



A message from the Head of Sixth Form

May I say what a pleasure it is to be joining the British International School as Head of Sixth Form at this exciting time; our spectacular new building which includes a new school hall and new sixth form centre is rising from the ground and the new science laboratories are almost complete. The interior of the labs will be spacious and light with state of the art facilities and design, and of course wireless network access. The sixth form centre will provide a superbly resourced and contemporary environment of classrooms, seminar rooms and lounges, where students can both learn and relax – the aim is very much to create a ‘half way house’ between school and university.

We have an experienced and successful team of sixth form staff in place ready to deliver an impressive range of A’ Level subjects. All Year 11 students have had an individual meeting with the Head of Sixth Form to discuss potential A’ Level choices and university courses and external applicants are now being interviewed. University entrance is now immensely competitive and it is essential that informed decisions are made at this stage so that students can begin to plan their sixth form programme;

In addition to developing academic progress our sixth form students will undertake a range of enrichment and service activities that will of course contribute to their university applications, but also enable them to successfully take their place in the world.

Life in the sixth form will begin with an intensive 3 day induction programme where students will learn how to study more independently, work together as a team, and understand and appreciate the part they have to play as role models for the rest of the pupil body and the service that they can give to the school as senior students.

There will be opportunities for leadership, for example as a School Prefect, and school service might include using one of their specialist A’ Level subjects to support younger pupils in the classroom. As one would expect, there will be an extensive extracurricular programme on offer. Increasingly universities are looking for students to demonstrate a passion for their academic subjects that goes beyond the classroom; equally important therefore will be the curriculum enrichment offered in all subjects, from subject related trips and lectures to inviting external expert speakers into school.

In order to further encourage intellectual development sixth formers will undertake the Global Perspectives and Independent Research component of the rigorous Cambridge Pre-U qualification. This is a new course that has been eagerly anticipated by universities as it cultivates an interdisciplinary perspective and promotes a critical, questioning approach to global issues that might otherwise be taken for granted. This will provide an additional qualification to complement students’ A’ Level portfolio.

There will be a ‘culture and study trip’ to the UK in the Spring of next year. In addition to possibly undertaking some work experience this will be an opportunity to visit some of the Oxbridge colleges and other UK ‘Russell Group’ universities, attend subject-specific conferences and seminars, meet with university admissions secretaries and absorb some of the cultural highlights of London, Cambridge and Oxford. This will be invaluable preparation for all university applications, and particularly for Oxbridge students and those applying to the very top universities in the world

The Sixth Form at the British International School is going to be a vibrant, challenging, and fun experience. I hope to have given you a flavour of life in the sixth form but the best way to find out more is to come and visit us - we look forward to seeing you!

Derek Mackey – Head of Sixth Form
The British International School, Riyadh

