

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #18  
16th January, 2025



Message from the  
Principal/CEO  
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Parent Satisfaction Survey, from 20/1/25

GEMS are releasing this year's Parent Satisfaction Survey on Monday 20/1/25, giving you the opportunity to have your voice, & to share what is going well & ideas for improvement. Your feedback is important & we value constructive, specific team-work feedback. Do please spare a few minutes of your time to complete it & keep your score as 'Promotor' 9 or 10 to support. Many thanks.

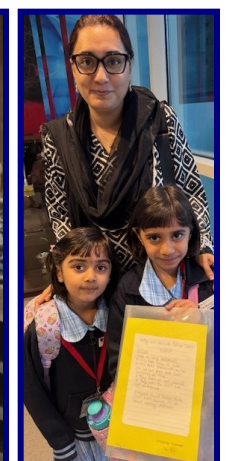
SPEA School Performance Review (ITQAN SPR) Inspection, From Monday 20/1/25

Please note that next week we are hosting the SPEA SPR inspection team. They will be reviewing safeguarding, teaching, learning & student behaviour. We look forward to showing off our amazing students! Please ensure that your children **arrive in school by 7:15am in perfect, smart school uniform with school ID card.**

Student Safeguarding will be an inspection priority, so do please **remember to wear & show your parent ID.** Thank you.

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Mon. 6/1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrollment assessment starting. Assessments given according to the date of Registration., Seats are very limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment</li> <li>First day of T2.T2 fees due by latest first day of Term, thank you.</li> </ul>
Mon. 20/1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEMS Parent Satisfaction Survey opens</li> </ul>
Thurs. 26th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day of compulsory T3 Promotional Exams</li> </ul>
Thurs. 3rd July, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The last official day for students for this academic year.</li> </ul>



*Our Vision; 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All'*

# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 18  
16 يناير 2025



رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي  
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر  
الشارقة الأعزاء،

استبيان رضا الوالدين، من  
20/1/25

ستصدر شركة GEMS استطلاع  
رضا الوالدين لهذا العام يوم الاثنين  
الموافق 20/1/25، مما يتيح لك  
الفرصة للتعبير عن رأيك ومشاركة ما

يسير على ما يرام والأفكار للتحسين. تعليقاتك مهمة ونحن نقدر  
التعليقات البناءة والمحددة للعمل الجماعي. يرجى تخصيص بضع  
دقائق من وقتك لإكمالها والحفاظ على درجتك كـ "مروج" 9 أو  
10 لدعم ذلك. (أنظر ص 4-5 للحصول على الإرشادات).  
شكراً جزيلاً.

تفتيش تقييم أداء المدارس (ITQAN SPR)، اعتباراً من  
يوم الاثنين 20/1/25

يرجى ملاحظة أننا سنستضيف فريق تفتيش SPEA SPR في  
الأسبوع المقبل. سيقومون بمراجعة السلامة والتدريس والتعلم  
وسلوك الطلاب. نحن نتطلع إلى إظهار طلابنا المذهلين! يرجى  
التأكد من وصول أطفالك إلى المدرسة بحلول الساعة 7:15  
صباحاً بالزي المدرسي الأنيق المثالي مع بطاقة هوية المدرسة.

ستكون حماية الطلاب من أولويات التفتيش، لذا يرجى تفكير  
ارتداء وإظهار بطاقة هوية الوالدين. شكراً لك.

## المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الاثنين 6/1/25	بدء تقييم التسجيل. سيتم إجراء التقييمات وفقاً لتاريخ التسجيل، لذا نظراً لأن المقاعد محدودة للغاية، إذا كنت تريد مقاعد جديدة، فيرجى التسجيل مبكراً لتجنب خيبة الأمل.
الاثنين 20/1/25	اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الثاني. يجب دفع رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثاني في موعد أقصاه اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي، شكراً لك.
الاثنين 20/1/25	تم افتتاح استبيان رضا أولياء الأمور في مدارس GEMS
الخميس 26 يونيو	اليوم الأخير من امتحانات الترقية الإلزامية للصف الثالث الثانوي
الخميس 3 يوليو 2025	آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي.



رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع"

The most important gifts you can give your child are a **quality education** and the **values** that will guide them through life

Sunny Varkey

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### *Parent Handbook Access QR Code*

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Find our updated **Parent Handbook** through this QR code. Check-out school policies & procedures to be familiar & comfortable with our system.



# Whole School News; T2 Fire Drill With Civil Defense, 13/1/25



We thank Mr. Saeed Al Suwaidi & the visiting Civil Defense Team for their positive fire drill feedback & exciting fire-fighting display on 13/1/25. Feedback from them was that WSS is 'very well organized for fire safety & response.'



# Whole School News; T2 ECA Programme!

26/11/24

Dear Parents,

## Subject: WSS Optional Term 2 Extra-Curricular Activity (ECA) Programme

Our term 1 ECA programme was a great success with over 260 students enjoying a range of activities. We are now registering students for our term 2 ECA Programme as it will begin in week 2 due to the holy month of Ramadan starting in March.

We would like to thank you for your support as we make provisions to enhance our students' personal and social development and their innovation skills. Your feedback is vital, and we really appreciate our WSS Family. Term 1 was a huge success, please do forward any feedback and suggestions to your child's form tutor who will share this with our ECA Coordinators.

Details of the ECA activity options are below:

- Day: **Wednesday after school**  
 Time: **2:30pm to 4:00pm**  
 Transport: **BBT students will be dropped by bus, OT students can be picked up at 4:00pm**  
 Dates: **Term 2: 6 weeks, every Wednesday, starting from 15/01/25 until 19/02/25**  
 Cost: **250 AED per term**  
 Registration: **On GEMS Parent Portal then complete <https://forms.office.com/r/3gUnhDVhZ6>**  
 Options: **One option each term from:**



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Y2 - Y6</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Badminton</b>	<b>Mixed Sports</b>	<b>Theatre</b>	<b>WSS Talks</b>	<b>AI   Coding   Robotics</b>	<b>Smart Art</b>
	6 week football coaching program with games.	6 week badminton coaching program with games.	Mixed sports including cricket, basketball as well as yoga classes.	Activities leading to a performance during the term. <i>(includes, singing, dancing, musical instruments and drama)</i>	PBL task leading to presentations by students. <i>(debates, TedX, MUN, competitions, presentations)</i>	6 week program using a range of educational resources enhance knowledge of AI, Coding and Robotics.	6 week art project to enhance students knowledge and skills.
<b>Y7 - Y13</b>	6 week football coaching program with games.	6 week badminton coaching program with games.	Mixed sports including cricket, basketball as well as yoga classes.	Activities leading to a performance during the term. <i>(includes, singing, dancing, musical instruments and drama)</i>	PBL task leading to presentations by students. <i>(debates, TedX, MUN, competitions, presentations)</i>	6 week program using a range of educational resources enhance knowledge of AI, Coding and Robotics.	6 week art project to enhance students knowledge and skills.

	8	9	10	11
<b>Y7 - Y13</b>	<b>WSS Foodies</b>	<b>WSS Media</b>	<b>Zumba (girls only)</b>	<b>Action Research Project</b>
	Flameless cooking, nutrition support and recipe creations. <i>(max 25 students)</i>	<i>(Y7-13 only)</i> Students develop skills which will support them to create media content. There will be a focus on the planning and design of media campaigns and students will be part of a team that will create content for our school. <i>(max 20 students)</i>	Zumba is a latin inspired, fun, effective dance workout for students of all ages. Each week a different theme will be introduced and the class will for girls only in our Juniors Sports Hall. <i>(max 20 students)</i>	6 week program where students research and review a topic. This includes writing a mini research paper to prep for University. <i>(Y11-13)</i>

	12	13
<b>Y2</b>	<b>Junior Talks</b>	<b>Junior AI</b>
	<i>(Y2 only)</i> Supporting Junior students to build their communication, debating and public speaking skills. This will develop students' confidence as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills. <i>(max 20 students)</i>	<i>(Y2 only)</i> 6 week program using KUBO, VR and ZUMI to introduce students to AI and Robotics. <i>(max 20 students)</i>

## Whole School News; T2 ECA Programme!



Please complete the payment on the GEMS Parent Portal by **12:30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. This will allow us to distribute the students into groups for the various activities. Please note students will be allocated groups on day one and requested to continue with their choice to complete the 6-week sessions planned.

- \* Once classes with maximum student numbers are filled, the option will be removed, or we may ask students to choose an alternative.
- \* Only complete the ECA choice link once payment has been made.

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### Key Points:

1. Parents pay on GEMS Parent Portal under “Activities”. (please do not pay in tuition fees).
2. After payment parents can use [this link](https://forms.office.com/r/3gUnhDVhZ6) to enter their child’s student details and ECA Choice: <https://forms.office.com/r/3gUnhDVhZ6> (use child’s eLearning account details to access the form).
3. Students will be allocated activity groups on the first day of ECA Programme.
4. Every Wednesday of the 6-week ECA programme, students will be guided to the Auditorium at the end of the school day.
5. Teachers will come to the auditorium; register and then escort their students to the allocated activity area (maximum 25 students per teacher).
6. Students participating in sports can either wear their P.E kit to school or bring it with them and change at school (younger students are advised to wear their P.E kit and come).
7. Our ECA activities end at 4:00pm. At this point BBT students are taken to the auditorium and make their way to the bus area once they are ready. OT students will be dispersed from the OT areas as usual (please do not come into the auditorium).
8. Please note we expect students to continue with their chosen ECA activity for the 6 weeks as each programme is designed with learning outcomes over this period.
9. Some of the sessions (e.g. Foodies or AI and Robotics etc.) have limited spaces. Once these are filled, we will remove this option on the form.

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**‘Excellence Through Teamwork, Success for All’**

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## *Whole School News; WSS Headlice Policy!*

Please note the following Headlice Policy, as published in the Parent Handbook (see p40-41).  
The Clinic does spot checks through the school as per their schedule.

While we do not want to lose learning time or embarrass our students, health & safety must be a priority & the following policy is non-negotiable:

### Head Lice

As in all schools, at times there may be cases of head lice, which are extremely infectious. Please note:

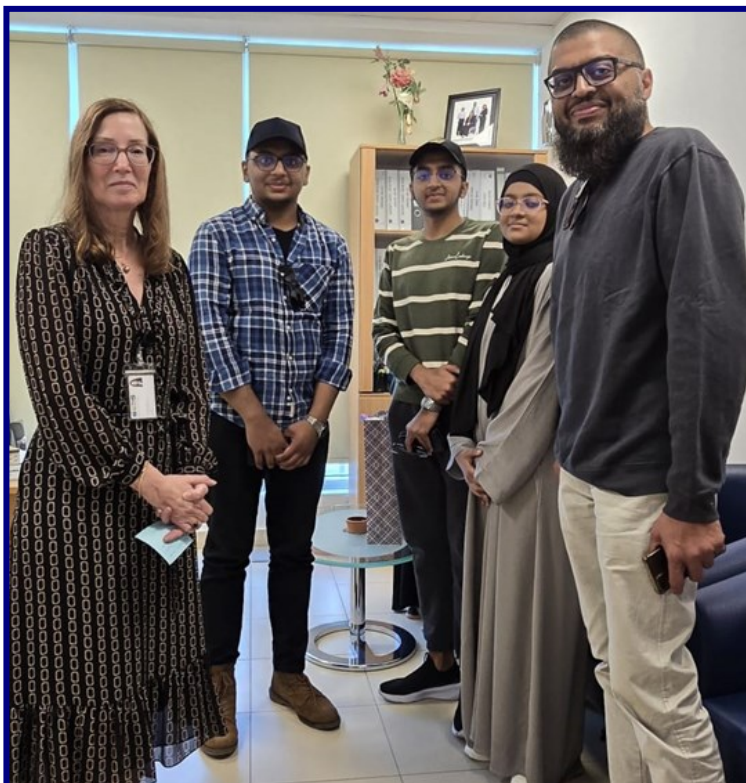
- WSS has a **Zero tolerance for Lice**
- The Clinic conducts hair checks.
- In case of lice infection, the school policy is that:
- If the nurse finds lice in a child's hair she will call parents to take their child home, as lice are extremely infectious to the other children.
  1. If the parent does not pick up the call, the Clinic will email the parent.
  2. Bus children may return home by bus if the parent is unable to collect them, but would not be returned to class due to the infectious nature of lice.
  3. The child returns to school when the hair is clear of all lice & nits.
  4. The child will be checked by the Clinic (taken by parent or sent by Form Tutor) first thing in the morning

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to check the hair before being admitted to class, following treatment.

5. Once the nurse has given the 'all clear' the child will be readmitted to class.

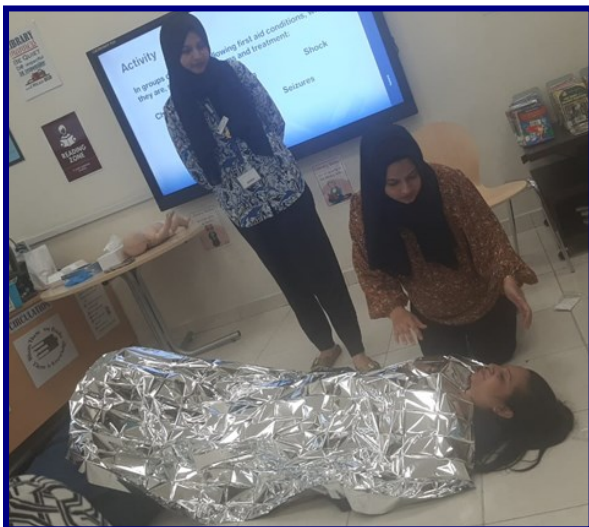
## *Whole School News; Visit from our Alumni!*



On 16/1/25, three Alumni students Salman, Hanem & Ahmed Zeeshan (2015-2017) took the time to visit WSS to share their happy memories of WSS & appreciation for the time that they spent with us. It was lovely to hear how useful their learning experiences had been for their further adventures.

Thank you for the visit & for sharing your positive memories!

## Whole School News; Staff CPD (training)!



A % of WSS staff are trained first aiders. Here we see a refresher course on Friday 10/1/25. Thank you to those staff who attended on their weekend.





## *Whole School News; Staff CPD (training)!*



Ms. Valerie attending the Sharjah Principals' Council (SPC) meeting at ASCS on 13/1/25. The council comprises of 15 school Principal members selected by SPEA & voted by Principal colleagues, with the remit of SPEA-School support, communication related to school development..



The Principal attended a SPEA Sharjah Principals' Training Day `at Sharjah Education Academy on 14/1/25. The day's agenda was PS3 of the Inspection Framework, Teaching & Assessment.

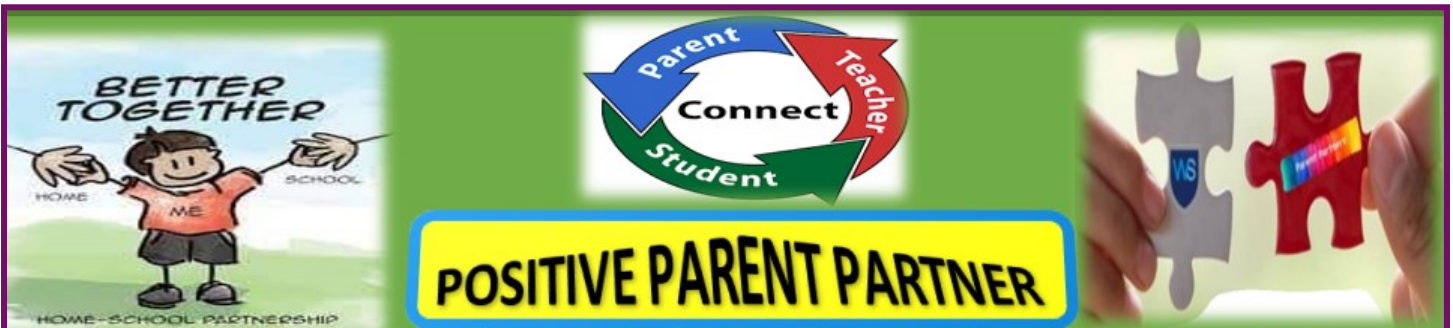
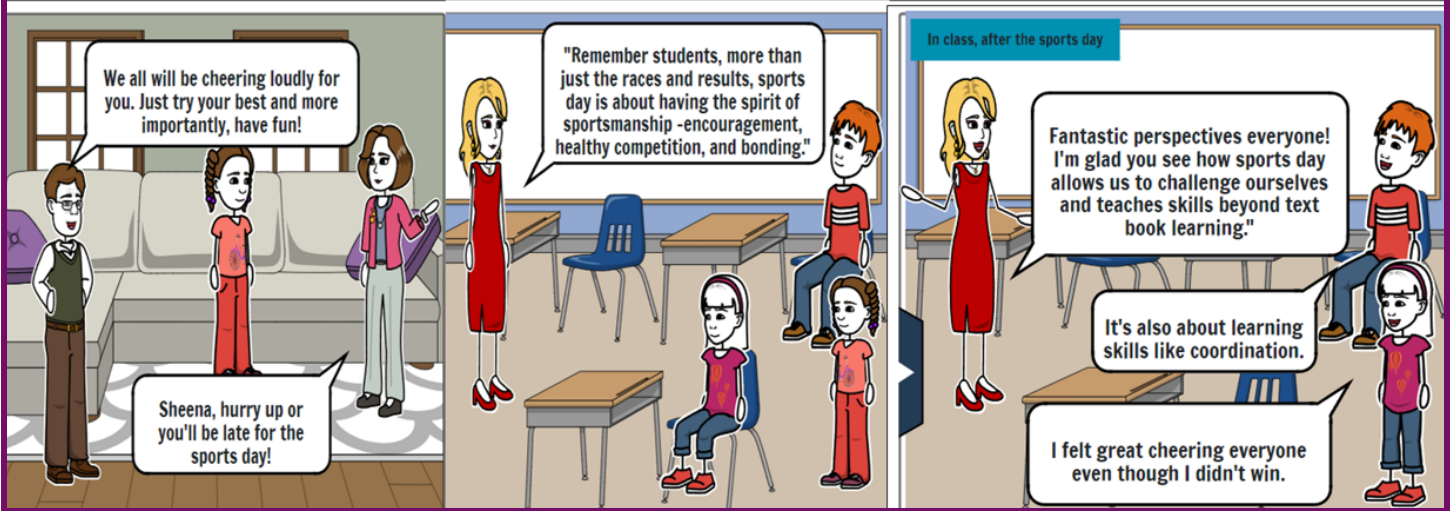
## *Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!*



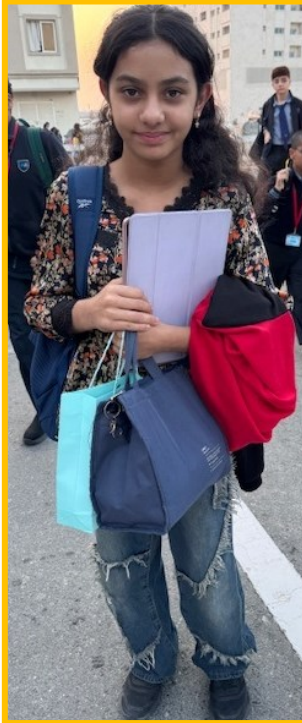
Respected principal.. Thank you. Term 1 finished smoothly .. I am satisfied from your teachers and my daughter Aatika Y7GH is happy in WSS... i hope in next term and in senior classes education and activities will be like this with full dedication and determination... Thank you for your hard work ...

# Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

## SPORTS DAY SPIRIT



# Happy Birthdays!



Dear Ms. Sadiqa,

I hope this email finds you well.

As Term 1 comes to an end and the results announced, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the exceptional work you have done with Aroush over the past term. It is truly commendable to see the positive impact of your dedication, patience, and expertise in shaping her academic journey and personal growth.

Aroush has shown significant improvement in various areas, and we are grateful for the encouragement and guidance you have provided. Your ability to make learning engaging and your efforts to nurture her potential have not gone unnoticed. We deeply appreciate the time and energy you invest in ensuring that every child thrives not just academically but also in building their confidence and values.

We are particularly impressed with how you've supported Aroush in developing her leadership skills, as well as her growing ability to articulate her thoughts more clearly and confidently. These are qualities that will undoubtedly serve her well in all aspects of life.

Looking ahead, we are confident in your continuous support and guidance to help Aroush achieve further growth. Whether it's in academics, social interactions, or critical thinking, we believe that with your mentorship, she will continue to improve and excel.

Thank you once again for all your hard work and for being such a significant influence in Aroush's life.

Looking forward to another fruitful term ahead.

Regards  
Naveed Ur Rehman

*WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!*



*Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2F2;  
The Power of Kindness!*



*Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y1F2  
Everyone can be a Superhero!*



**We learnt that it doesn't matter that we do not have super hero powers such as flying—we can all be a superhero to make someone's life better by being kind & helpful!**



# Junior Section News; Home Learning Projects!



We are exploring Emirati Heritage & Culture!





# Junior Section News; Home Learning Projects!



# Junior Section News; Home Learning Projects!



Y2 Primary Choir



*Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!*

# Y1D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna

*OVA Activities*



*Fun @ free play center*



*Learning about skip counting*



*Arabic home learning*



# Y1D2 WITH MS. SADIQA AND MS. NOORA



*Learning number bonds*



*Free play center activity*



# Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!

## Y1F1 WITH MS. AISHA AND MS. JAMILA

Free play lesson



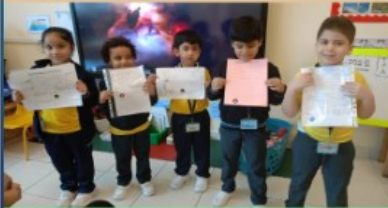
Fire drill



PHONIC LESSON



Home learning activities



PE LESSON



## Y1F2 WITH MS. ANEEZA AND MS. GURPREET

Freeplay activity



Fun time



Activity Time



Fun activity



Learning question mark?



Learning is fun



# Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!

## Y1H1 WITH MS. AAFREIN AND MS. FIZA



## Y1H2 with Ms. Kishwar and Ms. Mani



Free play activities



Learning about compound words



We got special stickers from Ms. Raghi!!



Busy in activities

# Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!

## Y1S1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadia.



## Y1S2 with Ms. Rajina and Ms. Foumy



# Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!



# Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Learning UAE Culture.



Trip to Dubai by Foot.



Star Students of the week.

Well-being Certificate winners.

GOOD JOB!

Y2 F1 with  
Ms Sabiha &  
Ms Ashika



# Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!

## Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!

Miss Jinitra and Miss Maryam



# Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!



# Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!

## Y2S1 With Ms. Sara & Ms. Fiza



## Y2S1 With Ms. Sara & Ms. Fiza



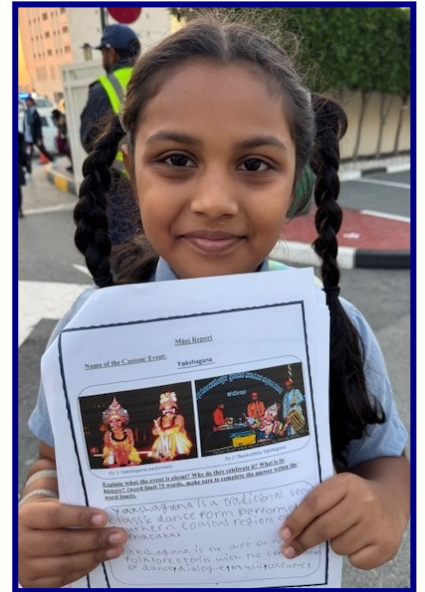
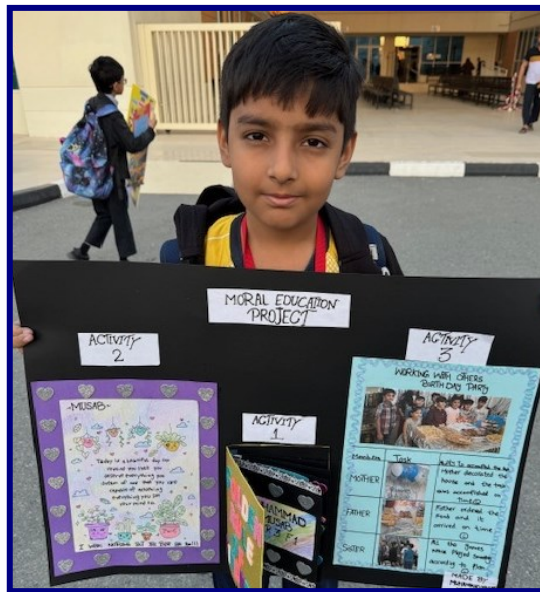
# Junior Section News; Y2 Learning Activities!



## Y2F2-With Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Benil



# Primary Section News; Learning Activities!



READ SOMETHING AWESOME RECENTLY?

Hooked on a new comic series?  
 Just finish a gripping story?  
 Learn something new in an interesting book? Get a recommendation from the **Awesome Box**.

The Awesome Box is a fun and easy way to track and share reader favourites.

# Primary Section News; Y4 Sports Day, 13/1/25!



*Primary Section News; Y4 Sports Day, 13/1/25!*



*Primary Section News; Y4 Sports Day, 13/1/25!*





*Primary Section News; Y4 Sports Day, 13/1/25!*



*Primary Section News; Y3 Sports Day, 14/1/25!*

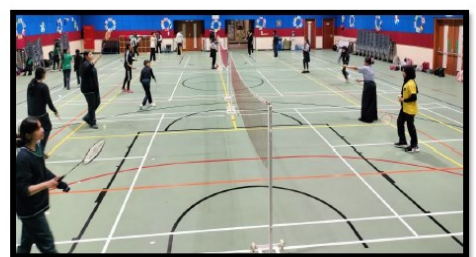
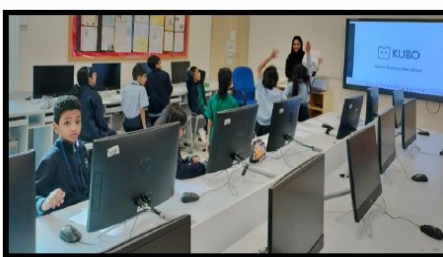


# Primary Section News; Y3 Sports Day, 14/1/25!



# Primary Section News; T1 ECA Report!

## TERM 2 - PRIMARY- ECA ACTIVITES (Week -1)



## WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



*Secondary Section News: WSS MUN 2025, 10th-12th January!*



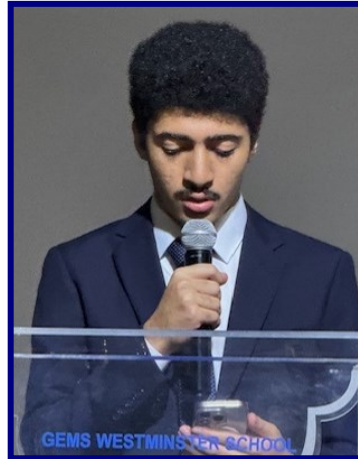
*Secondary Section News: WSS MUN 2025, 10th-12th January!*



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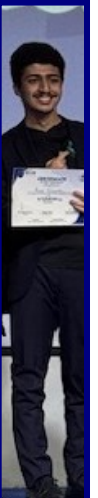




*Secondary Section News: WSS MUN 2025, 10th-12th January!*



# Secondary Section News: WSS MUN 2025, 10th-12th January!



# Secondary Section News: WSS MUN 2025, 10th-12th January!



# Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y8GF, 13/1/25!



Y8GF presented a unique & very important Assembly about Self-Defense & safety. They even demonstrated some self-defense moves! Ms. Valerie talked about promoting self-safety by avoiding potentially dangerous situations & vulnerability.



*Secondary Section News; KS4 Peer Mentoring*

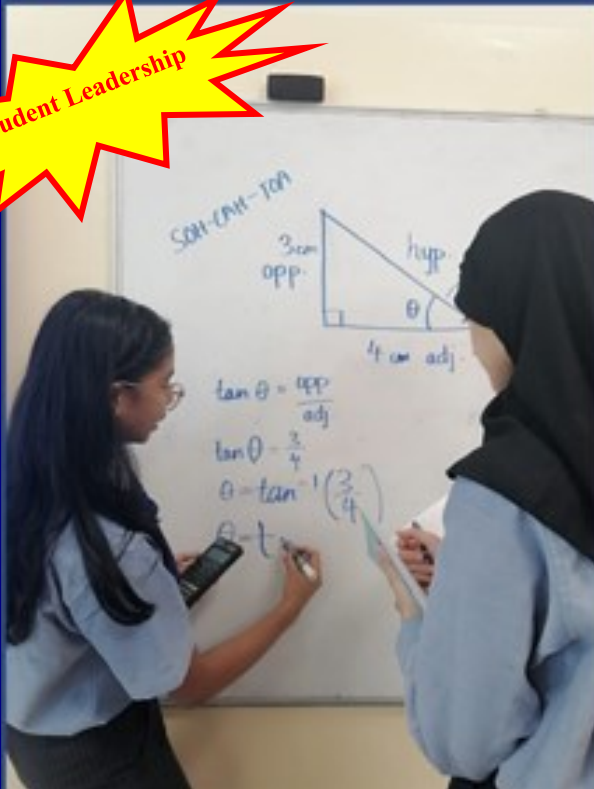
# KS4 PEER MENTORING PROGRAM



KS4 PEER MENTORING AT WSS KS4 MENTORS HELP PEERS OVERCOME CHALLENGES, BUILD CONFIDENCE AND SUCCEED TOGETHER!



**Student Leadership**



**KS4 PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: is a powerful initiative that fosters a supportive and collaborative learning environment.**



**“Learn,  
grow,  
succeed  
together”**



**Mentors provide academic assistance, emotional support, and practical advice, helping their peers navigate challenges such as exam preparation, time management, and personal development.**

# GEOSTRATEGIST



KS4 students thinking critically and applying their understanding in a collaborative environment

The **'GeoStrategist Competition'** brought geography enthusiasts together for an exciting quiz tested their expertise, quick thinking, and teamwork as they navigated through rounds of thought-provoking questions.



Khalid Emadeldin and Francis of Y11 BD1 organized the Geostrategist quiz



WINNERS OF THE QUIZ

*Secondary Section News; Education Awards!*

**MIDDLE EAST EDUCATION AWARDS 2025  
3 AWARDS, 3 GRAND CELEBRATION**

**A LEVEL, AS LEVEL, IGCSE - 2025 BATCH  
MANDATORY ONLINE REGISTRAION**

**CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE OF 'A, AS AND IGCSE' STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS**

**2025  
BATCH**

**6TH**



**INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE EAST  
EDUCATION AWARDS 2025**

**A, AS LEVEL & IGCSE**

**25TH OCTOBER 2025  
DUBAI- UAE**

**GRAND  
AWARDS**

**Last Date  
28th Feb**

**20  
BATCH OF  
25**

**TO REGISTER | CLICK HERE**

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