



STEPHEN CARTER

Vice Chair of the Board of Governors
Doha College

Dear DC Community,

With the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan, I would like to wish you and your families a blessed, healthy and peaceful month. As we return after the Spring break, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and a few new members of the Board of Governors.

I have been a Governor since 2016 and have recently become the Vice-Chair of the board, supporting Gautam Bellur, the Chair. The last five years have witnessed tremendous transformation in Doha College, Qatar and indeed the wider world. Even before COVID-19, much change was afoot in the progress of Doha College with the move to our new campus; and in the development of Qatar as we build towards 2022 and beyond to Qatar National Vision 2030. With the COVID-19 situation escalating rapidly in 2020, all families, schools, companies, governments and institutions have had to change what they do and how they do it. It is clear that some of these changes are here to stay for the long term.

Sometimes it feels that the pace of life gets faster and more intense every day. Of course, as parents and as a school community, we want to provide an anchor point of safety, high performance learning, and an environment in which our students can develop skills that will allow them to flourish into lifelong learners and global citizens. Helping them to understand the world about them is a key part of their development, for they will be adults in a very different world to that which we live in now. They will be the problem-solvers of the future.

The board supports and challenges the school's Leadership Group to provide the best possible environment for our school community. The determination and adaptability displayed by staff, students and families to overcome these challenging times has inspired us all on the board, as we have seen up close how our fantastic staff have tackled adversity and driven standards. In fact, in response to the recent advertising of governor vacancies on the board, we had a record number of applicants.

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So clearly, this inspiration is widely shared by many of you.

All the applicants were interviewed by a panel of governors, of which I was privileged to be a member, and I must say they were an excellent group of candidates. Without exception, they demonstrated a genuine passion for contributing to the oversight of the school, they all had perspective and insight which could prove valuable, and they showed a genuine willingness to give their time and energy.

After much deliberation, we were delighted to appoint the following new governors – Asif Malik, Eduardo Vieira, Umair Siddique and Matthew Heaton. We believe their enthusiasm and leadership will contribute enormously to Doha College in the months and years to come.

As I write this, the MOPH has recently announced a new raft of measures designed to curtail the further spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring us to deliver all teaching via remote learning. This is clearly not what we wanted to hear, but we acknowledge that this terrible virus continues to restrict our livelihoods and lives. Our collective and individual resilience is being tested. So many of the skills and habits that our children are developing will equip them to tackle such challenges in the future. Perhaps we can all learn from the flexibility that our children show us every day.

One day soon, I hope we will all be in Al-Wajba campus together, feeling and hearing the buzz of the community. Until that time, I thank the staff, leadership group, students and families of the Doha College community for their handling of the present hardships, focusing on a better future. I wish you all a successful summer term and a heartfelt Ramadan Kareem.