



18 August 2016 / 14 Dhul Qaidah 1437

Dear Respected Parents and Carers,

Assalamalaikum wa Rahmatullaah wa Barakatu

Alhamdulliullaah we at the Darul Uloom have been very busy improving the way we do things to ensure your son will receive a first class education this coming academic year and beyond inshaAllaah. I, as your new Headteacher, believe very firmly in maintaining exceptional levels of communication, both with staff and with parents. Communication is especially key during these turbulent times. It is very important that parents as one of the major stakeholders of the school understand what we are doing and more importantly why we are doing them. This letter will be the first of many letters you will receive inshaAllaah from me explaining the significant changes the school is going through. Please take note of the following:

### **Appeal Against Notice to Close**

The school lodged its application to appeal the notice to close on Friday 12 August 2016. We have a strong case and we are hopeful with Allaah that our appeal will be successful and the school will be allowed to remain open. In any event we can confirm that due to methods of legal recourse available to us the school will remain open for at least the whole of the new academic year inshaAllaah.

### **Curriculum, Assessment and Timetable**

- The school will open for Years 8 to 11 students on **Wednesday 14 September 2016**. Year 7 will join on Thursday 15 September 2016.
- Staff will be rejoining us on Thursday 1 September 2016. This will allow all staff to receive necessary training and become familiar with all the systems they will be required to use and follow.
- We have extended the learning time of both Year 10 and 11 students in order to cater for changes we have made to the curriculum. For example but not exclusively, we have increased the amount of time Year 11 students will study History and introduced GCSE (or equivalent) ICT to Year 10. Year 10 students will remain in school to 6pm on Mondays and Tuesdays. Year 11 will remain in school to 6pm Wednesday to Friday. At all other times all students will finish school at 4.30pm.
- Students will be formally assessed every half term and inshaAllaah parents will receive a progress report every term. We have introduced a new system for recording and evaluating your sons' progress, which will allow us inshaAllaah to flag up quickly any underachievement and intervene immediately.
- All 'Schemes of Work' have been updated and improved.
- Students will have a 15 minute form time everyday with a dedicated form tutor who will be responsible for monitoring your son's achievement and behaviour.

## **Structures, Building and Teachers**

- We have a new Senior Management structure to monitor all aspects of the school. The new senior management team will be responsible to the Headteacher, who in turn will be responsible to external scrutiny from professionals in the educational field.
- What is more significant however is that the management structure of the school is now completely separated from the JMJC. This means the lines of accountability are now not clouded and all members of staff at the school, including senior managers have clear line management structures and as such can be held to account for the quality of their work.
- The school now also has a dedicated 'School Administrator and Attendance Officer'.
- Alhamdulillah we have a full teaching team for September 2016. We have reduced the number of classes to just five – one per year group in the English Section. This has allowed us to maintain and recruit only the best teachers for the job and in doing so taking the first steps in ensuring a high quality of education for your boys.
- **In addition to show our commitment to Islamic Education to ensure our students excel at our Darul Uloom**, the classes / periods in the Arabic Section have been rearranged so two teaching members of staff will be teaching in each lesson. In doing so we have reduced the student to teacher ratio which inshaAllaah will result in your son receiving a better quality of education that more closely matches his learning needs.
- The school building will now be completely separate from the Masjid. A new student and visitor entrance is being built on Coventry Road. There will also be a new visitor's reception separate from the Masjid.
- The school will be improving and expanding the Science Lab and IT Suite inshaAllaah. We have been unable to commence planned work, as major structural works will be required, which must conform to building regulations. As such we have engaged the services of a qualified architect to ensure the proposed works are done safely and according to building regulations. Please watch this space!

Alhamdulillah I am sure you will agree the above is a clear indication of our commitment to you and our students. There are many additional things we wish to add at our school, which include the setting up of a Parent Teacher Association for men and women, extra-curricular activities, coffee mornings for parents with the Headteacher and much more inshaAllaah. I will communicate to you about these things once the school reopens on 14 September 2016 inshaAllaah.

However, there is one pending issue that I wish to address. Many parents owe us fees from last year. At a time when the school is investing more money into the school than ever before this is very unfair. The smooth running of the school depends on punctual payment of school fees; in addition staff salaries still need to be paid. I understand we all have personal circumstances and price rises in all areas of life are hurting our pockets but we must keep the smooth running of our school a priority. As such I humbly ask any parent who has not completely paid school fees for the last academic year to do so before your son returns back to school.

JazakaAllaahkhairan. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Wasalam



Ustadh (Abdul) Jalil Shaikh  
Headteacher