

## TAYLOR CARTA

Board of Governors Member  
Doha College



I am honoured to have the opportunity to introduce myself to you. I have been a Governor at Doha College for three years, and head of the Education Standards Committee for the past two. At every opportunity I point out that DC has an Education Standards Committee, not an Academic Standards Committee. This distinction is so important as it recognises that there is more to an excellent education than academic results, and that students will not succeed academically if they and the staff do not feel valued, looked after and safe. As such, the Education Standards Committee oversees curriculum and academic benchmarking, as well as co-curricular activities, trips and visits, and student and staff wellbeing and welfare initiatives.

You have heard many times how well our students are coping with blended and remote learning, and the excellent progress that they are making. Developing a well-functioning blended and remote learning model took effort and engagement, and fine tuning of this model occurs daily, even 15 months into the pandemic. We are constantly improving!

Delivering lessons via these models requires that all

teachers, staff and leadership at DC are adaptable and willing to embrace this challenge, and learning via these models needs flexibility, patience, perseverance and a desire to progress. Our students and staff demonstrate these characteristics and this desire every day. This collaborative effort to keep DC students on track is simply astounding, and I would like to thank our entire community—each parent, student and staff member—for their unwavering determination to succeed.

Despite the pandemic, Doha College has not only found a way to continue its work of teaching and learning, but it has also moved forward in important ways. I would like to share a powerful example with you all.

The Cultural Committee was established to determine what kind of community DC wanted to be—specifically, what our expectations and norms should be in relation to diversity, equity and inclusion. The Committee embarked on an effort across all areas of the school to determine where we are, where we want to be, and how we will get there.

Staff from every part of the school and at every level—primary and secondary teaching staff, Evo coaches, administrative staff, leadership etc. all volunteered their time and worked openly and collaboratively. They compiled information based on their experiences and needs and the experiences and needs of students and their families, and used this information as a basis for our new diversity, equity and inclusion policy. This policy touches all areas of life at Doha College, from admissions and HR, to acceptable language and behaviours.

The Cultural Committee understands that their work has not finished with the adoption of the DEI policy, and that the hard work of embedding the policy and its spirit into every aspect of the DC experience has just begun—but what a leap forward! These difficult months have often felt stagnant and interminable. I am so proud that Doha College has used them proactively to build a foundation, safeguarding the wellbeing and welfare of our school community.

I wish you all well and hope that we see each other face-to-face in Al Wajba soon.

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