

Greek School of Coventry



ANNUAL REPORT

By Eleni Tsilipira
Headteacher

**2016
2017**

Message from the Chairman of the Greek School of Coventry

We welcome you to share with us the 2016/17 Annual Report of the Greek School of Coventry. Our aim is to inform the friends and members of the Greek Community, but also the wider community of the aspirations and achievements of our school and to establish a vehicle to regularly map and record the achievements and milestones of our community.

I have been fortunate enough to preside over the School Management Committee since 1994 when the new school premises were built and have worked with many enthusiastic head teachers, teachers and committee members. We have been blessed to be situated in a very attractive part of rural Coventry, very close to Warwick University, from where we have drawn most of our qualified Greek teachers. This has made the task of ensuring a consistent supply of high caliber teachers much easier. The success of any school is very much dependent not only on the head teacher, school staff and pupils but also on the active support of parents and friends of the school and we thank them greatly for this. We must of course pay tribute to the authorities that take it upon themselves to ensure the survival and progress of Greek schools throughout Great Britain and throughout the generations.

Andrew Papageorgi

For this we are very grateful for the continued support and guidance received from His Eminence, The Archbishop of Thyateira and GB, Mr Gregorios, and the enormous support received from the Cyprus Educational Mission and its Head in this country, for supplying us with books, teaching material and allocating to us and paying for two teachers.

I would also like, on behalf of the Management Committee to thank our head teacher Mrs Eleni Tsilipira for her relentless efforts to raise the standards of our school and to thank all the teachers for supporting her in this role.

We hope that you find this publication of interest and welcome any comments for improving the presentation and content of the report.



Andrew Papageorgi
Chairman of the Greek school of Coventry

Message from the Head of the Greek School of Coventry

The aim of this report is to keep you fully informed of the progress that the Greek School of Coventry has made and the academic results from the school year 2016-2017.

Another exciting and inspiring school year came to an end. We are a school in which we always work in partnership with our children and parents so that they feel happy, safe and enjoy coming to school.

For the academic year 2016-2017 our examination results were excellent and we are proud of the progress our students have made. We worked closely with parents to ensure that the time their child spent with us was safe and happy as well as successful. Close working relationships between parents, teachers and children ensure the best possible opportunities for achievement, progress and success. The excellent relationships and team-work between different members of our school community make a positive, welcoming environment where everyone's contribution is valued.

I would like to thank our School President, Mr Andrea Papageorgi, for his commitment and endless support, along with all the hard working teaching staff and volunteers who provided excellent opportunities within the classroom, as well as in music and dance and worked together to create a happy school where students are encouraged to develop their skills and confidence and become familiar with our culture.

The school is now in proud possession of 6 projectors and whiteboards. We're also always looking at how to spend the money we have in the best way we can. That includes making sure we get best value for the money we spend.

I hope you find this report helpful. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to phone the school office for an appointment. I will be pleased to offer clarification.



Eleni Tsilipira

Head teacher of the Greek School of Coventry

Contact us



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www.greeksschoolofcoventry.co.uk
Facebook: Ελληνικό Σχολείο Κόβεντρυ

Hours of Operation

Mondays 17:30-19:30

Adults Greek Courses
Beginners

Tuesdays 17:30-19:30

Adults Greek Courses
Post Beginners

Wednesdays 17:30-19:30

Adults Greek Courses
Intermediate/ Post Intermediate Level

Thursdays 17:30-19:30

Adults Greek Courses-
Advanced Level

Fridays: 16: 00-20:30

A2 Grade

Saturdays 10:30-15:00

Reception – A2 Grades



Short History of the School

The Greek School of Coventry was first established in 1964 and has come along way since it was housed at Sidney Stringer School.

We trace below the history of the school since the Greek Community of Coventry was first established.

The Greek Orthodox Community of Coventry was first established in 1964 to serve the religious needs of about 50 families living in Coventry and the surrounding towns of Banbury, Stratford, Nuneaton and Solihull. It soon became apparent to the founding members and the church committee, who were also young parents, that whilst the church served the religious needs of the parents and grandparents, it was essential to cater for the needs of the children. The future of the Greek Community of Coventry and in England in general rested with the children. There was a general recognition to provide suitable accommodation for a Greek school to teach the Greek language, religion, culture and customs.

The religious and educational needs of the Greek community of Coventry were met with the very generous help of the Anglican Church and the local educational authority, by allowing the use of churches such as that in North Street, and Sidney Stringer School.

The growing number of Cypriot families moving to the Coventry area and the dedication of the founding families to have there own church led to the purchase of the current site in 1976. This was a very befitting site as the original building on the site was built in 1847 and with the generosity of Lord Leigh, established the Westwood National School, which was also used as a church, Westwood Church (St John the Baptist) and as a community centre.

By 1976 the number of families comprising the Greek community of Coventry were about 70 and the children numbered about 20 and were served by 2 teachers. The new building acquired was developed and extended to house the church, the school and a community centre. However within 10 years the number of families reached 100 and the number of children doubled, served by 5 teachers. There was a strong requirement within the community for a purpose built school. In 1989 the Board of trustees together with the Church Committee took the decision to erect a purpose built school with all the facilities of a modern school, comprising 6 classrooms, an office, and a hall to accommodate up to 200 persons. The school was completed in early 1994. By 2000 the number of families who were members of the Greek Orthodox Community of Coventry were 150 and the number children attending the Greek School reached 93 with 8 language teachers and a dance teacher.

The curriculum covers Modern Greek language to AS Level 2, history, geography, religious education, dancing, music and theatre

Due to demographic reasons, today the number of registered children have declined to 90 (Plus 30 adults). Over 100 children have achieved their GCSE exams since 2000 and have left the school. There are currently about 12 children who will be taking their exams in May /June 2017. It is projected that within the next 2-3 years, based on the number of baptisms, the influx of young families from Greece, following the economic crisis there and the current age of children attending the school there will be a minimum of 100 children attending the school.

Our Mission, Vision and Objectives

MISSION

We recognise that the children give up their precious spare time on Saturdays to attend the Greek School to learn the Greek language. Our Mission is to create a happy, interesting, exciting and caring environment where the children feel valued and respected, through which we encourage them to achieve their fullest potential academically, socially and culturally.

VISION

Our Vision is to establish the Greek School of Coventry as a centre of excellence in teaching of the Greek language and culture and to attract children from the age of 5 up to the age when they complete their A2 Level exams, from all backgrounds and from as wide an area as possible.

OBJECTIVES

Our major aims are to promote the Greek language, culture and heritage whilst we recognise and value the importance of living in a multicultural society. We recognise and celebrate the individuality and diverse contribution and potential of our school community and we encourage them to achieve their fullest potential in a multicultural, multi-ethnic society.

Whilst we place a strong emphasis on academic success we encourage our children to adopt Christian principles and to be proud of their background, culture and heritage and to show mutual respect and support for each other and the wider community whilst simultaneously respecting the values and beliefs of other ethnic minorities.

As a supplementary school we aim to create as broad and balanced a curriculum to excite and motivate the children, promoting their enthusiasm for learning and inspiring them to acquire and enjoy a wide range of skills and knowledge. The syllabus incorporates Modern Greek Language up to AS2 level history, religious education, theatre, singing, and dancing.

The School Management Committee is committed to adopting the highest possible standards in running the school. The school has been successful in seeking accreditation from the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education (ContinYou) and is planning to seek revalidation of the Bronze and Gold awards over the period 2016/2017. Our next aim is to achieve the Special Distinction Award by the end of the next two academic years.



School Programme

1. Greek Language in two levels: basic and advanced
2. Greek-Cypriot Culture
3. Greek-Cypriot History
4. Greek-Cypriot Traditional Dances
5. Christian customs and celebrations from our Orthodox Religion
6. Greek-Cypriot music and songs
7. Greek Geography

**Greek Lessons also include poetry, literature, grammar and syntax.*

Grades

1. RECEPTION (4-5 Years old)
2. YEAR 1-YEAR 6 (5-11 Years old)
3. PRE GCSE (11-12 Years old)
4. GCSE (12-14 Years old)
5. A LEVEL (As & A2) (14-16 Years old)
6. ADULT GREEK LANGUAGE COURSES

School Management Committee

The members of the School Committee appointed by the Community Board are:

Chairman:	Andreas Papageorgi DBS
Treasurer:	Michael Gabriel
Secretary:	Eleni Tsilipira DBS
Fund Raisers:	Michael Michaels
	Alex Panteli
	Helen Maoudis DBS



School Contributions

School fees:

£ 200 for **Reception up to Pre GCSE** students

£ 250 for **GCSE-A2** students

3rd child pays Half Fees

4th child is free

The Greek School of Coventry has made the following options available to help parents settle their fees quickly and efficiently.

Payment timings :

✚ Parents who have **one child** at school are expected to pay the fees by **22nd of October 2016**.

✚ Parents who have **two children** at school are expected to pay 1/2 of your fees on each payment day :

1/2: by 22nd of October 2016

1/2: by 17th of December 2016

✚ Parents who have **three children** at school are expected to pay 1/3 of your fees on each payment day:

1/2: by 22nd of October 2016

1/2: by 17th of December 2016

1/2: by 11th of February 2017

Methods of payment

The standard method of payment is by cash and/ or check.

Checks made payable to the : Greek School of Coventry.



Teaching Staff

**HEAD TEACHER
GCSE-A LEVEL TEACHER
TSILIPIRA ELENI**



**RECEPTION
TEACHER
AGGELIKI
NIKOLAIDI**



**YEAR 1 TEACHER
AIGLI GIANNAKOU**



**YEAR 2 TEACHER
SOPHIA
ANTONOPOULOU**



**YEAR 4-5 TEACHER
ANDROMAHI
KESOGLOU**



**YEAR 4adv-5adv
TEACHER
EVANGELIA
SOUZA**



**YEAR 3 TEACHER
JACOVOU MARIA**



**Year 6-Pre
GCSE
TEACHER
EFTHYMIA
SOURLA**



**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION-
MUSIC TEACHER
ELENI MAOUDI**



**DANCE TEACHER
ERAKLEOUS STATHIS**



Teaching Staff Info

POSITION	NAME	TEACHING POST	EMAIL - TELEPHONE
School Coordinator	Mr Papageorgi Andrew	-	andrew.papageorgi@btinternet.com 07775821257
Head Teacher	Ms Tsilipira Eleni	GCSE-A Level School Management	elenisykies@yahoo.gr 07553593045
Teacher	Ms Nikolaidi Aggeliki	Reception	
Teacher	Ms Giannakou Aigli	Year 1	
Teacher	Ms Sophiani Antonopoulou	Year 2	
Teacher	Ms Jacovou Maria	Year 3	
Teacher	Ms Kesoglou Andromahi	Year 4-5	
Teacher	Ms Souza Evangelia	Year 4adv-5adv	
Teacher	Ms Sourla Efthymia	Year 6-Pre GCSE	
Teacher	Mrs Eleni Maoudis	Religious Education-Music Teacher	
Teacher	Mr Eracleous Stathis	Dance	

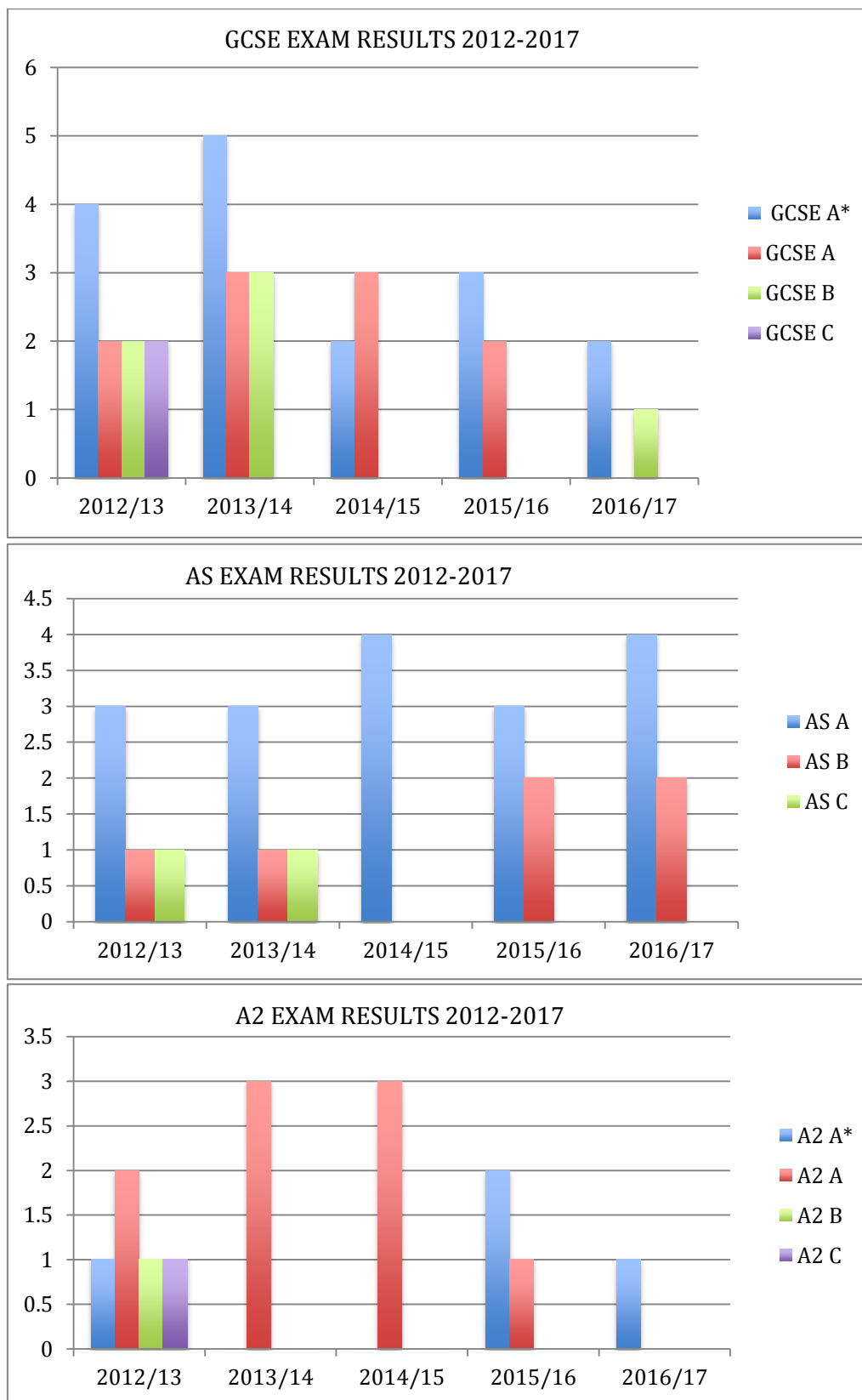


Children's Academic Performance

Whilst the school attaches great emphasis on the children enjoying the experience of attending Greek school nevertheless we attach similar emphasis on academic achievement. It is a recognised fact that many of our children have achieved university admission based on their acquiring high grades in GCSE and A Level Unit 1 and Unit 2 Modern Greek Language.

End-of-the-Year School Tests: Performance Results	
Reception	10 out 14 students achieved level Excellent 4 out of 14 students achieved Very Good
Year 1	7 out 10 students achieved level Excellent 3 out of 10 students achieved Very Good
Year 2	14 out 16 students achieved level Excellent 1 out of 16 students achieved level Very Good 1 out of 16 students achieved level Good
Year 3	6 out 10 students achieved level Excellent 4 out 10 students achieved level Very Good
Year 4-5	8 out 10 students achieved level Excellent 2 out 10 students achieved level Very Good
Year 6-Pre GCSE	6 out 12 students achieved level Excellent 4 out 12 students achieved level Very Good 2 out of 12 students achieved level of Good

External Exam Results		
Exam	No of Children Entered	Results
GCSE	Out of 3 Entries	1A* 1 A 1B
A Level-Unit 1(AS)	Out of 6 Entries	3A 3B
A Level-Unit 2 (A2)	Out of 1 Entry	A*



School Activities

The school has successfully organised 7 presentations/plays by children to demonstrate to parents their progress in mastering the Greek language, dancing and singing. These events are widely supported and attended by the families and friends of the children and are established as major events in the calendar of the community. The children love to take part in these events as they have the chance to demonstrate their singing, dancing and acting which they find very exciting. It is a great day for all to enjoy.

Below, you can find a detailed table of the events and a few photos capturing them:

SCHOOL EVENT CALENDAR 2016-2017			
	EVENT	TEACHER IN CHARGE-SPEECH	CONTENT OF EVENTS
Sunday 22/10/2016 Church	"OXI DAY" Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech Sophiani Antonopoulou	Poems and songs
Saturday 17/12/2016 School Hall	Christmas Bazaar Family Christmas Workshop	Teachers in Charge All teachers	Christmas Crafts, Christmas deserts
Sunday 18/12/2016 School Hall	Christmas Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech Angeliki Nikolaidi Teachers in Charge All teachers	Drama, Christmas songs- carols, dance
Sunday 29/01/2017 School Hall	Three Hierarchs Celebration	Speech Evangelia Souza Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems and songs
Sunday 24/03/2016 School Hall	MARCH 25th, 1821 GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY- THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION - APRIL 1ST, 1955 EOKA GREEK CYPRIOT REVOLUTION DAY	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Speech All teachers Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems, songs, drama, dance
Saturday 26/03/2017 School Hall	Easter Bazaar	Teachers in Charge All teachers	Easter Crafts, easter candles, easter eggs
Sunday 02/07/2017 School Hall	End of School Year Celebration	Invitations-letters-programme-general responsibility Eleni Tsilipira Teachers in Charge All teachers	Poems, songs, drama, dance

On the 23rd of October 2016, we commemorated those heroes who did not hesitate to offer even their lives for Freedom, Democracy and Human Dignity. Our students reminded us through poems and songs of our important heritage, dating from ancient times to the present as well as the how the human spirit is mightier than the force and the strength of a conqueror.



28th of October 1940

On the 17th of December 2016, we organized our Christmas Bazaar. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents and for the wider community to purchase Christmas hand-made decorations, gifts, toys and traditional Christmas Desserts from Greece and Cyprus and raise money for our school. On the same day we celebrated our Christmas Party for parents and friends. The greatest reward was seeing so many children and families together in the school.



Christmas Bazaar

On the 17th of December 2016, we invited parents to our Family Christmas Workshop, one of our most beloved workshops of the year! The main aim was for everyone, parents, students and teachers to have a lot of fun and spend some joyful time making Christmas decorations, dressing the Christmas tree, decorating Gingerbread cookies and making Christmas cards!

The plan was all the children do Christmas activities with parents and get very glittery! We did it! Additionally, drinks/cakes/savouries were offered.



Family Christmas Workshop

On the 18th of December 2016, was held our Christmas Play “Νύχτα Χριστουγεννιάτικη ” & “Αγέλαστη Πολιτεία” and was a great success. Friends and family joined us in the school hall for this wonderful production. Well done to all of the children who took part, sang the carols and thank you to the staff and volunteers who made it possible.



Christmas Celebration

On the 29th of January 2017, we celebrated the annual “Three Hierarchs” Day, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Students gave short presentations and said poems in Greek honoring the Three Hierarchs. Certificates to last year’s GCSE and A’ Level students were given as well, as part of the event.



The Three Hierarchs & the Greek Letters

On Sunday, March 26 2017, we celebrated with great honor the 25th of March 1821 Revolution, one not only of political significance but of religious significance as well, allowing the Greek Orthodox to commemorate God's message to Mary. We also celebrated the Feast of Annunciation and the Eoka Greek – Cypriot Revolution. The day once again brought the community to participate in the annual Independence Day. After the Church Service all of our students participated in the parade dressed in traditional costumes and through our small dramas, traditional dances and songs we commemorated the glorious achievements.



25th of March 1821-1st April 1955/'59-The Feast of Annunciation

On the 2nd July 2017, we celebrated the end of the school year through our school Play «Ταξίδι στα νησιά» & «Ο Νευρικός κύριος». We enjoyed a lot our students' performances. Then, a great BBQ took place with lots of food, dance, traditional games and singing! We also raised approximately £2000, thanks to all our school's friends!



End of School Year Celebration-School BBQ

Other Indoor Activities throughout the year

Musical Theatre at the Greek School of Coventry

On the 8th of April 2017 the Oscar Wilde's beautiful and moving tale "The Selfish Giant" was presented at the Greek School of Coventry Hall by the "Image Musical Theatre". With beautiful period costumes, an enchanting set, professional actors and wonderful music from Robert Hyman, this production enhanced students, parents and teachers.



LEARNING ABOUT THE 12 OLYMPIAN GODS

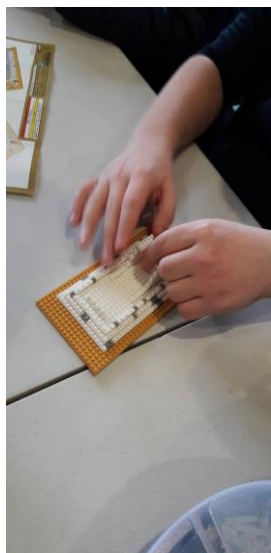
On the 10th of December 2016, was held our first educational program about the Olympians Gods, in cooperation with the MUSEUM OF ACROPOLIS in Athens.

All of our Reception-Year 1-2-3 students had the great opportunity through this Educational Program to come into close contact with ancient Greek civilisation and the myths, symbols and special qualities of each God. They were also engaged in educational games, workshops and activities to help them express more positive attitudes towards Greek Mythology and entertain themselves.



LEARNING ABOUT THE PARTHENON

On the 11th of February 2017, was held our second educational program for the school year 2016-2017 about the Parthenon, in cooperation with the MUSEUM OF ACROPOLIS in Athens. The aim of this great educational program was to encourage our students to explore and interpret the Parthenon and its sculpture, to understand better the topography and history of the Sacred Rock and recreate, with their imagination, this important sanctuary where Athenians worshipped their goddess protector. Students became acquainted with the architecture of the Parthenon – the largest temple of the Acropolis and explored the subjects of the sculptures that adorned it!



EASTER BAZAAR-STUDENTS WORKING WITH TEACHERS



This year, like every year, we had arranged meetings with parents, to discuss their children's progress at school. All teachers were very satisfied working with parents so well. This parent-school partnership can be seen in our pupils' performance results as well, which is a great achievement for all of us!

Indoor Activities Schedule				
Day	Annual School Blessing	Parent's Meeting Term A	Parent's Meeting Term B	Parent's Meeting Term C
Saturday	10/09/2017	10/12/2016	1/04/2017	24/06/2017



**WHAT CHILDREN
NEED MOST.....**
LOVE Respect **to PLAY**
 to have fun to be seen
TO BE LISTENED TO
 Your presence A hero
 A fostered sense of wonder
LOTS OF HUGS To **PLAY**
 The chance to make mistakes
 Encouragement to try again
 Room to grow **DREAMS**
 To be told **YES!**
 To be trusted Affection
GUIDANCE **TO PLAY**

Growing A Jeweled Rose.com

Summary of achievements for 2016-2017

- ❖ Cypriot Mission of Education Inspections: Successful School Performance
- ❖ Excellent end-of-the-year results, which were discussed with parents, as part of the parent-school partnership: increase in student performance
- ❖ Excellent GCSE & A' Level results: increase in student performance
- ❖ Educational Projects in cooperation with the Museum of Acropolis, Athens
- ❖ First Aid Awareness, Teaching and Learning in Supplementary Schools Training, Safeguarding for Supplementary Schools Training, Development and Management of Supplementary Schools, Fire Extinguisher Training Course, Greek Rhythms Dance Teacher Training, New Teaching Techniques Training for Teachers
- ❖ Seven successful open-to-the-public school performances
- ❖ Three fundraising events: a respectable amount of money was raised for the school
- ❖ School website and Facebook pages and School – Parent communication via emails improved
- ❖ Parents'/Teacher's HandBook: an improved version
- ❖ Lesson and Activities Curriculum for every Key stage at school

Conclusion

Another amazing year has come to an end! I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank to our hard working and dedicated teachers, families and school committee for their commitment to student achievement. We are blessed to have such an innovative, hard working and passionate staff of teachers and volunteers, who possess kindness, love and integrity for their students, supportive parents and amazing students. Each of our students has brought such joy and happiness to our school. Friends and family often laugh at us when we refer to our students as "our kids". They all have touched our life and this school year in very positive and rewarding ways.

It is always difficult to say farewell. I would like to express our appreciation and thank in a special way our Reception teacher, Ms Aggelina Nikolaidi, Year 1 teacher, Ms Aigli Giannakou, Year 2 teacher, Ms Sophiani Antonopoulou, Year 4-5 teacher, Ms Andromahi Kesoglou, Year 4adv-5adv teacher, Ms Evi Souza, Year 6-Pre GCSE teacher Efie Sourla and our Dance teacher, Mr Stathis Eracleous for their great and hard work all these years, for being so supportive and working hard with us to meet the needs of their students and provide the very best for them. We are really grateful for their true love for their students' progress and safety as well as for their focus oriented and quality education they offered to them! We wish them all the best in their new jobs.

We would also like to thank our volunteers Ms Eleni Maoudis and Marios Timotheou for their outstanding commitment and efforts towards our school. We appreciate their dedication and time. They deserve most of all our gratitude.

We would also like to thank you our school coordinator, Mr Andreas Papageorgi and the school committee for taking an active role in your child's education and for helping us achieve our educational goals.

I am very excited to announce that we have several new faces joining our family! I welcome our Reception Teacher, Ms Vera Girba, our Year 1 teacher, Ms Konstantina Krokidi, our Year 3 teacher, Ms Konstantina Tilkeridou, our Year 4-5 teacher, Ms Syllia Paraschou, our Year 5adv-6 Dimitra Sidiropoulou, our GCSE-AS teacher, Ms Polina Mesinioti and our Dance teacher, Ms Stavroula Pentara. We are extremely happy that Ms Maria Jacovou, who has proven on numerous occasions through her hard work how much she loves our school, will be with us next year. She will be our Year 2 teacher. Our A2 teacher will be Ms Eleni Tsilipira.

Back to the school on the 9th of September 2017!

I am absolutely confident the school will continue to thrive!

Best regards
Eleni Tsilipira
Head teacher of the Greek School of Coventry

