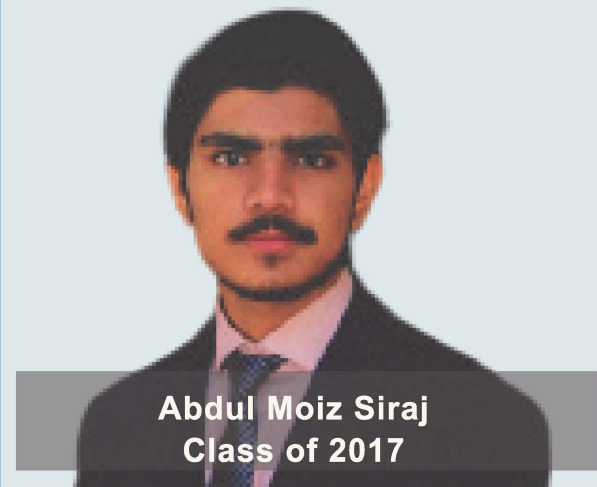



## GIS Alumni


Schools the world over have several objective in their teaching and academic programs; it is to graduate students who are prepared for the future and are ready to go into higher education. This month we want to spotlight a few of our recent alumni.



**Abdul Moiz Siraj**  
Class of 2017



**Zain Humayoun**  
Class of 2017



**Humza Humayoun**  
Class of 2012

I joined Gulf International School in 10th grade I had missed a year of school due to moving to KSA and had no preparation for my IGCSE O-Level exams. I had to prepare for the exams in a year and that would not have been possible without the support of brilliant and supportive teachers at GIS. I would like to thank Mr. Arif Hanif, without his guidance and help getting through school would have been an immense challenge. I would also like to thank Mr. Sagheer, my ICT teacher and Mr. Tabraz, my Math teacher for their help and support throughout my academic life at GIS. With the help of these amazing people

I got 3A<sup>+</sup> and 2As in my O-Levels. I graduated from GIS in 2017 and got admission to the Bachelor of Computer Science program in one of the top universities in Pakistan, IBA. It has been amazing to be a part of GIS and I am grateful for the solid foundation it provided me for my future.

I am in my final year pursuing a degree in BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering at the University of Greenwich in London, United Kingdom. Three years after graduating from Gulf International School I have realized that the opportunity to attend Gulf International School was pure luxury because I have taken so much that I learned from GIS to the University. When I graduated from Gulf International School, I was confused in selecting a degree but the teachers helped me in every way until I was accepted by a university. They made sure that I received their full support even after graduating. I miss the teachers from Gulf who inspired me in subjects that I thought I would hate. They always had time for me to ask questions and they would explain things as many times as it took for me to understand. Gulf taught me that everyone learns differently. Now I attend classes consisting of 100-200 Students and everyone around me learns at a different pace and a different way. The most important thing that Gulf International School has taught me is self-advocacy. Thanks to the teachers they gave me all the confidence that I needed to stand up for myself and to speak with confidence when needed and this has resulted in making me a successful student. I joined Gulf back in 2005 which makes me one of the oldest students of Gulf International School and it's my absolute pride to say without any doubt that Gulf International School has always been my second home, it has helped me in improving my personal development skills for which I am very thankful. My Journey of 12 years in Gulf International School has been absolutely impeccable!

As an alumnus of Gulf International School and one of its first graduates, I can well assure prospective families that their child will be in the best hands with the teachers and staff. The faculty and staff truly care about the students and are available around the clock to help with student needs. Not only does GIS have a college preparatory education environment, but the school's faculty and staff teach life lessons to the students that will be used for decades to come. GIS is nothing but great and is a one-of-a-kind school that cannot be found anywhere else. The school is a great blend of education and self-development, that not only teaches their students how to think but also teaches the important life lessons.

## Gulf International Schools Holds IGCSE and AS Levels Examinations

2020 from  
October 1  
2020 until  
October 8

GIS held practical exams of IGCSE and AS Level examinations for our students who wished to sit for the tests. The exams included IGCSE ICT Practical, AS Physics, Biology and Chemistry Practical's.

» All IGCSE students had to appear for a minimum of five subjects. IGCSE can also be referred to as the O-Levels. These are normally taken in Grade 10.

» AS Level students must appear for a minimum of three subjects for Grade 11 students and are followed by A2 levels at Grade 12.

» Results for the May/June session usually appear in the first week of August. Results for the October/November session usually appear by the first week of January.

## Honoring Our Students

Last month, GIS held a Saudi National Day contest. Students were asked to prepare a 30-second video about the culture or heritage of Saudi Arabia, a celebration of the 90th National Day, or an acknowledgment and appreciation of the Saudi Leadership's efforts in combating Covid-19. We announced the winners in last month's newsletter.



On October 1st, our School Chairman, Mr. Munther Allbrahim, awarded certificates and prizes to our winners. In addition to our contest winners, our student Mohammed Umar in grade 5D of our Boys Section was honored for his creative and original YouTube videos.



**Congratulations to our honorees.**

## International Recognition

Gulf International School has participated in a nation-wide research study on high-stakes testing. This study included participants from GIS. The results of the study are to be published in the International Journal of Assessment and Evaluation. GIS School Director, Dr. Mathis, was part of a research team with professors and instructors from 3 prestigious universities: Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Prince Mohammed University, and Purdue University in Indiana, USA. The research study investigated the effects of high-stakes testing on the stress and anxiety levels of students in middle schools across the Kingdom.

The results were alarming. Parents, educators and students must be led to understand that the effects of comprehensive, high-stakes testing have more negative rather than positive effects on students. Shorter, less-stressful, formative testing given more often over less amounts of materials has been found to cause less stress and anxiety to students. Equally important, parents, students and educators need to know that the outcomes of formative testing have been proven more effective in retention of knowledge than high-stakes summative testing.



## Life Skills

Covid-19 and its devastating effects have touched many lives and the way of life for us all.

Social distancing, covering our faces when in public, additional attention to hand washing and many other health-conscious habits have changed the way we live, socialize and learn.

The many repercussions of this disease have led to learning from home and prevented social interaction for our children. One of our greatest concerns as educators has been the effect of these changes on the health and well-being of our students.

With this in mind, GIS has added a new program to our school's academic curriculum, Life Skills. Life Skills are character-building life lessons intended to give students guidance on how to respond to different social situations, how to cope during times of change and tips and advice on how to contemplate and respond to our feelings.

Our school counselor, Mrs. Rasha, writes, prepares and presents the delivery of these lessons. We have begun Life Skills classes with grades 4 and 5 once per week. GIS has plans to expand our program in the future, in sha Allah.

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## Parents' Advisory

Most people are happy to find problems, but few of us want to work together for solutions. This was of the objective of initiating a Parents' Advisory Committee last year. Mish'Allah, we had many active members last year, and still others who, after signing up, did not attend or contribute to the committee. That doesn't stop us from continuing our Parents' Advisory Committee this year.

The school has posted a link in TEAMS for parents to apply to sit on this committee. If you have an opinion, if you have a concern, if you have ideas to help the school to improve; then join the PAC.

## Parents' Days

GIS held its first Parents Day for this academic year. Parents were invited to attend the school to meet their child's teachers and to receive their first quarter report cards.

In order to follow sensible precautions, GIS followed strict protocols for safety. First and foremost, we held three separate events; one for grades K-3, a second event for grades 4-7 and our final event for grades 8-12.

Only two members from each family were invited to attend. We asked that one parent only accompany the student. Secondly, no one was allowed to enter without an invitation and everyone had to wear a mask at all times and stay in assigned areas to promote social distancing.

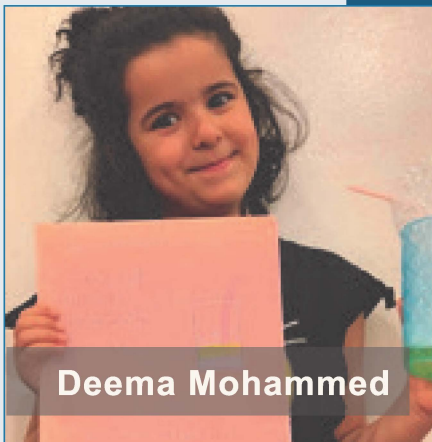
GIS spent several weeks preparing for this event. We wanted to protect our students and parents as well as our faculty. We thank our parents for their support in making this event safe as well as informative.

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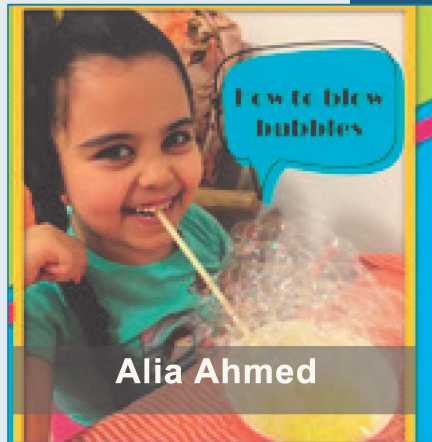
## Students' Page

GIS has many talented and involved students learning new and useful skills every day. This page is our Students' Page. Here we post pictures that demonstrate the learning that is happening at GIS through the eyes of our students.

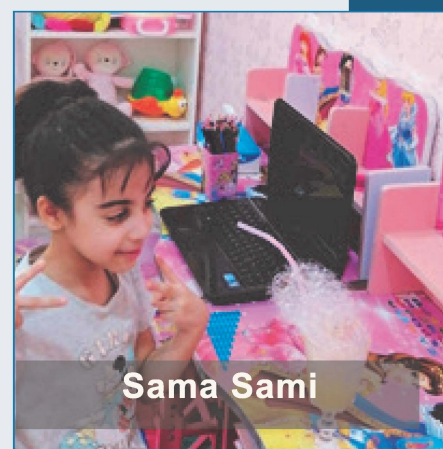
## Please take a look.



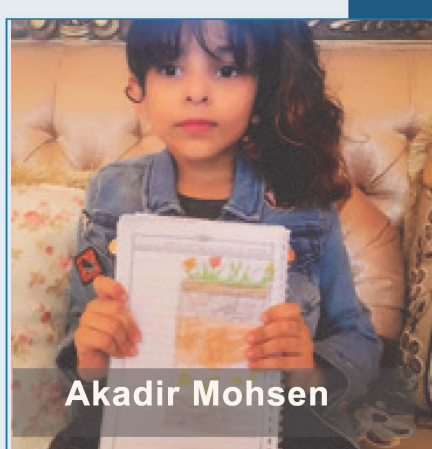
Deema Mohammed



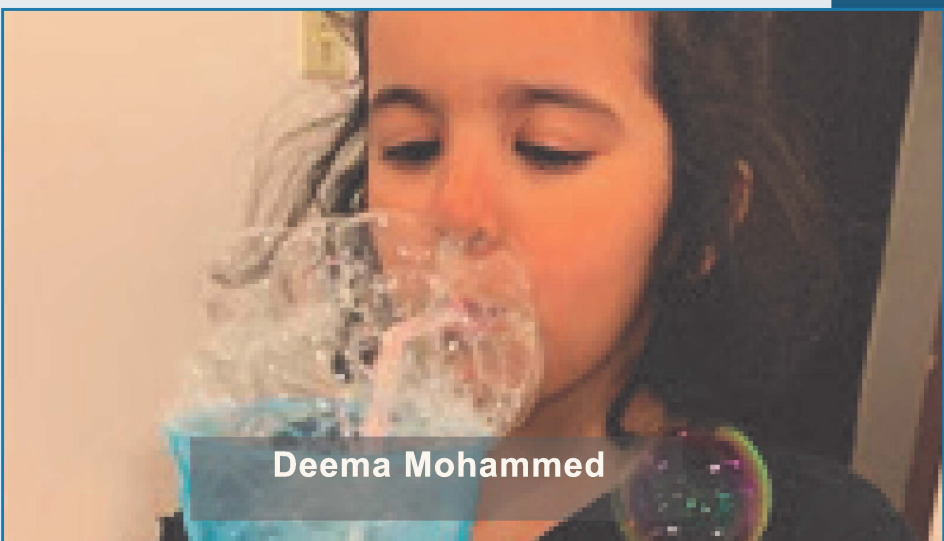
Alia Ahmed



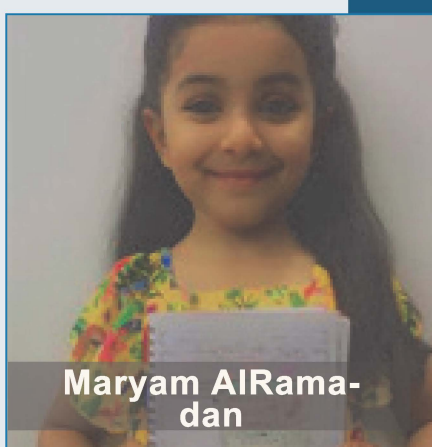
Sama Sami



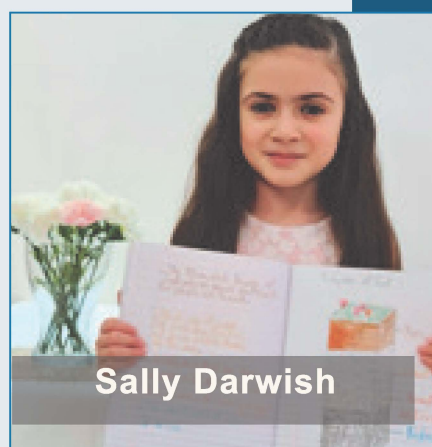
Akadir Mohsen



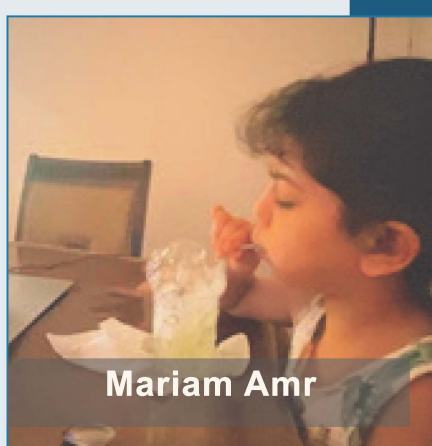
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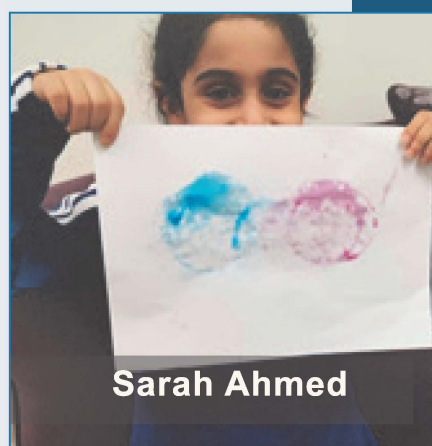
Maryam AlRama-  
dan



Sally Darwish



Mariam Amr



Sarah Ahmed

### POEM by "Hassan"

16 AM Mon 14 Sep Notes and worksheet rhyme and meter copy

Home Insert Draw Layout Review View

Select Objects Draw with

**Mr. Brown the Circus Clown**

Mr. Brown, the circus clown A \_\_\_\_\_  
 puts his clothes on upside down A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 He wears his hat upon his toes B \_\_\_\_\_  
 and socks and shoes upon his nose B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rhyme scheme: AABB \_\_\_\_\_

**All My Great Excuses**

I started on my computer A \_\_\_\_\_  
 but my pen ran out of ink B \_\_\_\_\_  
 My hamster ate my Grade 7-D \_\_\_\_\_  
 My computer's on the blink B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rhyme scheme: ABAB \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: Ms. Zulekha  
 Subject: English  
 Grade 7-D

### POEM by "Abdullah Bin Hamza"

That spending night was full of  
 fireworks and stars  
 fireworks and stars  
 fireworks and stars  
 fireworks and stars

Teacher's Name: Ms. Zulekha  
 Subject: English  
 Grade 7-D

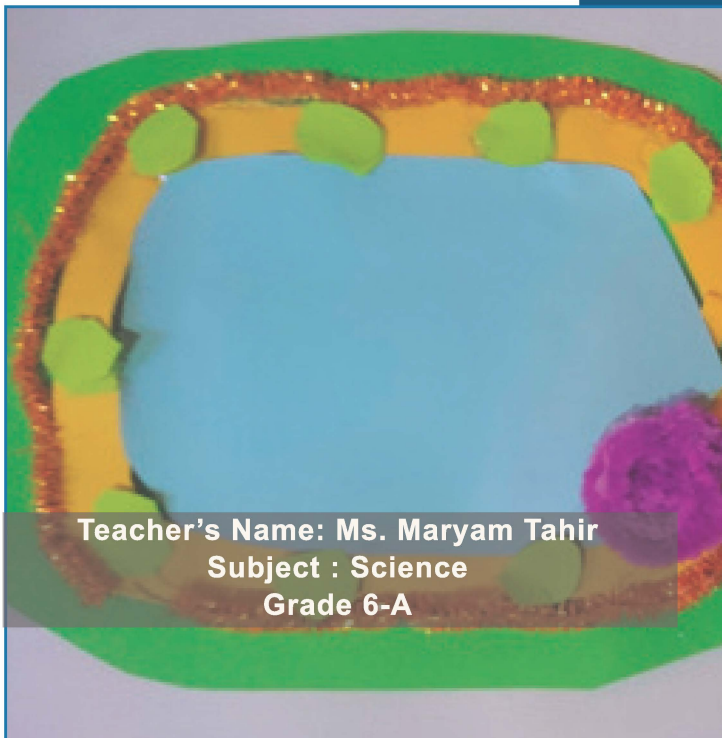
### POEM by "Rehan"

It is large and green  
 keeps the air fresh and clean  
 Started to grow from a small seed  
 but today stands taller than a sea weed  
 stands in the sun  
 Hardly gets a burn  
 let them thrive  
 and they'll keep you alive

Teacher's Name: Ms. Zulekha  
 Subject: English  
 Grade 7-D

## Teachers' In-service – Students Day Off

Plant model by Jana



Teacher's Name: Ms. Maryam Tahir  
Subject : Science  
Grade 6-A

On Thursday, November 4, 2020, GIS will hold it's first semester In-service Professional Development Day for teachers.

As educators, we know it is very important to stay abreast of new developments and research in teaching and learning. This is exceptionally true with the new format of virtual, distance learning. With that objective in mind, GIS will be holding a professional development workshop for all of our teachers; Executing Remote Learning and the power of whole-class instruction.

All classes on November 5, 2020, are cancelled. Students enjoy your long weekend!

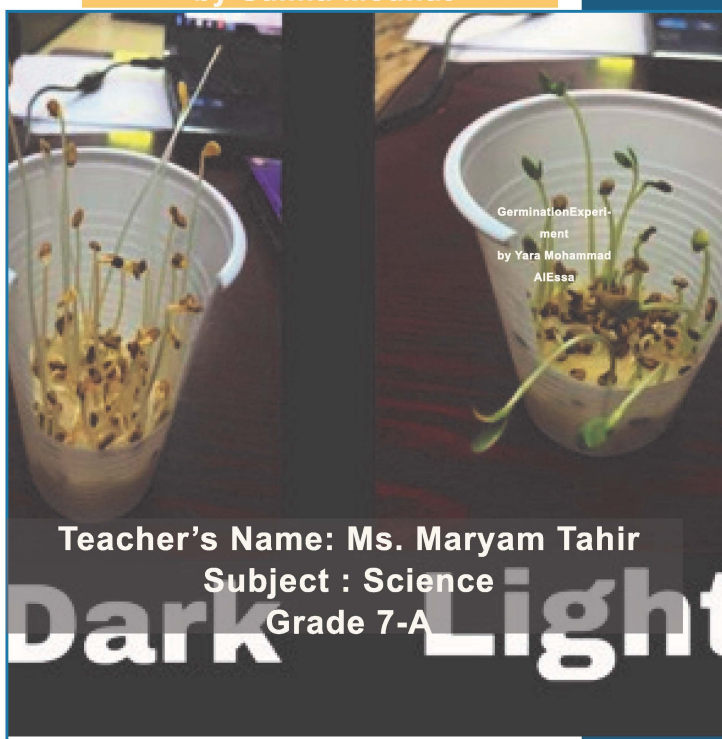
## The Whole Child and After-school Activities

We've been so involved with getting our academic programs off the ground and helping everyone become accustomed to MST and virtual learning; that along the way we haven't had time to focus on the other aspects of education. The Whole Child or Holistic Education seeks to focus on all aspects of a child's well-being. Those include the academics, social, mental health and physical health of each child.

Other than our academic programs, GIS has improvised online virtual morning broadcasts to replace live assemblies where student have the opportunity to catch up with their classmates on what's new at GIS. Mrs. Rasha has begun our Life Skills Classes to help bring focus to the needs of students and the challenges that students face during these times. Coach Ahmed has provided warm-up videos to start each day in addition to activities to combat 'computer fatigue'. Finally, the social interaction that students have in school and the attention to activities other than academic programs has become even more important. This is why we will be starting our after-school programs in November. For four weeks, teachers will present a different weekly activity that students can join in TEAMS. These activities are meant to be fun and interesting. They are not mandatory, but we hope that our students will take a break from studying and have a little fun with us after school.

Educating and caring for the whole child is even more important during this pandemic. We all have to work together to do our best for our students.

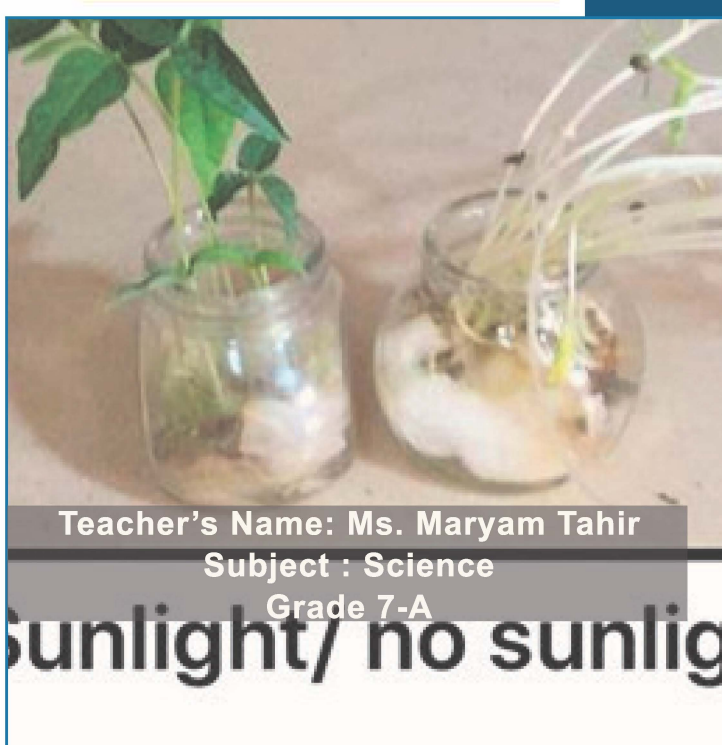
Germination Experiment  
by Salma Medhat



Teacher's Name: Ms. Maryam Tahir  
Subject : Science  
Grade 7-A

Dark Light

GerminationExperiment  
by Yara Mohammad AlEssa



Teacher's Name: Ms. Maryam Tahir  
Subject : Science  
Grade 7-A

Sunlight/ no sunlig

## To Test or Not to Test

Looking on how to assess student learning for the first quarter, our administration had many objectives to consider:

1. How would we administer the tests
2. How to consider the online situation
3. How to ensure reliable results to promote learning
4. How to ensure academic integrity

Looking at our options and searching best practice; we found that short unannounced quizzes offered the best method for all of our objectives. As an administration, our decision received a negative response from a small percentage of our parents who were concerned that students would receive low marks. The results of these unannounced quizzes speak for themselves.

Our first quarter marks were comparable if not slightly better in some cases, than our former high-stakes summative tests.

## GIS INSTRUCTOR GOES GLOBAL

Get **A\*** in ICT Exam

JOIN US IN LIVE SESSION



SPEAKER

**Muhammad Sagheer**

An expert leader plus a qualified senior teacher with 20+ years of expertise in the arena of ICT who has boosted confidence and strengthened knowledge among thousands of successful ICT students.

ATTEND ONLINE SESSION ON

**Saturday, September 26th 2020**

**1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** (Saudi Standard Time)



REGISTRATION

WhatsApp message on **+966 (53) 226 0981**



Gulf International Schools ICT Instructor, Mr. Muhammad Sagheer, has produced and presented an ICT webinar that was broadcast live.

According to Mr. Sagheer, "I had a wonderful experience in conducting a global Webinar to facilitate the learners for ICT exam preparation in this pandemic. Teachers and students joined me from different countries in very short notice."

Students from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Pakistan, India and Canada took part in this webinar.

Mr. Sagheer continues, "I was the main speaker, Miss Reshmi was the moderator, and at my request, there was a short speech by Mr. Arif. We received wonderful appreciation by the audience."

GIS is not only appreciative of Mr. Sagheer and his colleagues' efforts, we are very proud of the talent and ingenuity demonstrated by the teachers of our school.



OCTOBER  
2020

# GULF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Gulf International School  
2814 Naiyrah Street, Al Hamra  
Al Khobar 31952

## **About us:**

Gulf International School was founded in 2005, and is affiliated with the University of Cambridge.

Empowering students from KG to grade 12 with a strong academic base.

## **Curriculum:**

We follow the Cambridge curriculum.