



ENGLISH SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION  
英基學校協會

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To : All Parents of Students of ESF and PI schools  
All Staff at ESF and PI Schools

18 August 2016

Dear Parents and Colleagues,

Welcome back to the 2016-2017 academic year, and a particularly warm welcome to new families and colleagues joining the ESF community. I hope you have all enjoyed a great summer holiday.

A new school year brings a fresh start and the bright promise of what lies ahead for every member of our ESF family. We welcome Chris Sammons as our new principal in West Island School. Chris brings a wealth of experience as a teacher and school leader. Having worked in Sha Tin College early in his career, Chris already knows ESF. In addition, congratulations to Marc Morris, Principal of Sha Tin College, who will be taking up his new post of Director of Schools with Dulwich College International later on in this 2016-17 academic year.

Congratulations also go to our Year 13 graduates for another outstanding set of results in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and the Applied Learning Pathway, BTEC qualifications. The ESF mean total score in the IB Diploma is an incredible 36.2, our highest yet. The percentage of eligible students gaining the diploma is also at an all-time high (99.3%), with 12 students achieving the maximum 45 points, which is an impressive achievement considering that worldwide fewer than 200 students are expected to achieve at this remarkable level. Overall, 26% of our students achieved a score of 40+ points. Furthermore, our first small group of students successfully achieved the IB Career-Related Programme. The BTEC results show 100% pass rate at level 3 Subsidiary, Diploma and Extended Diploma, with a continued increase in the number of students achieving merit, double merit and double distinction.

We will celebrate our Year 13 graduates' outstanding achievements at the ESF Chairman's Award for Excellence, to be held on Thursday, 25 August 2016 at Island School. This is a proud occasion for our students, their families and our staff and is a highlight of the ESF calendar. Our Chairman, Abraham Shek, will preside at the ceremony and will present awards in recognition of students' achievements.

Engaging parents as partners in their children's learning and in the life and work of ESF is one of our key objectives. I want to thank parents and colleagues who selflessly contribute to ESF through their involvement with PTAs, school councils and ESF advisory committees. I appreciate and value the huge commitment and significant number of hours so willingly given.

We are looking for two parents to join the ESF Board this year. An election will take place in September/October. Information will be sent out to all parents and I would encourage you to get involved, either through standing as a candidate or by casting your vote. School Council elections for parent and staff members will also be held early in the term.

Ensuring the financial sustainability of ESF continues to be a priority. Financial prudence is one of the guiding principles of our approach, ensuring that we spend wisely to achieve our aims of supporting every student to achieve their best. ESF has a robust process in place for setting school fees, which includes seeking the views of our advisory committees. The Board takes careful account of all views. We understand the financial pressure that fee increases can place on families and we thank you all for supporting us in our endeavours to provide quality education at best value. Last week we were informed by EDB that the Board's proposed fee increase for 2016/17 had been approved only in part. We are therefore now revising our budget plans for the new academic year to identify areas where savings can be made.

Finally, I would wish you all a happy and successful school year in 2016-17. I hope that it proves to be another excellent year for each of you, your families and our schools.

Sincerely yours,

Belinda Greer  
Chief Executive Officer

INSPIRING FUTURES