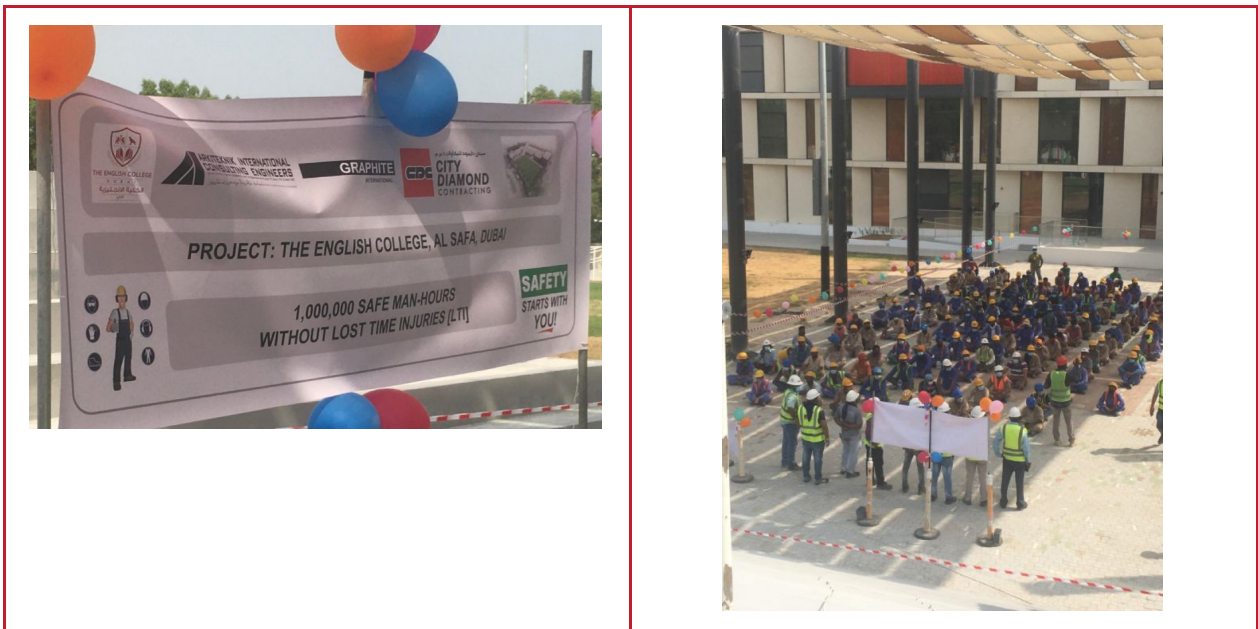


Dear EC Families

A warm welcome back to both new and existing English College families; I hope you had a wonderful summer and have come back well rested. I hope your children are looking forward to the start of the next academic year, albeit under somewhat unusual circumstances.

You should have received a number of communications from the school over recent weeks sharing our reopening plans for the 2020/21 Academic Year. Thank you for your feedback on and support for these plans; as always, your input is much appreciated. If you have any further questions or concerns about these plans, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate Head of School this week so that all is clear for the start of the new academic year.

It has been a very busy summer at the school, as you will see from the photographs below, and we are delighted with our new facilities. Last week we celebrated completion of the 1,000,000 hour project! We now have new science classrooms, specialist art, drama and music facilities, a wonderful Sixth Form learning and social space with outdoor terraces and a state of the art sportshall and fitness room. We have new Primary and Secondary libraries and a modern health centre. We also have a significant number of additional high quality teaching rooms. There is an underground car park for staff, which will help ease traffic circulation in and around the school site.







Once again, our students have excelled in public examinations and early indications are that this year's results will be stronger than ever. We look forward to sharing these with the community in the near future.

Obviously, examination results are hugely important and The English College is up there with the top schools in Dubai when measured against any benchmark. But good schools are not just about examination results. At The English College we are passionate about, and committed to, educating the whole child - the 21st Century imperative. We live in a global economy that requires our students to be prepared to think both critically and creatively; to evaluate massive amounts of information; to solve complex problems; to communicate well; to work both independently and collegially; to know how to be and how to stay healthy. We strive to instil these skills and attributes in all our students. Not only in the classroom, through our innovative approaches to learning and teaching, but also through our rich and diverse ECA programme.

The English College is a very special community, where relationships between staff and parents are positive and constructive. Research demonstrates that the best schools have high levels of parental engagement and that this is strongly related to improved student learning. Your involvement in the school is therefore central to



supporting the high-quality education we offer and I would encourage you to continue to build on the positive relationships already established. I will be holding regular 'Principal Coffee Mornings' throughout the year (virtually during term 1) and I very much hope that you will take the opportunity to join me, to share your feedback on the school and to listen to our plans for the future of the school. We also have a thriving Parent Council – I hope that you will consider getting involved.

Like any other organisation, good communication is vital to the school's success. With so many involved in the school's community - staff, leaders, parents, students - and a busier-than-ever world, getting creative with communication is not only good practice, but imperative. We use the D6 Communicator to ensure that all stakeholders are kept up-to-date with school life. Please ensure that you have this app on your phone so that you can keep up-to-date with school life.

A reminder of school day timings and the importance of punctuality. Our reopening plans have been designed to control student traffic at the busy start and end of the day. A reminder of school day timings, as outlined in the plans previously shared with you by Heads of School:

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Entrance Time</b>	<b>Exit Time Sunday - Wednesday</b>	<b>Exit Time Thursday</b>	<b>Entrance/Exit Gate</b>
<b>FS 1</b>	7.45 - 7.55 *	1.00pm*	1.00pm	Gate 1 (Primary)
<b>FS 2</b>	7.45 - 7.55*	1.00pm*	1.00pm	Gate 1 (Primary)
<b>Year 1</b>	7.45 - 7.55*	3:05pm*	1.00pm	Gate 1 (Primary)
<b>Year 2</b>	7.45 - 7.55	3:05pm	1.00pm	Gate 1 (Primary)
<b>Year 3</b>	7.45 - 7.55	3:05pm	1.00pm	Gate 1 (Primary)
<b>Year 4</b>	7.45 - 7.55	3:05pm	1.00pm	Gate 1 (Primary)
<b>Year 5</b>	7.45 - 7.55	3:05pm	1.00pm	Gate 1 (Primary)
<b>Year 6</b>	7:30 - 7:40	3:15pm	12.45pm	Gate 1 (Primary)
<b>Year 7</b>	7:30 - 7:40	3:15pm	12.45pm	Gate 3 (Swimming pool side)
<b>Year 8</b>	7:30 - 7:40	3:20pm	12.50pm	Gate 3 (Swimming pool side)
<b>Year 9</b>	7:30 - 7:40	3:15pm	12.45pm	Gate 4 (Field Gate)
<b>Year 10</b>	7:30 - 7:40	3.10pm	12.45pm	Gate 5 (Secondary Main Gate)
<b>Year 11</b>	7:30 - 7:40	3.20pm	12.50pm	Gate 5 (Secondary Main Gate)

<b>Year 12</b>	7:30 - 7:40	3.10pm	12.45pm	Gate 5 (Secondary Main Gate)
<b>Year 13</b>	7:30 - 7:40	3.20pm	12.50pm	Gate 4 (Field Gate)

***\*Note:** in Week 1 these times may be different due to staggered timings for FS 1, FS 2 and Year 1, depending on which 'FS Bubble' or Year 1 group your child is in. Class teachers will inform parents shortly.*

We would therefore ask that you do your utmost to ensure your child arrives at school on time every day. This is of particular importance this term, given the operational challenges we are facing. Please ensure that children who do arrive late are aware that they must follow the protocols for lateness for their year group, as communicated by the relevant Head of School; this is a health and safety issue and we must, at all times, know which children are in the building. Students who are consistently late will be sanctioned in line with school policy.

We are confident that the vast majority of children will be arriving next week looking smart and ready to learn! It is important that students take pride in their appearance; they are all ambassadors for The English College. We ask parents to support the school by ensuring that children are appropriately dressed at all times.

Schools are about teaching and learning, positive supportive relationships, ambition and aspiration, achievement and success; it is on these that we wish to focus and I do not want any of us to be distracted over the next academic year by some of the everyday things that sometimes impact on these. With this in mind I would ask parents to continue to support the school by ensuring that sons and daughters return with a clear understanding of our basic expectations on uniform and appearance, punctuality and expectations in general.

This is an exciting time to be at The English College and with your continued support I am certain that next year will prove to be yet another successful year for students, staff and parents alike. Home-school partnerships are a key to supporting your child's learning; I very much hope that you will work with us to ensure that your child enjoys a happy, fulfilling and successful year, both inside and outside of the classroom.

I very much look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mark Ford

Principal