



**OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, SHARJAH
BOYS' BRANCH**



CIRCULAR TO PARENTS

Keeping in Touch- FROM A DISTANCE

Ramadan 3,1441

Dear Parents,

We are on the third day of the Holy month of Ramadan and on behalf of everyone at OOB, here's wishing you all RAMADAN KAREEM.

We started online learning for our Board examination classes more than a month back and for all other classes on the 5th of April. As you all know, we, along with the rest of the world, were in for a 'Surprise'. I use the word 'Surprise' deliberately and not the word SHOCK...the difference being the level of preparedness...We did not press the panic buttons because there was no need to...Our Team was battle-ready, having sharpened their pedagogical skills and anticipating the issues much before they unfolded and delivering learning as they should be.. Did we have hiccups? Of course, yes...Did we scale them? Indeed, yes...Are we ready for any other challenges? The answer is, YES, without a trace of doubt...

At this point in time, I would like you all to put your hands together to applaud our teachers, the IT Team and our Senior Management Team for having run and continuing to run the extra mile(s) - UNSUNG HEROES, quietly creating moments of magic for our boys. Burning the midnight oil for a new dawn for our boys is certainly worth the effort.

You would have observed that Parent Orientation programs are also on and by now you are familiar with the systems that are in place to optimize learning. You must also be familiar with the teachers teaching your boys, the Supervisor concerned, the Heads of Section, the Headmistress and other officials of the School. Do get in touch with the teacher concerned for all academic matters with a copy to the Supervisor. In the unlikely event of the issue not being resolved, raise it to the Head of Section with a copy to the Headmistress.

You must be aware that we are looking at the quality of our delivery from different angles. We have our regulators (Sharjah Private Education Authority) attending the lessons; our Vice President drops in to observe classes apart from the Supervisors, Heads of Sections, Heads of Departments and coordinators and the Headmistress and myself. I am delighted that most of our lessons are going on well as per plan.

Last Wednesday, Dr. Sulaiman Hamdan, was an invited guest at our virtual Assembly hosted by the boys of grade 9. He is the School Improvement Advisor, nominated by SPEA for our School. Addressing the gathering, he said, “OOB, stands for Optimism, Opportunity and Balance”- Beautifully stated and I think one that finds resonance with all those associated with OOB. Those parents who are new to our School, may not know that we are called as OOB, an acronym for Our Own Boys.

These are Tough Times indeed and the challenges are manifold. There could be times when the stress levels may rise amongst our boys and go beyond you... We are there to help. We have a very strong Counselling Team and you may approach Ms. Indhu R, our Counsellor, through the concerned Supervisor for help. I assure you that all matters will be dealt with, in confidence with copies, only, on a NEED TO KNOW BASIS.

Tough Times do not last; Tough people do. Even as our boys are slowly transforming into MEN, I am certain that these experiences will help them ace the challenges that the uncertain future will bring on us. Our Chairman, Dr. Sunny Varkey, in a Team meeting last Friday with the Principals said, CRISIS IS THE TEST OF CHARACTER. How very true for all of us.

We are all singularly fortunate to live in a nation where the leadership proclaims, “ IN THE UAE, THERE ARE NO FOREIGNERS”, in a reference to the fact that there is no distinction between Citizens and Expats. This tweet by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, has been liked and loved by millions and we are all very proud and grateful.

We are all, IN THIS TOGETHER...and we shall overcome, God willing!

Stay at home, Stay safe and continue to learn...words for our boys..

Please use the contact number **06-5355227** only to reach us henceforth. We are active on twitter @OOB_GEMS and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/>. Do follow us there for regular updates.

Warm Wishes,

Srivalsan Murugan
Principal & CEO