



مدرستنا الثانوية الإنجليزية، الشارقة (فرع البنين)  
**OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SHARJAH (BOYS' BRANCH)**



**Keeping in Touch - F R O M A D I S T A N C E**

**Ref. No. KIT 002 - 25 May 2020**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Shawwal 1441 AH (25th May 2020)**

**On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan**

Dear Parent,

I do hope that you had a blessed EID with your family at home and are continuing to enjoy the break.

Even in the direst of circumstances, OOB and OOBites never cease to make us proud. It is with great delight that I announce the news that our school is the proud recipient of the prestigious **Sharjah Award for Educational Excellence- Distinguished School** (Second position) at the 26<sup>th</sup> cycle of the award. Needless to say, we are deeply humbled by this recognition and wish to thank our students, parents, teachers, staff, GEMS management and our regulator, The Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA). We also wish to place on record our gratitude to the enlightened, visionary leadership of our country. Congratulations also to Gaurav Jayaprakash of Grade 6 who bagged the Sharjah Award for Educational Excellence- Distinguished Student category. Please find below the link to access Gaurav's speech after his phenomenal victory.

[https://gemsedu-my.sharepoint.com/:v/p/sofi\\_m\\_oob/EZvA4wOX4kZLiNJBqpwTp3YBef9qZVR5H5Hb3\\_m5Z68mtg?e=vNIMCj](https://gemsedu-my.sharepoint.com/:v/p/sofi_m_oob/EZvA4wOX4kZLiNJBqpwTp3YBef9qZVR5H5Hb3_m5Z68mtg?e=vNIMCj)

Furqan Muhammad (12A), Abdul Rauf (12C), Joel Jiji (12C) and Mohamed Firas (12A) represented the school at the global innovation challenge held in February at GEMS Wellington Academy and their project, 'MED.AI' qualified to the top 20 teams from over 600 teams that participated. The team also won the People's choice award and were given the opportunity to participate in an IBM Digital Nation boot camp in May.

Online Classes remain mere classes no more, for the school has started its annual cycle of activities, beginning with interviews and selections of Prefects, Student Council Members, and the coveted Office Bearer Positions. The Assistant Head Boy to Ayan Kazi is Harshal Bini of class 11 D, while the Assistant Sports Captain to Sanjiv Kannappan is Abel Makil of class 11 E, and the Secretary of the Student Council to Farzeen Ajmalkhan is Abhinav Unnikrishnan of class 11 D.

The Vice-Captain election in all its glory was conducted completely online. The Vice-Captain of Jupiter House is Roshan Sherry, while that of Mars House is Aron Mathew. The Vice- Captain of Neptune House is Hamdan Rashid and that of Saturn House is Vishvesh Modcoicar. The elected Senior Prefects are Shubhankar Ghosh (Jupiter House), Ralph Samuel (Mars House), Mohamed Aalim (Neptune House) and Nayan Shenoy (Saturn House).

It gives me great pride to inform you that we will be hosting our first ever 'Virtual Investiture Ceremony' on the 31st of May 2020.

Online classes have given parents a great opportunity to better understand and involve themselves with their children and their learning. Parents of students in the Middle School were given the opportunity to teach not just their children, but the entire class, which will undoubtedly create a powerful bond between students, teachers, and parents – collaboration in its truest sense.

The Primary Department on Thursday organised a Virtual Parental Engagement Activity as part of their Eid-Al-Fitr celebrations. Parents and their children were invited to talk about Islamic Culture and Traditions, and were spoken to, about the importance of observing social distancing guidelines during their celebrations. Parents and children were also given a primer on maintaining eye health as their lifestyle goes online. Class

Teachers of the Secondary Department have also started conducting informal sessions with parents for a feedback on the current system of teaching and its impact on their wards.

The Primary department also did wonders in bridging the gap between online and physical school, by conducting the first ever ‘Virtual Field Trip’ for their students, taking them to iconic locations all around the globe from the safety and comfort of their homes. Students were taken to places ranging from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C to The Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

Online Classes are a great way to perfect your child’s learning experience. It is the first and only time you actually get to see first-hand your child’s performance in school, whereas normally this information would come in a hurried ten-minute explanation at a parent-teacher meeting. Parents are encouraged to observe and engage with their children as they learn and try to make this ardent task easier for them with your presence. Students are encouraged to practice eye exercises in order to prevent the depreciation of eye health. One such practice that can keep the eyes (and hence the mind) fresh is the 20-20-20 method: 20 Minutes on screen, 20-seconds rest, 20 blinks, and as always, maintain social distancing and proper hygiene.

A webinar was hosted by our school for parents underscoring the need and rationale of being an inclusive school. The webinar was facilitated by the Special Education Department. Dr. Urmimala Sinha, guest speaker, conducted a session on **Parenting Techniques and Well-being** for parents. Ms. Seema Ganesh, School Inclusion Governor, was also a part of the session to answer the queries raised by the parents.

The Local Advisory Board met online for the first time on 10 May, 2020. The Board Members were apprised about the latest updates vis –a – vis distance learning and the members suggested ways to improve our practices. The commendable effort undertaken by the school management to surmount the current challenges was well- appreciated by the Board.

Our Principal once said and I quote, “A school is not made of bricks or mortar, but by the students who inhabit it.” This statement could not be more accurate. Today, the Our Own English School, Sharjah-Boys’ building stands lifeless and empty; however, OOB is as lively as ever, still taking strides along the path to success, its students more engaged and participative than ever before. A year ago, we shifted our campus to an entirely new building in an entirely new location, facing off against uncertainty like never before, with its fair share of difficulties. We aced that challenge. Today, we face a similar situation, although of far greater magnitude, but one thing remains constant: we did not give up then, and we will not give up now. We will face this challenge with whatever we have, and we will come out triumphant, In Shaa Allah!

We are active on twitter @OOB\_GEMS, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> and on Instagram account gems\_oob. Do follow us for latest photos and regular updates on our exemplar distance learning stories. Some of these stories have been captured by SPEA’S official insta page @shjspea.

Hope to see all our students back on the virtual learning platform on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

Regards,

Faizal Kandy

Head of Section - Senior School