



Parish Administrator's Parent Update

January 14, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I want to begin my first parents update for 2021 by wishing all parents and students a happy and blessed New Year! I hope that the Christmas break allowed you all to have some well-earned rest and time to connect with loved ones.

I also wish to begin by recognizing our St Ignatius faculty by extending my sincerest thanks and appreciation for our hard-working Senior Leadership Team, our gifted and dedicated teachers, administrative staff, the School Advisory Committee (SAC) and the members of the Home School Association (HSA). Together we worked tirelessly in 2020 to ensure that St Ignatius students were safe and received the highest level of education under very challenging conditions. Their hard work and dedication have contributed to the success of our school.

Below I have detailed the actions that are currently underway to improve and further strengthen our school.

Principal/Head of School recruitment

Interviews are underway to recruit a Principal/Head of School. An interview panel comprising experienced independent educators and SAC and PPC members has been established to conduct the interviews which began on Friday, 8th January. The aim is to select a candidate with visionary leadership and management skills who can work with all stakeholders to continue the process of improving our school.

School Inspection Report

The Office of Education Standards issued their inspection report at the end of December. Overall, the school was assessed as "SATISFACTORY".

The inspectors identified a multitude of key strengths. The areas where our school received positive feedback during the inspection were:

- Students' attainment and progress in secondary and post-16 phases were EXCELLENT and GOOD in all other school phases.
- Teaching was consistently GOOD; however, the sixth form scored as EXCELLENT. Additionally, some subjects, for example, English and Science, scored as EXCELLENT.
- Students' behaviour across all phases was excellent, and their positive attitudes to learning and their sense of responsibility had a positive impact on achievement.
- Civic and environmental understanding was EXCELLENT, and students were becoming thoughtful and respectful citizens of Cayman.

- Subject leaders had EXCELLENT subject knowledge and knew their students' strengths and weaknesses accurately. They planned curriculum experiences in their subjects well to effectively develop students' learning.

The inspectors listed two main recommendations requiring improvement:

1. Integrating the two schools to develop the school's full potential and;
2. Improving the school's governance.

We acknowledged the inspectors' observations in these two areas, and the SAC, the senior leadership team and I are developing Action Plans to address both areas.

You can view a full copy of the report [HERE](#).

Sports Hall Construction

- Construction is expected to begin in April, once all the necessary approvals have been granted. We are also developing a site plan to keep students safe during the construction period and to ensure the school's smooth operation. We will update parents once the plan is finalized.

Communications

- Regular updates will be disseminated to all parents via ePraise, the official communication channel for St Ignatius Catholic School. My objective is to ensure parents stay informed with accurate official information as we all work together to improve our school.
- The SAC will produce a St Ignatius Annual Report to share key information, including a financial report summary for parents.

In late December, SAC members and I met with representatives from the Parents' Governance and Transparency Committee. We discussed the priorities and issues raised by the parents who signed the petition circulated following the 14 September 2020 HSA meeting. It was agreed that the leadership and staffing requirements of our school will be reviewed. It was also noted that the governance issues, as highlighted in the inspection report, will be given priority and were already in hand. Parents will be updated via ePraise as this work progresses.

In closing, I am excited and optimistic about the work ahead. It will ensure our students' continued success and academic progress as they embark on their educational journey through St. Ignatius Catholic School. As always, thank you for your continued support as we work together for the benefit of our children and our School.

In Christ,

Rev. Father Naveen D'Souza, SAC
Parish Administrator