



THE SULTAN'S SCHOOL
**ACADEMIC
PROGRAMMES**
FOR SY 2020-21



Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause major disruption across the globe. The number of reported cases continues to rise, and several countries/regions are reporting a second, or even third wave.

Here in Oman, we have slowly seen life return to normal as a result of the prudent actions of the Supreme Committee.

On September 1st we commenced classes, through our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Firefly - for all year groups (except KG) having been given the appropriate permission from the Ministry of Education.(MOE).

Since the school reopened, we have seen our students engaged with their teachers and

friends and I have been amazed at how quickly everyone has adapted to the new 'normal'. Despite the progress we have achieved with our e-learning programme, our ultimate aim is to have students back on campus. Therefore, I am delighted to report that we have now received additional information and guidance from the MOE and the Ministry of Health (MOH) that will allow us to prepare for the possible reopening of the campus in November.

Given below is some additional information about the three educational programmes we have developed over the last six months that will allow us to operate smoothly and safely within the MOE and MOH guidelines, whether our students are in school or being educated via the VLE.

Nevertheless, we are fully aware that the situation remains fluid and could change very quickly. We are also extremely grateful for the help and advice we have been given by the MOE and we remain committed to delivering a quality educational programme for our students in an environment that is safe for everyone.

Should you require any additional information about these programmes, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Glenn Canterford
Principal



Programme 1: E-Learning via our VLE (Firefly)

This is the programme of study that has been in operation since the school reopened at the beginning of September. Via Firefly, our students have received a comprehensive academic programme that is challenging and age appropriate. It has built upon the students' previous educational experiences and prepared them for their eventual return to face-to-face learning.



The e-learning programme has used a combination of age appropriate educational approaches that has catered for the needs of each student. For our primary students, the e-learning programme has been based around the delivery of core ideas through pre-recorded lessons and live question and answer sessions. For our secondary students, we have been running a normal school day with all subjects being delivered through Firefly and Teams. Teachers have been available online during every timetabled lesson.



All our students have been given an opportunity to interact with their teachers and their classmates through Firefly and Teams. Lessons have been structured to be age appropriate and, whenever possible, the materials have been made available through Firefly. If a student, for whatever reason, has been unable to attend a lesson, the information has been made available through the VLE.



Students are expected to 'attend' school every day, starting with registration in the morning. Based on feedback from staff, students and parents we have already made some changes to our e-learning programmes and will continue to do so, to ensure we meet the needs of all our students.



In addition to the academic programme, the school remains committed to the emotional and social well-being of our students. We appreciate that since the school closed in March, many of our students have missed the social interaction with their peers. Our Pastoral Coordinators and the School Counsellor continue to offer additional support to the students.

Programme 2: Hybrid Learning – where learning takes place on campus and at home

Once students are allowed to return to campus, it seems almost certain that we will be offering a hybrid programme, whereby students will be taught through a combination of on-site classes and continued e-learning. Although we are still finalising the finer details of our hybrid programme, we are developing it centered on guidelines from the MOE and MOH and it will be based on social distancing and a maximum class size. Although students will be allowed to attend school, it seems extremely unlikely that all students will be on campus at the same time.



Students will learn through a combination of e-learning and on-site lessons. When on campus, students will be able to interact with their peers and teachers but will be expected to follow the social distancing guidelines.



Our Pastoral Coordinators, Additional Support Teachers, Homeroom teachers and the School Counsellor will be available to provide education, emotional and social support for the students.



All on-site learning will be conducted in line with Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health guidelines.



Within a hybrid programme the school will not be offering any Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA).

Programme 3: On Campus Learning – where all learning happens

Eventually we hope to be able to offer a programme whereby all learning takes place on campus. This programme would be very similar to the pre-pandemic experience offered by the school but would be run under MOE and MOH social distancing guidelines.



Wherever possible the school will offer a full range of educational activities. However, it is anticipated that a number of activities, such as Flag and assemblies will have to follow MOE guidelines. Sporting activities will only be resumed once permission is given by the MOE.



The school will continue to enforce social distancing protocols to ensure the safety of students and staff.



Should we be given the appropriate permission, the school will endeavour to re-introduce an ECA programme that caters to the needs of our students, whilst maintaining their health and safety.