



Wesgreen
International School

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GEMS COVID-19 Relief Package

1st April 2020

Dear Parents,

These are challenging times. The entire GEMS Education community has shown its readiness to ensure that learning never stops. We are extremely proud of the passion, dedication and resilience shown by our teachers, students and families.

We are very conscious of the adverse impact COVID-19 is having on the world at large, and our thoughts and prayers are with those afflicted. We are also conscious of the economic and financial impact that the global shutdown has caused on so many, including our own families.

Consistent with the past philanthropic efforts of GEMS Education and the Varkey Foundation (www.varkeyfoundation.org), which has positively impacted the lives of over 3 million students around the world, we are committed to offering tuition fee relief to those families that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19, as follows:

- deferment of fees, payment plans or discounts for families who have lost their jobs, had salary cuts or been placed on unpaid leave and are struggling to pay fees at this point in time as a direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak;
- waiver of all registration fees, assessments and administration fees until further notice

This means-tested approach will allow us to allocate our relief efforts to those most in need during these unprecedented times, while retaining all of our teachers and managing our cost base which, despite intense media speculation, have not decreased:

- Almost 100% of our costs are fixed or contractual. We are yet to receive any payment relief from our landlords or service providers.
- We must retain our teachers and staff who are working tirelessly to ensure seamless learning for all our students not just for this semester, but for many more years to come.
- Over the last 7 years all schools have sustained significant cost escalations far in excess of regulated fee increases.
- We continue to answer the call of the leaders of the nation to ensure that education must continue under any circumstances.



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This is not a conversation about profits or surplus, but about the continuity and sustainability of our schools and our communities for decades to come.

We look forward to sharing the Relief Package application process with you shortly.

We also encourage those who are eligible to apply for the numerous measures that have been put in place by UAE banks to support customers, including interest-free instalment plans for all school fee payments made by credit card.

We ask that parents who are not eligible for the Relief Package to please ensure their school fee records are up to date, so we can continue to pay our academic staff and provide our students with the same consistency and quality of education that you expect from us.

Though these times are challenging, we are uplifted by the collective acknowledgement that our families yearn for the connection and meaning that can only be delivered through the vibrant communities that are our schools. We are all in this together. Please keep safe and look after the well-being of your families. We look forward to welcoming you back at school.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Dey
Headmaster