

## ➔ GRAHAM BEALE

Graham Beale talks to *EJME* about his role as founding principal at The Arcadia Preparatory School and his priorities in the run up to the opening

**P**rior to joining Arcadia Preparatory School as founding head, Graham Beale was part of the management team at Al Khor International School, Qatar – one of the largest British curriculum schools in the Middle East.

“My move to The Arcadia Preparatory School project has seen me change roles from that of leading a school of around 2,000 pupils, to one that will open for the very first time in a few months. Building a dynamic team from scratch and taking the project from an academic plan on paper through to the ultimate school opening, requires a very hands-on approach, which I am thoroughly enjoying,” he states.

The experience of running a large school will also help in setting up a new one, Beale believes. He notes: “My previous school required the ability to think and plan strategically as a leader and to ensure lines of communication are al-

ways clear. These skills are readily transferable to a start-up project, where the ability to hold a vision while planning for and achieving smaller milestones along the way is vital. Self-motivation is crucial and I have been extremely fortunate that the team at Arcadia is one of the most professional, hard-working and goal-oriented group of people I have worked with during my time in education.”

Beale and his team are now busy preparing for the opening in August, and building a relationship with the parents is a key focus for the team. “Strong lines of communication with our parent body will be vital and we intend to use technology as well as many face-to-face opportunities to engage fully with our parents. We appreciate how vital our new parents are and I have no doubt that we will nurture a strong and on-going relationship,” he says.

### BIOGRAPHY

Graham Beale joined Arcadia Preparatory School following his role as head of primary at Al Khor International School, Qatar. Beale has experience and expertise in international educational leadership, having successfully led schools in the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East, as well as in his home country of New Zealand. A highly qualified teacher and school leader, Beale recently completed his Masters of Science with distinction through Leicester University, specialising in research on the development of high performing professional teams within an international context.



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