

## PRESS RELEASE

31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015

**"Imvrian Educational and Cultural Association"** [İmroz Eğitim ve Kültür Derneği] (Istanbul), **"Imvrian Association"** (Athens) and **"Imvros Union of Macedonia-Thrace"** (Thessaloniki) are pleased to announce that following the fulfillment of the last prerequisite, the licensing of the High School by the Turkish authorities, the new school year 2015-2016 will find the island of Imvros (Gökçeada - older name in Turkish: İmroz) for the first time in its history with complete primary and secondary Greek education: Primary School (grades 1-4), operating since 2013 in the village of Agioi Theodoroi (Zeytinli), Middle School (grades 5-8) and High School (grades 9-12) which are to operate in the newly renovated school buildings of the village of Agridia (Tepeköy).

Thanks to the tireless and intensive efforts of the Greek Orthodox Community, the awareness and commitment of the state entities both in Greece and Turkey, but also thanks to generous sponsors, our dream has now been transformed into reality fifty one years following the forced closure of Greek schools on Imvros and Tenedos in the context of a number of measures and policies taken at the time against the Greek Orthodox population of the two islands.

We feel obliged to express our deepest gratitude to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to the governments of Turkey and Greece for their decisive contribution and to everyone who supported the entire effort in any manner whatsoever. We expect that we will have even more support for the teachers, pupils and Imvrian returnees so that the Greek community of Imvros and Tenedos may be saved from extinction and secure the future for generations to come.

You are all cordially invited to the official launch of the School Year on Monday, 28 September 2015, at 9:00 a.m., as well as to the blessing and inauguration of the Middle School and High School which will be held in the presence of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on Monday, 12 October 2015.

For IMVRIAN EDUCATIONAL  
AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

For IMVRIAN ASSOCIATION

For IMVROS UNION OF  
MACEDONIA-THRACE

Pantelis-Lakis Vingas  
President

Paris Asanakis  
President

Pavlos Stamatidis  
President