

All classes will be held at the Mukkolakal premises for this academic year. Mr. Mike Brown has suggested some major remodelling, which is being done before the school year begins.

Uniforms are being made at Bobby Tailors, at Pongomoodu. Please make the payment for the same at the school office and take your child to the tailors for measurements. We have bought cotton fabric since many parents wanted cotton and that is definitely more comfortable for the kids –

Footwear – as usual, children need to wear any comfortable shoes or sandals – we've realised that most of the children prefer running barefoot!! But if parents want, they are welcome to keep a spare pair of slippers in the school, for wearing indoors. With the monsoons approaching, we won't be allowing outside shoes indoors, since that would get all rooms really messy, especially the toilets.

IMPORTANT DATES –

5th April – Fees for April, May
5th May – Non-refundable deposit
29th May – book issue

THE GURUKUL
MUKKOLAKAL, KALAYAM PO
TRIVANDRUM



THE COMPLETE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

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MR. PENDHARKAR, a Canadian Educational Consultant with many years of experience as Principal and teacher in Canada is coming into Trivandrum to help set up the Gurukul's new avatar. He has seventeen years of experience in educational administration and has taken initiatives for new projects. His experience includes administration of staff members and support staff, coordinating supervision, scheduling and all aspects of a school principal ship. He is also able to observe behavioral situations and carry out appropriate behavior modification procedures as well as supervise professionals carrying out these duties. He has had significant involvement in district committees, projects such as design of school renovation and new school buildings. Mr. Pendharkar and Mr. Horsburgh who did our interviews and are giving of their advice willingly have and will be giving of their time on a voluntary basis!! The Gurukul is surviving on the help of our innumerable well-wishers.

MR. MICHAEL BROWN is joining The Gurukul as Principal. He has many years of experience in the UK and the Middle East. He has a B.A. (Hons) degree in Geography from the West Of England University, Bristol and a PGCE from Bristol University and is

currently studying for an MA Education with Bath University. He has 9 years teaching experience of which 5 years was in the UK at Caerleon Comprehensive and he has been at Qatar International School, Doha for four years. He is currently Deputy Head of Secondary and was previously Head of Humanities. This is a school of over 1500 students. He has taught KS3 (Key Stage 3), GCSE, IGCSE and AS/A level Geography and KS3 History. He will also be handling Mathematics and Science at The Gurukul. Mr. Brown will also be handling sporting and other out door activities of the children at The Gurukul. His current assignment ends on June 23rd and he will be here on June 25th. Mr. Pendharkar will hold the fort until the arrival of Mr. Brown.

MS. ELAYNE MCWHIRTER has taught in secondary education for 8 years. She has taught subjects including History, Art, Sociology and Personal, Social Education. Her main subject is History which she has taught extensively to ages 11-18 including GCSE and A Level. For eight years she taught at Sutton Coldfield Girls Grammar School, which gained some of the highest GCSE and A Level pass rates in the UK. Whilst at this school she achieved considerable examination success and her lessons were awarded at the highest level by an OFSTED inspection. She likes to use active and innovative approaches in lessons including ICT, drama and group work. She has kept up to date with academic developments in her field and her Master of Philosophy thesis in Medieval History is under examination. She has also worked as an examiner for the English Board AQA for the past three years and has been awarded the highest grade for her marking of A Level History papers. Therefore, assessment of student's work is one of her key strengths.

Elayne will also be contributing to many extra-curricular activities and she has experience of community art and craft work and enjoys taking classes in fabric painting, pottery and jewellery making. She has also accompanied students on many outdoor education residential courses and supervised during activities such as rock climbing, canoeing and mountain walking. She has also helped organise field trips to sites of historical interest and has shown willingness to contribute to the experiences of the students outside the classroom. Ms. McWhirter will join us on the 22nd of June, since she is currently marking papers for the IGCSE and will be unable to leave before submission of the same.

Also joining The Gurukul is **MRS. CHRISTINE PICTON** who is currently

in her 3rd year of teaching a Year 1 class at a private, international school catering for children from 3 years to 16 years old. This is a British national curriculum school and consists of children from many different countries, including India, Pakistan, Britain, UAE and S. Africa. Her contribution to after school activities has always been in the area of art and craft. She has experience of both UK schools and international schools. She taught at the local infant school in Cambridge for several years, going successfully through two OFSTED inspections and the 'threshold' - an advanced teaching level for experienced teachers. She will be handling classes from KG upto Grade 2. Mrs. Picton will be joining us only on August 5th. Bringing in international staff from other schools would always mean a gap, since international schools work on a different time frame and close for the year only at the end of June, so unless we can convince teachers not to take a much needed break, we would have to wait for them till their holidays are over.

MRS. INEKE VOS is joining The Gurukul from her current assignment teaching ITGS and Business and Management at IB Diploma level, Computer Technology at upper primary level, at the International School of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Before that, she was Head of Department, ICT at The International School of Lusaka, Zambia, for 5 years. Her extra-curricular activities include Creative Textiles, helping out with school music/drama productions and Yearbook. She can also teach swimming to beginners and has a swimming-aid certificate. She has served on various board committees, including Finance, Education, Long-Term Planning and Accreditation. Mrs. Vos will also be handling Science and Mathematics. Mrs. Vos should be here in the middle of June.

TRAINEE TEACHERS - The Gurukul will also be taking in trainee teachers who can be trained to take pride in their work and who can contribute to the growth of the child. With the advent of these new teachers, the children at The Gurukul are going to be exposed to the best of teaching methods adopted in international schools, right here in Kerala.

Mrs. Vimala Menon has expressed her inability to spend a full – day at the school, due to time constraints and various engagements. She will however remain on the Managing Committee and will come in once a month to spend time interacting with the children.