



December 19, 2019

## Reflection on the first term 2019-20

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 are constantly working towards perfecting 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, 11 and 12, we have students of varying abilities and the majority 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: Multi-Sport, Quiz Ball, Sewing, Music Club, Art, Archery, Support Club, Athletics, and more.

Traditionally, in September, we have our **Harvest Festival** where we collect food and clothes for the needy. This time, just like last year, the donations went to NGO Bona Fide from Pljevlja which help refugees from Syria, as well as residents of a village in Plav and various families around Tivat and Kotor (the list of families in need was obtained from NGO Food Bank). A big thank you to Miss Nicola for running the Harvest Festival for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year!

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 third "**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 third **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!

Last week, we had another **Interdisciplinary Day** which was the first of three for this academic year and students in Years 7-12. The aim of the Interdisciplinary Day is to integrate knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a synthesis of approaches. The highlight was the scavenger hunt in Kotor. Thank you Mr Jon, for organising this.

We now have 6 students from Year 7-12 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 proposals for a more environmentally-friendly school, suggestions regarding our Creative Space, etc.



Additionally, our **Parent Council** has been running well this term, with each class representative communicating with others through WhatsApp. Within the groups all parents are now able to inform the class representative about any suggestion, concern or positive feedback.

Mr Jon is doing a great job with the **Arcadia Football Academy!** Our third 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 our two teams finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the under16s category, whilst also bringing home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy in the under 12s category. Block 3 of the Football Academy starts on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January in the **new gym** located just 50 meters from the school.

As a part of their **IGCSE Global Perspectives** course, our Year 10 and 11 students have been working on their projects which shows how proactive and innovative they are. Our Year 11 boys have organised a successful **sports event** with the aim of promoting the importance of physical activity, while we are expecting astonishing 3 more projects on raising awareness of women's rights, promoting the importance of the issue of spinal deformities and raising awareness about heart issues and consequences of obesity. We wish them success in all their projects and we cannot wait to see what they have in store for the whole secondary school.

Regarding the **Cambridge Exams**, we can confirm that the Primary Checkpoint and Checkpoint tests will be held in April, whilst the IGCSE and AS Levels exams will be on different dates between May and June.

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 20 December** and the new term begins for students in 2020 on **Monday 13 January at 8.30am**.



We are looking forward to seeing you at our **Parents' Evenings** which will take place **from 20 to 24 January**. This type of meetings allows parents to speak to each teacher individually about their child's academic progress, behavior and other matters.

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 2020!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bozovic Milija', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Mr Milija Bozovic  
Head of School