



December 22, 2021

Reflection on the first term 2021-22

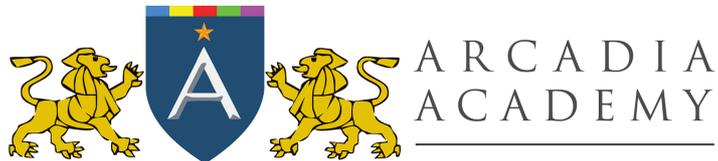
Dear Parents,

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 and those from teachers, Class Dojo, Google Classroom, our website and our Instagram and Facebook pages - all have allowed you to keep up to date with what is happening at the school.

Once again, a huge **THANK YOU** all for your cooperation and support in going through these trying times, as a result of COVID-19. A massive thanks also to our teachers who showed tremendous effort and understanding during this difficult time! I think we should all be very pleased that we managed to remain organised and focused on the tasks at hand; most importantly, to keep safe and healthy.

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 just a few.

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, as well as other subjects that fall into the topics covered by Global Studies. The inspiration for this came from Cambridge's Global Perspectives, a unique, transformational programme for students at every stage of their educational journey, helping to develop outstanding transferable skills, including critical thinking, research and collaboration – all of which are needed for a child's future success in higher education and 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 observed and commented on what pupils have learned from global studies – so we are seeing positive, impactful results.



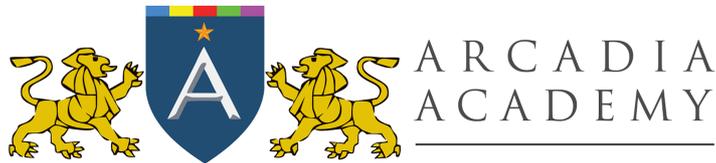
Arcadia Academy is committed to combatting discrimination in all of its forms and safeguarding our multicultural learning environment. This term, our students have explored the theme of **human rights** - where they come from, why they are important, and why they should be protected. Through Global Studies classes, students have learned about the principles espoused in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and have studied their relevance today. Classes have explored case studies on both the important strides that humanity has taken in guaranteeing rights for all, as well as the human rights abuses that have taken place and continue to take place today.

Special praise should be given to the Human Rights Club for their hard work this term. Meeting on Mondays after school, they have taken steps to register the school as an Amnesty International school, while delivering assemblies to the student body on racism, sexism, and LGBTQ+ rights. Moreover, they were instrumental in organising a testimony from Elmina Kulasic from Srebrenica UK, as well as an assembly from two Holocaust survivors which will take place in February 2022. Please find the newsletter attached for more information.

Congratulations to Laura Matijevic (Year 7), Nastya Antoshchuk (Year 9), Lu Pavlovic (Year 9), Uras Gonenc (Year 10), Matvei Gron (Year 10), Eve Pochepinski (Year 10), Dharma Couture (Year 11), Margo Mikheeva (Year 11), and Doruk Unal (Year 12) for their achievements this term!

Mr Mark, our Head of Curriculum, has carried out a round of **lesson observations** this term and recognised that the school has a consistent and very purposeful environment in all classes. In Preschool and 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 to 13, 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.

Miss Jasna, our Head of Primary, commented that *“Arcadia boasts outstanding teachers that enjoy teaching our children, and who are constantly looking for ways to improve our programs. We will ensure that we continue to sustain these improvements as we continue to build on our successes and intensely focus on improving the quality of progress and achievement for every student.”*



Mr John, our Head of Secondary, noted *“It has been a pleasure to come to work and to spend time with such polite and well mannered students. It has been a challenging term with all the complications Covid brings, but the staff and students have responded well to this. As a newcomer I have been impressed with the hard work and dedication of the staff in delivering high quality lessons. I am particularly impressed with the presentations I have been able to observe in the classroom which have now been expanded into whole school assemblies. Moreover, it is great to see some of our older students volunteering to help out, and at times request to run, after school activities. Being so proactive in this regard is certainly going to help us develop the thought leaders of tomorrow. Every day, I walk around the school and I am always delighted to see the students working hard in the classroom. If I was to ask some students to make one New Year's resolution, it would be to request that the same level of dedication goes into their homework!”*

Traditionally, in autumn, we have our **Harvest Festival** where we collect food and clothing for those in need. Like last year, the donations went to NGO Bona Fide from Pljevlja which help those in need. A big thank you to Miss Nicola for running the Harvest Festival for the 8th consecutive year!

As always, our **Halloween Celebration** was a lot of fun, despite COVID-19. We are thankful to all teachers and parents who helped to make this such a great experience for students!

After a year's absence, the Arcadia Academy **International Day** made its return in 2021! Although we could not hold one single event due to the pandemic, each year group held in-class festivities which celebrated the different nationalities that we have in our school community. Students prepared presentations, plays, dances, costumes, and songs which were shared within our bubbles. In a new addition to the tradition, we had several parents who delivered presentations to the students to introduce their own cultures. Many thanks to everybody who participated this year!

The Arcadia Academy Student Council representatives from Year 7 to Year 13 have had a busy term in helping to voice the ideas of their classmates. Their feedback has been essential in assisting us all to navigate the unique circumstances of schooling during a global pandemic. Through their hard work, they have ensured that their classmates have felt heard and represented. We thank the Student Council for their efforts this term.

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.

In October, we were able to re-start our very successful **Arcadia Football Academy** once again. During the last academic year, the intercity ban made life difficult to go between cities meaning that players could not travel for weekend training session and matches. We are currently well into our second block of training sessions and alongside Mr Chris and Mr Vasilije, we have given our Year 12 student Doruk Unal the opportunity to help coach the Junior team. Once again, this demonstrates our aim to give openings for our students to develop skill which transcend beyond the classroom setting.

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 **Thursday 23 December** and the new term begins for students in 2022 on **Monday 17 January at 8.30am**.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our **Parents' Evenings** which will take place **from 24 to 28 January**. These types of meetings allow parents to speak individually to each teacher about their child's academic progress, behaviour 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 all back safe and healthy in 2022!

Yours faithfully,

Mr Milija Bozovic
Head of School