

## Making a difference to DSIB

Welcome to the second edition of the Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) Newsletter. I hope that you found the first issue useful and informative. It is my intention to keep you up to date as we move forward in developing the DSIB and this newsletter is just one of the ways I hope to do that.

Your input is important to the successful design and implementation of the Bureau. Your feedback is helping us to create a bureau that will serve the unique needs of Dubai's schools. In this edition of the newsletter you can read about how principals, parents and other education stakeholders have been feeding into the development of the quality indicators – the criteria against which inspectors will make judgements about the quality of the education schools provide.

You can also find out how these indicators will be tested during April as we undertake a series of pilot inspections designed to assess the Bureau's processes and procedures before the full programme of inspections starts in September.

If you would like more information about the development of the Bureau, please visit our website at [www.khda.gov.ae/en/inspection](http://www.khda.gov.ae/en/inspection) or email [inspection@khda.gov.ae](mailto:inspection@khda.gov.ae)

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### In this edition:

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- **Inspector recruitment**
- **Pilot inspections have begun**

## Inspector recruitment starts

Recruitment has started for permanent inspectors and senior operational staff who will make up the DSIB team based at KHDA's headquarters in Academic City. To date we have identified the Director of Inspection, responsible for leading the inspector workforce.

Experienced educationalists from around the world have been applying for a range of posts within the new team and many have already been interviewed in Dubai. Posts currently being recruited for include:

- Principal and Senior inspectors responsible for schools following the UAE and International curricula together with the monitoring of schools after inspection;
- Senior inspectors with expertise in Indian, UAE, UK and US curricula;
- Bi-lingual inspectors: Arabic – English.

Interviews have taken place for permanent team members and a number of 'associate inspectors' will also be recruited for specific inspections. These inspectors are likely to have expertise in less common curricula being studied in Dubai such as German or

Japanese and will be employed as and when they are required to undertake inspections in these schools.

## Pilot inspections have begun

Pilot (trial) inspections are currently underway in six of Dubai's schools. Their purpose is to test the processes and procedures we have developed for the operation of the Bureau, both in schools and behind the scenes, before the first full cycle of inspections begins next school year.

A significant number of schools volunteered to take part in the pilot inspections and those chosen have been selected on the basis of size and curricula studied. The schools include government and private schools; offer UAE, US, International Baccalaureate, British and Indian curricula.

Teams of highly experienced inspectors from around the world, including a bi-lingual speaker of Arabic and English, will be visiting Al Ma'aref Secondary Boys School, Deira International School, Om El Soqeim Primary Girls School, Al Ittihad Private School - Jumeira, Our Own High School, and Pristine Private School.

In every school as part of the process the teams will form judgements about students' standards and consideration will be given to:

- How good is the students' progress in key subjects including Arabic, English, Mathematics and Science (for Grades 6 and above)?

- How good is the personal and social development of students?
- How good are the teaching and learning?
- How well does the curriculum meet the educational needs of the students?
- How well does the school protect and support the students?
- How good are the leadership and management of the school?
- And how well the school perform overall

Research in many countries has shown that these aspects are critical to the effectiveness of schools across the world, no matter where they are or which curriculum they offer.

We will be testing whether the Quality Indicators, on which we have consulted widely, are workable in practice and if our proposed approach to inspecting (the numbers of inspectors used, the number of days they are in schools and the office processes for scheduling and operating the inspections) are suitable for producing clear and accurate reports that celebrate successes and explain how things could improve.

We will evaluate all aspects of the Pilot Inspections, using feedback from a wide range of audiences including principals, teachers and inspectors. The lessons learned will inform and improve our approach and methods for September 2008 and beyond.

## Your feedback helps develop quality indicators

Quality indicators are at the heart of most high impact inspection systems worldwide. They provide a framework within which inspectors make judgements on the basis of observed evidence of practice.

We have now completed two rounds of consultation meetings with representatives of key stakeholder groups on the quality indicators that DSIB will use to judge quality in Dubai's schools. We have been greatly encouraged by the responses of those who attended the meetings. Feedback on our proposals has been wholly constructive and for the most part very positive. As a result, we have not felt the need to make drastic changes to the quality indicators our inspectors use in the pilot inspections during April. At the next round of consultation meetings with representatives which takes place mid May, there will be an opportunity to share lessons learned from the pilot inspections. Those involved in the process will be contacted individually.