19 precautions and remember to bring these to all face to face lessons once books have been issued.

I hope that the information above is helpful and has provided you with answers to some of your questions. If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will try to answer them as best we can.

I look forward to working with you all in the weeks ahead and wish you a happy and safe time at Al Jazeera Academy.

Yours sincerely

Andy Hubble
Head of Secondary

