

المدرسة البريطانية العالمية بالخبر The British International School of Al Khobar

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20 September 2009

Dear Parent

On Thursday afternoon we received a directive in Arabic from the Ministry of Education which ordered that all schools in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should remain closed until 10 October 2009, for Secondary sections, and 17 October 2009 for Primary sections. The reason for the decree is to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect students, as far as possible, from contracting the H1N1 virus ("swine flu"). Yesterday, we consulted the Ministry of Education on this issue and were advised that the directive applies to International Schools as well as Government Schools. We understand that there is some possibility that we may be able to re-open on Saturday, 10 October, but this has yet to be confirmed.

Accordingly, the British International School of Al Khobar will be closed for students from Saturday, 26 September, when we had expected to resume after the Eid holiday, until Saturday, 10 October. We hope that we will be able to recommence school on that date. I will write to everyone again as soon as I can to clarify our re-start date.

All school activities involving parents and/or students will be postponed until the time when the School re-opens, although the school will be open for new registrations.

All staff will be expected to resume their duties on Saturday, 26 September. Our intention is to continue to teach our external examination classes, i.e. students in Years 10 and 11, through e-mail and the website. Teachers will also work together to devise appropriate project work for students in the Lower Secondary and Upper Primary school. They will also be in touch to give advice on how you can assist your child of a younger Primary age.

While the temporary closure of the School is not ideal for any of us, I am sure that we can all appreciate the Government's motives for its actions. The time in school will be well spent by staff in further fine tuning the educational provision, in order to improve the learning process for your child on return.

Do please encourage your son / daughter to use the time away from formal school to read as much as they possibly can. There is much evidence that suggests that reading does actually help achievement and attainment in all aspects of academic work.

Meanwhile, please be assured that there have had no incidents of the H1N1 virus at BISAK.

Indeed you will be kept as fully informed as possible of any developments through e-mail and the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Tassos Anastasiades

Principal