



December 19, 2018

Reflection on the first term

Dear Parents,

Once again, we find ourselves at the end of the Michaelmas term, waiting eagerly for the Christmas holidays. As always, much has happened between September and today and I hope our curriculum overviews for parents, Miss Galina's emails, emails from teachers, Class Dojo, Google Classroom, our website, Instagram and Facebook allow you to keep up to date with everything that is happening in our school.

The school is growing and it is not easy to accurately capture and summarise all the amazing things that happen every day, especially with so many memorable events and initiatives, therefore I will reflect and comment on a few which are marked in bold.

In order to strengthen and encourage more cross-curricular links within our curriculum, we decided to develop our **Global Studies** programme, combining primarily History and Geography, although all other subjects fall into the topics covered in Global Studies. The inspiration came from Cambridge's Global Perspectives, which is a unique, transformational programme helping students at every stage of their educational journey to develop outstanding transferable skills, including critical thinking, research and collaboration – all of which are needed to be successful both in their education as well as in future careers. The emphasis is on developing students' ability to think critically about a range of global issues and where there is always more than one point of view. Parents from different year groups have come to the school this term and observed what pupils have learnt from global studies.

Mr Mark, our Head of Academic Programme, has carried out two rounds of **lesson observations** this term and recognised that the school has a consistent and very purposeful environment in all classes. In Years 1 and 2, a positive working environment has been developed with happy children who are eager to learn and question what they were taught. In Years 3 to 9, a high level of engagement with teachers has resulted in high quality output (written, presentation, debate), evidenced by the work on display on classroom walls. In Years 10 and 11, we have students of varying abilities but all possess a strong work ethic. We are very satisfied with the quality of the learning experience and the progress that students have made since September.

With regards to **afterschool activities**, we are extremely lucky with the diversity of the classes that are run by our dedicated staff: STEM, Computing, Multi-Sport, Gardening, Sewing, Choir, Archery, Healthy snack, Robotics, Athletics, Chess and more.



Traditionally, in September, we have our **Harvest Festival** where we collect food and clothes for the needy. This time, the donations went to NGO Bona Fide from Pljevlja which help refugees from Syria. A big thank you to Miss Nicola for running the Harvest Festival for the 5th consecutive year!

In October, we had our second **Interdisciplinary Day** which was the first of three for this academic year and students in Years 7-11. The aim of the Interdisciplinary Day is to integrate knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a synthesis of approaches. The highlight was the team running race from Krašići to Luštica, combining a fun day of exercise, nature and learning.

As always, our **Halloween Celebration** was a lot of fun. We are thankful to all teachers and parents who helped to make this such a great experience for our students!

During this term, we had our second "**Share the Learning Week**". This is a great opportunity for parents to get involved and teach a lesson on different topics such as economics, finance, music, architecture, cooking, marketing or other field where a parent has expertise and a passion to share their knowledge with students. Thank you to all parents who helped us enrich our students' learning experience!

Our second **International Day** was in November. Every class represented a different country. Like last year, we decided to choose the countries that are not represented at our school in order to widen students' geographical and cultural knowledge. Once again, we thank all parents and teachers for making this a truly beautiful event!

We now have 8 students from Year 5-11 who make up our **Student Council**. The elected council strives to represent the student body. They work to initiate worthwhile events, resolve relevant issues and foster a sense of pride within our community. During this term, the Student Council made a proposal for an outside water fountain, organised a system for better access to school computers and created a school bus 'code of conduct'.

Additionally, our **Parent Council** has been re-established this term, with each class representative creating a WhatsApp or email group for their class. Within the groups all parents are now able to inform the class representative about any suggestion, concern or positive feedback.

Mr Chris is doing a great job with the **Arcadia Football Academy!** Our second year of Arcadia Football Academy is well under way and we have now completed two blocks of training. The recent Montenegrin Schools Football Competition, organised by Arcadia Academy, saw two of our younger teams finish in 3rd place and our Senior and



Girls teams finishing in 2nd place! This is an excellent achievement considering that we are up against much larger schools. Block 3 of the Football Academy starts on Saturday 12th January in the **new gym** located just 50 meters from the school.

Regarding the **Cambridge Exams**, we can now confirm that the Primary Checkpoint and Checkpoint tests will be held between April 8th and April 19th, whilst the IGCSE exams will be on different dates between April and June. Please note that three of the exams will be held during days when the school is closed (Year 10 and 11 parents have been informed).

Regarding the need to have more classrooms and learning spaces, we are pleased to advise that we are **planning to build a second floor** during the summer break. As everyone who lives in Montenegro knows, construction works are a challenge and we hope that all will be concluded before the 2019 school year. The 2nd floor addition will primarily be used by Years 7 to 13, leaving the ground floor for preschool and Years 1 to 6.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of **wearing the school uniform**. We are thankful to the parents whose children always come to school in full uniform.

As a reminder, this term ends on **Friday 21 December** and the new term begins for students in 2019 on **Wednesday 9 January at 8.30am**.

Thank you for your continued support over the year. It is very much appreciated.

As you prepare to celebrate Christmas, I trust you will experience the peace, love and joy of this special holiday season. All members of the staff team at Arcadia Academy wish you and all your family all the best for a happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

We look forward to seeing you back in 2019!

Yours faithfully,

Mr Milija Bozovic
Head of School