

# The British School - Muscat

*'An Outstanding School' - Inspectors 2009*

Founded under Royal Charter, 1973



26 September 2011

Dear Parents

I expect that you and your children are now settling down into the routine of the school term. As the new principal I have been very pleased with the atmosphere around the whole school site. The students, staff and parents together all create a friendly and welcoming school.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Meet and Greet evening on 12 September. As I outlined on that evening I am beginning an extensive consultation exercise with students, parents, governors and staff to help to shape the direction of the school's development over the next three years. The outcome of this consultation will be articulated in the School Development Plan 2012-2015 which I aim to present to the Board of Governors early in 2012.

As you will see from the attached letter from my colleagues Lynda Haynes and Paul Keach, outlining the Family Learning Workshop programme, I would like to invite you to one of the following sessions:

Parents' Coffee evening – Monday 10 October, 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Parents' Coffee morning – Tuesday 11 October, 7:45am - 8:45am

Parents' Coffee morning – Tuesday 18 October, 7:45am - 8:45 am

The aim of each session is for parents to discuss what works well at The British School - Muscat and the priorities for the school's development over the next 3 years. There will be small group discussions and the key points raised by parents will be recorded as part of the consultation mentioned above. As the format for each session will be the same you need only attend one session. If you would like to attend one of the sessions please complete and return the slip attached to the accompanying letter so we know how many parents to cater for.

I will also be giving students a number of opportunities to be involved in the consultation exercise. For example, this term I will be inviting small groups of students to my office for a sandwich lunch every week to discuss with me their views on the school and possible areas for improvement. I will invite a different group of students each week and I will aim to get a broad representation of views from across the student body.

For your information please also find attached a list of key dates between now and the Autumn half term break.

I look forward to meeting you at one of the sessions outlined above in October.

Yours faithfully,

Kai Vacher  
Principal

Correction: In my last letter under Exceptional Attainment Omar El-Sharawy grades were incorrectly recorded, he achieved 7A\*, 5A & 1C, I apologise to Omar and his family for this error.

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26 September 2011

Dear Parents

## **Family Learning Workshops**

As part of the Every Child Matters agenda we are seeking to further strengthen the relationship between school and home. Three years ago we launched Family Learning workshops which were aimed at providing parents with information so that they may help support their child's learning.

This term we have planned a range of workshop-style sessions. The sessions will involve a mixture of discussion and sharing of information and will be relaxed and informal.

The workshops are voluntary and in the most part aimed at parents. Therefore unless it states otherwise children will not be able to attend. Parents may be asked to complete a very short evaluation at the end of a session. We would particularly welcome feedback on any specific areas parents would like more information so that we can plan future workshops.

The workshops on offer this term are outlined below.

## **Primary School**

### **1 How to support your child's learning in French**

**Aims:** If you are new to BSM and would like to find out about the French programme in Key Stage 2, please come to this Family Learning Morning. I will give you a taste of the Rigolo scheme we follow, as well as telling you a little about the structure of lessons, the booklets, the progression of skills and the assessment process.

**Target Audience:** Parents of children in Years 3-6

**Date and Timing:** Monday 3 October, 7:40am – 8:20am

**Maximum Numbers:** 22

**Venue:** French Chalet (the classroom situated in the left hand corner of the KS2 playground)

**Led by:** Mrs Kolster

### **2 A Parent's guide to the numeracy passport**

**Aim:** To outline the minor changes that we have made to our passport, which forms the basis of maths homework in the Primary School and to provide guidance for parents on how to support your child's learning in maths.

**Target Audience:** Parents of children in Years 1 - 6

**Date and Timing:** Monday 3 October, 1:45pm – 2:30pm

**Maximum Numbers:** 30

**Venue:** 5C Classroom (off the KS2 courtyard)

**Led by:** Natasha Cheriton and Jeni Dellman

### **3 Helping children to succeed**

**Aim:** To give parents an understanding of treatment approaches available for children with specific learning difficulties and those who are underachieving

**Target Audience:** For parents interested in addressing issues concerning reading and writing, co-ordination, attention, listening and behaviour.

Does this sound like your child: can't sit still? Struggles to get thoughts down on paper? Slumps at their desk? Difficulty learning to ride a bike or tie shoelaces?

Please visit [www.sarahmarshall.co.uk](http://www.sarahmarshall.co.uk) for more information.

**Date and Timings:** Wednesday 5 October, 12:30pm - 1:30pm

**Maximum Numbers:** 20

**Venue:** Multi-purpose hall

**Led by:** Sarah Marshall M.A. (Hons) (Psych) Neuro-Developmental Therapist (INPP) and Johansen Sound Therapist [www.sarahmarshall.co.uk](http://www.sarahmarshall.co.uk)

### **4 How to support your child's learning in writing**

**Aim:** This family learning morning will give you an insight into how writing is taught throughout the school. It will also provide useful information to take home on how to encourage your child to write as well as giving them the tools to improve their work. This will be a particularly useful course if your child is new to the school or your child is a reluctant writer.

**Target Audience:** Parents from Years 2 - 6

**Date and Timing:** Monday 10 October, 7:40am– 8:40am

**Maximum Numbers:** 50

**Venue:** Multi-Purpose Room

**Led by:** Mrs Murray, Literacy Coordinator

## **Senior School**

### **5 Helping Children to Succeed**

**Aim:** To give parents an understanding of treatment approaches available for children with specific learning difficulties and those who are underachieving.

**Target Audience:** Parents interested in addressing issues concerning reading and writing, co-ordination, attention, listening and behaviour.

**Date and Timing:** Sunday 2 October 2011, 3:00pm– 4:00pm

**Maximum Numbers:** 20

**Venue:** TBC

**Led by:** Sarah Marshall M.A. (Hons) (Psych) Neuro-Developmental Therapist (INPP) and Johansen Sound Therapist [www.sarahmarshall.co.uk](http://www.sarahmarshall.co.uk)

### **6 Mathematics in the Senior School**

**Aim:** Informing parents about the mathematics curriculum, homework, assessments and how parents can help to support their children in mathematics.

**Target Audience:** Year 7 Parents

**Date and Timing:** Saturday 8 October 2011, 9:00am – 9:45am

**Maximum Numbers:** 24

**Venue:** R4

**Led by:** Hans Kolster, Head of Maths

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## **7 Learning, Teaching and Enrichment**

**Aim:**To involve parents in a workshop on best practice in learning and teaching and how parents can help students at home. To explain the Enrichment Programme and give an example from the 'How we Think' workshop.

**Target Audience:** Parents

**Date and Timing:** Saturday 8 October 2011, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

**Maximum Numbers:** N/A

**Venue:** Drama Studio

**Led by:** Duncan Reith

## **8 Mathematics in the Senior School**

**Aim:**Informing parents about the mathematics curriculum, homework, assessments and how parents can help to support their children in mathematics.

**Date and Timing:** Sunday 9 October 2011, 9:00am – 9:45am

**Maximum Numbers:** 24

**Venue:** R4

**Led by:** Hans Kolster, Head of Maths

## **9 To present Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) initiative in Senior School**

**Aim:**A forward thinking initiative designed to develop transferable skills in young people.

**Target Audience:**Parents

**Date and Timing:**Sunday 9 October 2011, 2:00pm – 2:30pm

**Maximum Numbers:**20

**Venue:**E7

**Led by:**Dan Baldwin

## **10 Engaging the students in their learning through Student Voice**

**Aim:**Gain a better understanding of Student Voice,enhance students' outcomes and learning experiences in school. To encourage pupils to have a greater involvement, motivation and commitment to their learning and achievement.

**Target Audience:** All

**Date and Timing:** Tuesday 11 October 2011, 6:00pm – 7:00pm (TBC)

**Maximum Numbers:** 20

**Venue:** MPR

**Led by:** Nadia Megnin

## **Whole School**

### **11 Parents' Coffee Evening**

**Aim:** To invite parents to meet the new Principal and discuss priorities for the school over the next three years.

**Target Audience:**All parents' welcome

**Date and Timing:**Monday 10 October,7:30pm – 8:30pm

**Maximum Numbers:**N/A

**Venue:**Main Hall

**Led by:** Kai Vacher, Lynda Haynes and Paul Keach

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## **12 Parents' Coffee Morning**

**Aim:** To invite parents to meet the new Principal and discuss priorities for the school over the next three years.

**Target Audience:** All parents' welcome

**Date and Timing:** Tuesday 11 October, 7:45am – 8:45am

**Maximum Numbers:** N/A

**Venue:** MPR

**Led by:** Kai Vacher, Lynda Haynes and Paul Keach

## **13 Parents' Coffee Morning**

**Aim:** To invite parents to meet the new Principal and discuss priorities for the school over the next three years.

**Target Audience:** All parents' welcome

**Date and Timing:** Tuesday 18 October, 07:45am – 8:45am

**Maximum Numbers:** N/A

**Venue:** MPR

**Led by:** Kai Vacher, Lynda Haynes and Paul Keach

We would therefore appreciate it if you could complete the attached form and return this to Mrs Angela Bham in the Main office by Saturday 1 October.

We look forward to hearing your feedback on these sessions and your ideas regarding possible topics for the future.

Sincerely

**Lynda Haynes & Paul Keach**  
**Head of Primary – Head of Senior School**

**Family Learning Sessions (Primary & Senior)**

**Child/Student:**

**Class/Form:**

Please tick the session you wish to attend and indicate number of seats

<b>Name of Session</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Seats</b>
<b><u>PRIMARY</u></b>			
How to support your child's learning in French	Monday 3 October 7:40am – 8:20am	Years 3 - 6	
A Parent's guide to the numeracy passport	Monday 3 October Timings 1:45pm – 2:30pm	Years 1 - 6	
Helping children to succeed	Wednesday 5 October 12:30pm – 1:30pm		
How to support your child's learning in writing	Monday 10 October 7:40am – 8:40am	Years 2 - 6	
<b><u>SENIOR</u></b>			
Helping Children to Succeed	Sunday 2 October 3:00pm – 4:00pm		
Learning, Teaching and Enrichment	Saturday 8 October 6:00pm	All	
Mathematics in the Senior School	Saturday 8 October 9:00am – 9:45am	Year 7	
Mathematics in the Senior School	Sunday 9 October 9:00am – 9:45am	Year 7	
To present Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) initiative in school	Sunday 9 October 2:00pm – 2:30pm	All	
Engaging the students in their learning through Student Voice	Tuesday 11 October 6:00pm – 7:00pm (tbc)	All	
<b><u>WHOLE SCHOOL</u></b>			
Parents' Coffee Evening	Monday 10 October 7:30pm – 8:30pm	All	
Parents' Coffee Morning	Tuesday 11 October 7:45am – 8:45am	All	
Parents' Coffee Morning	Tuesday 18 October 7:45am – 8:45am	All	

We would therefore appreciate it if you could complete this form and return this to Mrs Angela Bham in the Main office by **Saturday 1 October 2011**.

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## BULLETIN 1

**Saturday 24 September – Wednesday 2 November 2011**

Welcome to the first edition of the Parents' Bulletin for the academic Year 2011-12.

### **Saturday 24 September**

Primary School Student Council Elections this week

2:00pm

Years 3 – 13, Extra Curricular Activities Begin

### **Tuesday 27 September**

2:10pm - 3:10pm

Enrichment Programme in R7 - Moral Philosophy: Killing and Saving Lives

4:40pm – 5:30pm

EYFS Parents' Meeting on Learning Journeys

### **Wednesday 28 September**

Year 9 Outward Bound Trip

### **Thursday 29 September**

Year 9 Outward Bound Trip

### **Friday 30 September**

Year 9 Outward Bound Trip

## **OCTOBER**

### **Sunday 2 October**

8:00am – 17:00pm

Individual & Class Photographs

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Family Workshop – Helping Children Succeed

### **Monday 3 October**

7:40am – 8:20am

Family Workshop – How to Support Your Child's Learning in French (Years 3 – 6)

8:00am – 11:00am

All Reception Classes Visit to Post Office

8:00am – 17:00pm

Individual & Class Photographs

1:45pm – 2.30pm

Family Workshop – A Parent's Guide to the Numeracy Passport (Years 1 – 6)

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## **Tuesday 4 October**

8:00am – 17:00pm

2:10pm - 3:10pm

Individual & Class Photographs

Enrichment Programme in R7 – Relationship Skills

## **Wednesday 5 October**

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Family Workshop – Helping Children Succeed

## **Sunday 8 October**

8:00am – 17:00pm

9:00am – 9:45am

Family Workshop – Mathematics in the Senior School (Year 7)

Family Workshop – Learning, Teaching and Enrichment in the Senior School

## **Sunday 9 October**

7:40am – 8:10am

6:00pm – 7:00pm

KS1 & KS2 World Food Day Assembly

Family Workshop – Learning, Teaching and Enrichment in the Senior School

9:00am – 9:45am

2:00pm – 2:30pm

Family Workshop – Mathematics in the Senior School (Year 7)

Family Workshop – Personal Learning, and Thinking Skills Initiative in The Senior School

## **Monday 10 October**

7:40am – 8:40am

7:30pm – 8:30pm

8:00am – 12:00pm

Family Workshop – How to Support Your Child's Learning in Writing (Years 2 – 6)

Parental Coffee Evening - Meet the New Principal (Main Hall)

Year 5 Muscat trip to the Planetarium

## **Tuesday 11 October**

7:45am – 8:45am

2:10pm - 3:10pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Parental Coffee Morning - Meet the New Principal (MPR)

Enrichment Programme in R7 – Ideas that Changed the World

Family Workshop – Engaging the Students in Their Learning Through Student Voice

## **Wednesday 12 October**

2:00pm

Year 11 Interim Reports Issued

## **Saturday 15 October**

7:40am – 1:30pm

Two Steve's Author Visit Primary

## **Sunday 16 October**

7:40am – 1:30pm

2:30pm – 5:00pm

3:00pm – 5:00pm

Dar Al Atta's World Food Day

Two Steve's Author Visit Primary

KS2 Parents' Consultation Afternoon, ( Classrooms and MPR)

KS1 Parents' Consultation Afternoon, (Classrooms and MPR)

## **Monday 17 October**

3:00pm to 6:00pm

Year 11 Parents' Evening – (Sports Hall)

## **Tuesday 18 October**

7:45am – 8:45am

2:10pm - 3:10pm

Parental Coffee Morning - Meet the New Principal (MPR)

Enrichment Programme in R7 – Confidence and Happiness

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4:00pm - 6:30pm  
4:30pm – 6:30pm

KS2 Parents' Consultation Evening, ( Classrooms and MPR)  
KS1 Parents' Consultation Evening, (Classrooms and MPR)

### **Wednesday 19 October**

14:00pm International Award Silver Practice Departs  
6:30pm – 8:00pm Years 7, 8 & 9 Disco (Sports Hall)

### **Thursday 20 October**

International Award Silver Practice Returns

### **Saturday 22 October**

3:00pm to 6:00pm Year 7 Parents' Evening, (Sports Hall)

### **Sunday 23 October**

7:40am – 8:30am Year 4 Tudor Assembly (Main Hall)

### **Monday 24 October**

3:30pm to 5:00pm Foundation Stage Fancy Dress Party, (FS Playgrounds)

### **Tuesday 25 October**

7:30am – 1:30pm Year 2 Monster Charity Day, (Classrooms)  
7:45am – 2:00pm Year 8 Geography Beach Study Field Trip to Banda Jissah  
2:10pm - 3:10pm Enrichment Programme in R7 - History of Oman  
4:30pm - 8:00pm KS1 & 2 Fancy Dress Party,(Parents Association),(Halls & Playgrounds)

### **Wednesday 26 October**

14:00pm Year 9 Interim Reports Issued

### **Thursday 27 October**

Whole School Community Beach Clean Up

### **Sunday 30 October**

2:15pm – 3:15pm Primary Music Recital – Established Instrumentalists (Main Hall)  
3:00pm to 6:00pm Year 9 Parents' Evening, (Sports Hall)

## **NOVEMBER**

### **Tuesday 1 November**

10:00am to 1:00pm Year 6 Science/Geography Field Visit to the Beach

### **Wednesday 2 November**

14:00pm Year 8 Interim Reports Issued

### **Thursday 3 November to Friday 11 November Inclusive – Half Term**