

## GAUTAM BELLUR

Chair of the Board of Governors  
Doha College



Dear DC Community,

My name is Gautam Bellur, and I'm the new Chair of the Board of Governors of Doha College. It is my pleasure to pen the 1st entry of the new BoG Blog. We are introducing this blog as one way for the Board to engage more directly with the DC Community and to stay in touch on the most strategic issues facing Doha College now and into the future.

As Governors, we typically work very much in the background, and very rightly so. Over the years, many parents have asked (and I'm sure many others are wondering) what it is the Board of Governors does at a school like Doha College. Simply put, the BoG is responsible for providing strategic and operational oversight of the school using the College's Vision and Values as guidance, and operates under the principle of "eyes on, hands off".

We approve the medium and long-term strategic direction of the school; ensure the school operates in a financially viable and sustainable manner; and hold the school's Leadership Group accountable for setting high standards and achieving results (academic and otherwise).

As one might imagine, a significant portion of the Board's attention in recent years has been on the development of the Al Wajba campus, which is a strategic investment for the next generation of students in Qatar. I want to take this opportunity to thank Tim Bentley, the outgoing Chair of the BoG, for his leadership over the past few years. He took over as Chair at a time when plans for the new campus were still in their relative infancy. He has steered DC through several tricky years, culminating in the opening of the new campus. He leaves behind a significantly valuable legacy. In fact, completing, commissioning and opening the Wajba campus in the middle of a pandemic is an achievement of which we can all be proud.

With our transition into a single campus and to a larger student body, exciting times lie ahead for DC. Many of the benefits of such a state-of-the-art campus may not yet be fully visible to everyone due to the ongoing Covid-related restrictions; we hope to be able to take full advantage of these possibilities sooner rather than later.

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A larger school also, no doubt, comes with some challenges, not the least of which is how we maintain and build on the close-knit community that has traditionally been the hallmark of DC. More on this for the future blogs. However, rest assured we would not have made such a significant investment in the future if we did not firmly believe that DC would continue to be one of the best and most sought-after schools in the country, if not the region.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to acknowledge the unprecedented situation that we all find ourselves in – remote learning, cancelled exams, limited extracurriculars and much more. The situation remains uncertain and continues to evolve even today. On behalf of my fellow Governors, I would like to profusely thank the entire DC community for pulling together over the last year – the parents for their patience and support, the staff (teachers, support staff, academy tutors and coaches) for their extraordinary efforts to ensure continuity of education and extracurricular activities, and of course the children for their resilience and perseverance. These traits will hold DC in good stead as we start the next critical stage of our journey as a school and as a community.