GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #20 30th January, 2025



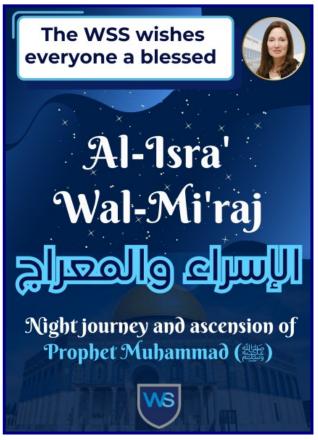
Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents.

High Performance in the TIMSS 2023 International Benchmarking Test in Maths & Science for Y5 & Y9

We are super proud of our students & teachers for the

latest award WSS has received from SPEA, for being one of the top performing Sharjah schools in the TIMSS 2023 tests. This international Benchmarking test measures students' performance in Maths & Science in schools across the world for Year 5 & Year 9 (G4 & G8 equivalent). We significantly exceeded our SPEA-set targets in line with the UAE National Agenda goal for TIMSS achievement (as we did for PISA achievement last year). Many thanks to the parents who supported with this & congratulations to the whole WSS team!



pates for Your Diary

Date	Details			
Mon. 6/1/25	• Enrollment assessment starting. Assessments given according to the date of Registration,. Seats are very limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment			
Mon. 20/1/25	• GEMS Parent Satisfaction Survey opens. Parents, pelae complete it to support us, thank you.			
Tues. 4/2/25	• 9am; Online 'Safeguardian' parent session on safeguarding tips & strategies, led by Head of Inclusion Ms. Rema. Email with link sent 30/1/25)			
Mon. 17/2/25	• Reenrollment for next academic year 2025-2026 opens, subject to T2 fee payment (regardless of Payment Plan)			
Fri. 28/2/25	Deadline to order your child's Lensman photos (online)			
Thurs. 26th June	Last day of compulsory T3 Promotional Exams			
Thurs. 3rd July, 2025	• The last official day for students for this academic year.			





مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 20 30 يناير 2025

وليو 2025

تكريم المدارس المنفوقة في اختبارات SS 2023















التقاصيل		التاريخ
بدء تقييم التسجيل. يتم إجراء التقييمات وفقًا لتاريخ التسجيل المقاعد محدودة جدًا، لذا يرجى التسجيل مبكرًا لتجنب خيبة الأمل	•	الاثنين 6/1/25
اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الثاني. يجب دفع رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثاني في موعد أقصاه اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي، شكرًا لك.	•	
تم فتح استبيان رضا أولياء الأمور في مدارس .GEMSيرجي من أولياء الأمور إكماله لدعمنا، شكرًا لكم.	•	الاثنين 20/1/25
9صباحًا؛ جلسة "Safeguardian" عبر الإنترنت مع أولياء الأمور حول نصائح واستر اتبجيات الحماية، بقيادة رئيسة قسم الإدماج السيدة ريما. تم إرسال البريد الإلكتروني مع الرابط في (30/1/25)	•	الثلاثاء 4/2/25
فتح باب التسجيل للعام الدراسي القادم 2025-2026، بشرط سداد رسوم الصف الثاني (بغض النظر عن خطة الدفع)	•	الاشين 17/2/25
الموعد النهائي لطلب صور Lensmanلطفلك (عبر الإنترنت)	٠	الجمعة 28/2/25
اليوم الأخير من امتحانات الترقية الإلزامية للصف الثالث الثانوي	•	الخميس 26 يونيو
آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي.	•	الخميس 3





رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي

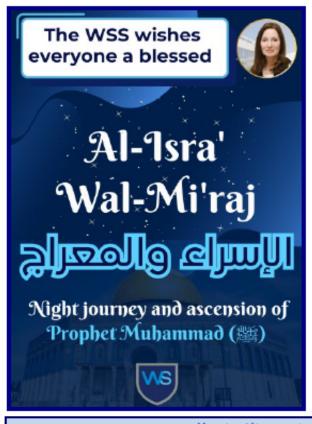
أولياء أمور مدرسة جب الشارقة الأعزاء،

أداء عال في اختبار TIMSS 2023 أُدُولَى للمعايير في الرياضيات والعلوم لله الخامس والتاسع

نحن فخورون جذا بطلابنا ومعلمينا

عليها مدرسة WSS من SPEA، لكونها واحدة من أفضل المدارس أداءً في الشارقة في اختبارات .TIMSS 2023 هذا الاختبار المعياري الدولي أداء الطلاب في الرياضيات ع (ما يُعادَّلُ الصَّفُ الرابِعِ والْصِفُ الثامن). كقد اوزنا بشكل كبير الأهداف التي حددتها هيئة تقييم التعليم العام نمى مع هدف الأجندة الوطنية لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة لتحقيق TIMSS (كما فعلنا لتحقيق PISA في العام

لِذُ لِلآباء والأمهات الذين دعموا هذا الأمر وتهانينا لفريق WSS-بأكمله!



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



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



Contents Parent Handbook Access QR Code

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WSS Superstar Champions; High Performance in the TIMSS International Benchmark—Honoured by SPEA, 30/1/25!

How well did your students achieve compared to their peers in Sharjah Private Schools and globally

Co	Comparing your students' results to average results as below						
	Your School Score	Sharjah Private Schools	TIMSS Average	Difference from the TIMSS Average	Top performing country and its score		
Grade 4 Mathematics	558	516	503	55	Singapore (615)		
Grade 4 Science	575	516	494	81	Singapore (607)		
Grade 8 Mathematics	576	516	478	98	Singapore (605)		
Grade 8 Science	586	521	478	108	Singapore (606)		

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is an international assessment of student achievement in mathematics and science at Y5 & G8/Y9. 64 countries and 8 regional entities (e.g. Madrid, Spain, Quebec, Canada) participated in the TIMSS 2023 cycle. TIMSS 2023 was the eighth cycle of TIMSS.

This was Sharjah's first participation as Benchmarking participant in TIMSS. Congratulations to WSS students, parents & staff for an outstanding performance!





WSS Superstar Champions; Achieving the International OPTIMUS Wellbeing Award!



Huge congratulations to Ms. Rema & the Wellbeing Team for achieving the international OPTIMUS Award for Wellbeing at WSS! It reflects a tremendous amount of hard work & commitment to the wellbeing of our whole WSS community over several years of Action-planning, focus, new initiatives & evidence collection. Huge thanks to all our positive parents, students & staff who supported by completing the surveys. We love the TEAMWORK!!



Whole School News: GEMS Leadership Gemstones!

GEMS have released a new wellbeing initiative to promote character, values & leadership development in our students. This initiative is called 'Leadership Gemstones'. Each 'Gemstone' represents a core value and character-building quality that defines exceptional leaders at all levels of school, including in our students. Our aim is to foster well-rounded, values driven global citizens. 'Leadership Gemstones will be woven into our existing culture of celebrating success and providing opportunities to develop. Each month there will be a 'spotlight Gemstone' to raise awareness about a particular value. Details of the January Gemstone is below:

JANUARY – WEEK 4 **LEADING WITH REFLECTION**

MOONSTONE:

Encourages deep thinking and setting meaningful goals for growth.

Self-reflection helps you ask important questions to understand yourself better.

MESSAGE: Self-reflection is about taking a moment to look within and uncover what truly drives you as a leader. It's not always easy—it means facing uncomfortable truths and asking tough questions about your actions, motivations and decisions. But it's through this process that you grow, learn and develop the skills to lead with authenticity and purpose.

REFLECT: What questions am I afraid to ask myself and how could answering them help me become a better leader? What simple habits can I adopt to make self-reflection a regular part of my leadership journey?



Whole School News: The WSS Values-Driven Excellence Plan!

The WSS Vision reflects our commitment to excellence and this, along with teamwork underpins everything we do. Refined under the four GEMS Core Values of Excellence, Care, One Team & Always Learning, please note the following WSS 3-year **Excellence Plan shared FYI:**

EXCELLENCE PLAN

2024-2025 | Secure Marginal Gains





WSS Leading World Class



EXCELLENCE I dream big, setting ambitious goals, aiming to be the best at what I do.

- » Review the level of challenge and academic rigor through whole-school curriculum review to ensure mastery of core competencies at each year group level
- Review quality of termly performance reviews for students with personalized goals for academic growth. Ensure that students understand their personal goals & how to achieve them
- Conduct termly review of the continuous professional development programme to ensure ongoing teacher development with bespoke training workshops on teaching best practices



CARE I respect the needs of my stakeholders. I will ensure they feel listened to and cared for.

- » Strengthen pastoral care by introducing monthly wellbeing workshops for students and staff
- » Embed a responsive feedback system for managing parent communication and address concerns
- » Develop WSS support systems for diverse learning needs to target 'challenge', developing closer links between Section leadership, the Inclusion team and the EAL team





- Promote further collaboration across departments by implementing scheduled, shared planning
- » Organize termly team-building events for staff to foster a cohesive school culture
- » Refine our channels for regular, transparent communication between school leadership, teachers,



ALWAYS
LEARNING
My open minded curiosity fuels my love for learning. I ask questions and listen so that continuously learn and improve.

- » Embed a growth mindset across the school, with teachers modeling continuous learning and adaptability
- » Encourage students to set personal learning goals, reinforced through termly feedback, reflections and
- » Provide faculty with access to bespoke online courses and resources to continually develop new skills

EXCELLENCE PLAN

2025-2026 | Disrupt and Innovate



GEMS Westminster School



WSS Leading World Class



EXCELLENCE I dream big, setting ambitious goals, aiming to be the best at what I do.

- Include more project-based learning opportunities across the curriculum, allowing students to explore complex, real-world problems
- » Introduce an accelerated learning program for high achievers, along with enhanced resources for personalized learning
- » Integrate more digital tools and Al-based assessments for real-time feedback on student performance
- » Make more e-books available for students



CARE | I respect the needs of my stakeholders. I will ensure they feel listened to and cared for.

- » Implement a holistic well-being curriculum, integrating mental health, emotional intelligence, and resilience-building programs across all year groups
- » Use data analytics to track and enhance individual student welfare and support needs
- » Introduce a "Care Ambassadors" programme, training students to support peer well-being and foster an inclusive culture





TEAM I am a team player. I work with the bigger picture in mind.
I put the team's needs ahead of my own.

» Launch interdisciplinary projects that allow teachers from different subjects to co-teach and collaborate

- » Encourage additional student council and team initiatives to work alongside faculty on projects, building unity and a sense of shared purpose
- Embed the digital platform for real-time collaboration and resource sharing among teachers



ALWAYS My open minded curiosity fuels my love for learning. I ask questions and listen so that I continuously learn and improve.

- » Embed the WSS 'Learner Profile' into the curriculum and the extra-curricular programme
- » Introduce a tracking system for learner characteristics, including students' critical skills, creativity problem- solving, and leadership
- » Introduce a "Learning Expo" day for students to showcase personal projects, entrepreneurial ideas,
- » Promote action research among teachers to explore innovative teaching techniques and strategies

Whole School News: The WSS Values-Driven Excellence Plan!

EXCELLENCE PLAN

2025-2026 | Disrupt and Innovate





WSS Leading World Class



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- » Promote action research among teachers to explore innovative teaching techniques and strategies

Whole School News: Optional Sharjah Ladies' Run!

Sharjah Private Education Authority is pleased to extend its warmest greetings to you.

We are pleased to inform you about the launch of the 10th edition of the "Sharjah Ladies Run" under the theme " 10 Trips Around The Sun." The event will take place on February 15th, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at Al Seyouh Ladies Park. The age requirement for participation is 12 years and above.

Please note that the registration fee is 170 AED.

To register, kindly click on the QR code below:



Best regards,

يطيب لهيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص أن تهديكم أطيب التحيات وصادق الأمنيات...

بالإشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه، يسرنا ابلاغكم بإطلاق النسخة العاشرة من "جرى سيدات الشارقة" تحت شعار "10 أعوام من التألق ، وذلك يوم 15 فبراير من الساعة 6 مساءً حتى 10 مساءً في حديقة السيوح للسيدات .والعمر المسموح به للانضمام 12 سنة فما فوق

نود اعلامكم ان رسوم الاشتراك 170 درهم

للتسجيل يرجى الضغط على رابط المسح الضوئي أدناه



وتفضّلوا بقبول فائق التقدير والاحترام

For contact and query:

Contact Number: 0561776543

Website: https://www.slc.ae/en/contest/sharjah-ladies-run---10-trips

للتواصل والاستفسار:

الباتف: 0561776543

الموقع الإلكتروني: ---https://www.slc.ae/en/contest/sharjah-ladies-run

-10-trips

Whole School News:Staff CPD (Training)!

Middle Leaders attended a Leadership Conference on Saturday 25/1/15, hosted by GCS & attended by Middle Leaders from across our Cluster. SPEA School Improvement Advisor for Arabic Dr. Rana and GEMS Group Education Officer Ms. Lisa Crausby (OBE) addressed attendees, & the Principal Ms. Valerie, VP Mr. Shujahat, MOE HOD Mr. Osama all presented a session. Ms. Lisa reinforced the importance of the four GEMS values that underpin all our work, One Team, Excellence, Care & Always Learning. Dr. Rana reinforced the importance of Arabic & the collaborative sharing of excellence to raise standards.



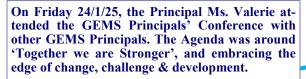














Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

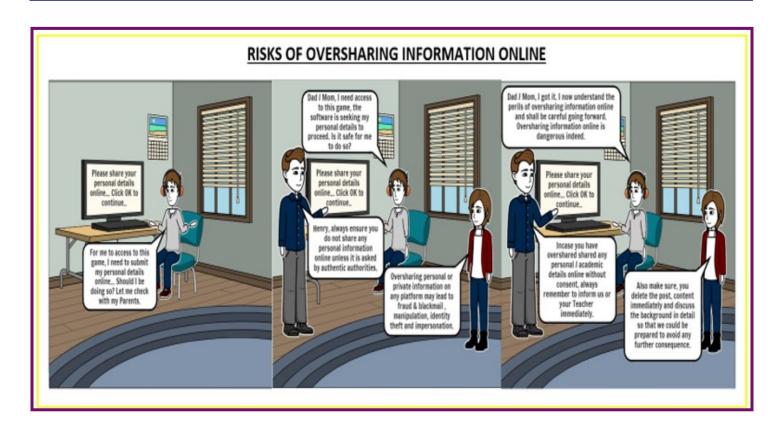


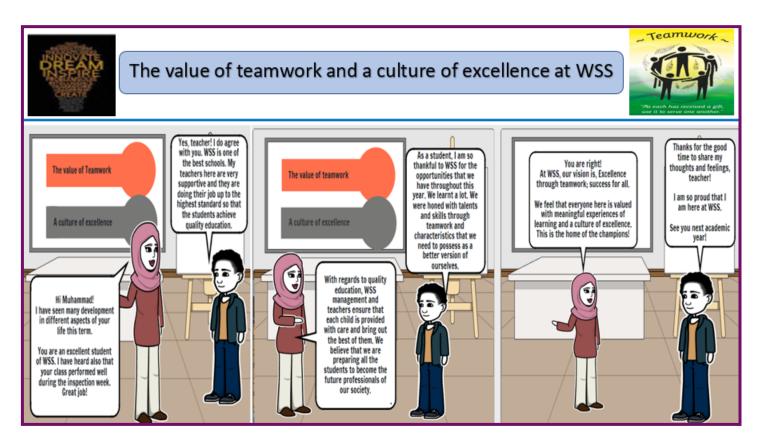
More on p27, 28

Enthusiastic Participants in the SPEA Al-Munathar Protected Area Tree-Planting Campaign,

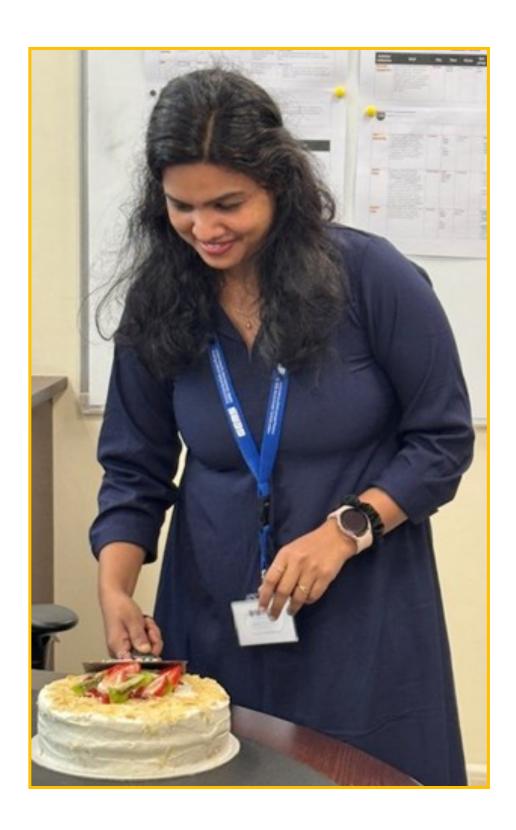


Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!





Happy Birthdays!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Good Morning Ms Sadiqa

I hope this message finds you well.

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for all the support, guidance, and encouragement you've given to Haya throughout Term 1 and continues Term 2.

Your passion for teaching and dedication to your students have truly made a positive impact on my learning how to teaching Haya.

I appreciate the time and effort you put into helping Haya to grow academically, and She feel lucky to have had you as her teacher. Thank you for creating such an engaging and supportive environment in the classroom.

Wishing you all the best, and thanks again for everything.

Warm regards

Haya's Mother(Y1/D2)



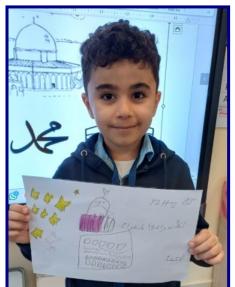
Junior Section News







Thank you Kinda Shahin for sharing your aspirational video about possible future careers. Kinda's mother shared that, "I made my daughter learn and get to know most of the careers so that she can have an idea about them to determine what she wants to become in the future because it is important that they have a simple idea about any career and Kinda chose to be a dentist to make all people have a beautiful smile and not suffer from any pain."





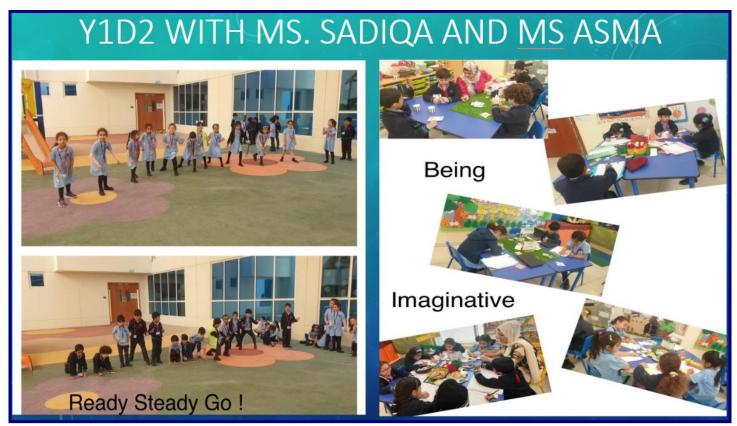


Y2 put on an amazing exhibition of UAE-related projects. Huge thanks to dear parents for supporting their children with making these important links to their real life! Visitors to teh exhibition were very impressed by teh quality of the projects & the way the children could talk about them.



Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!



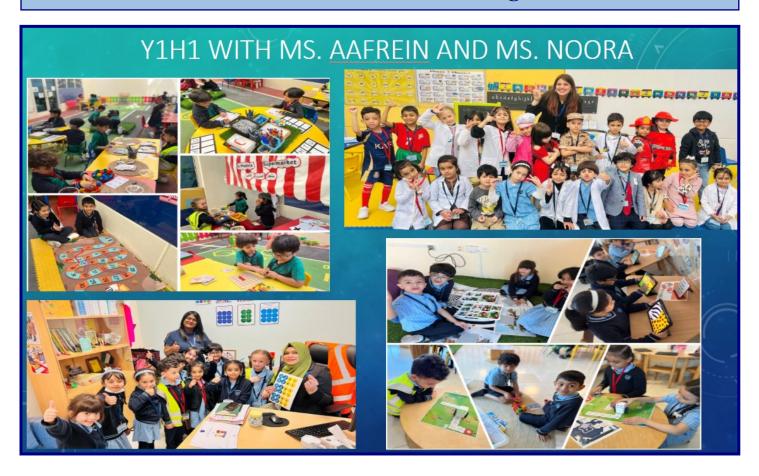


Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!



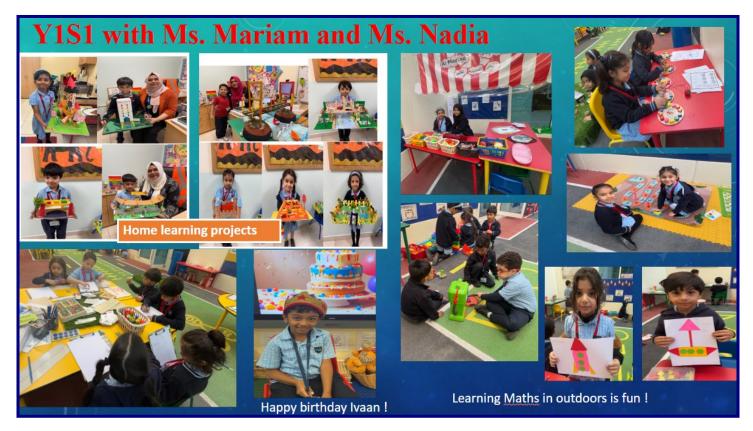


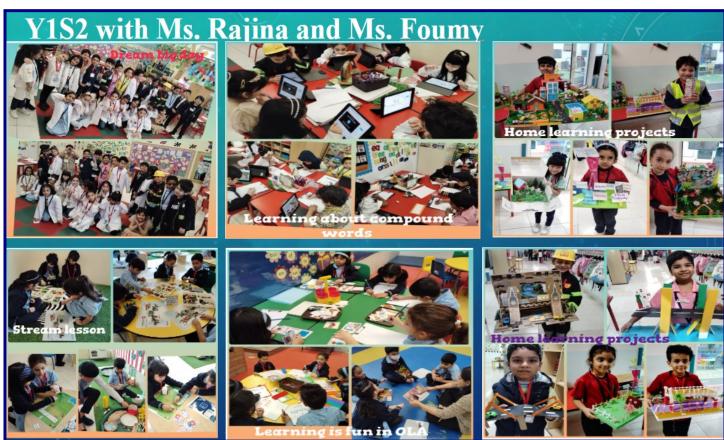
Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!



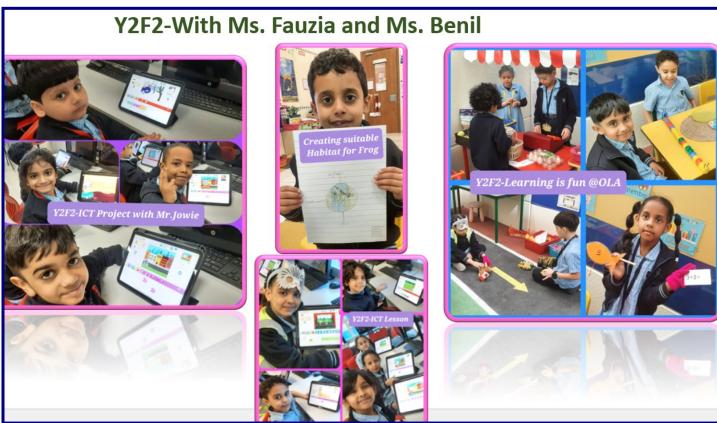


Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2F2 Learning Activities!



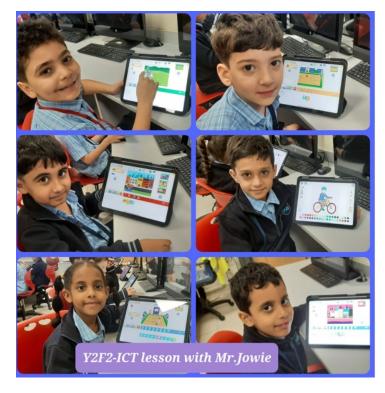


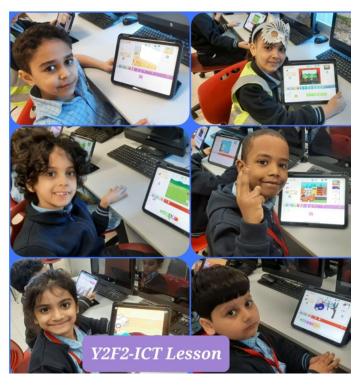
Junior Section News; Y2F2 Learning Activities!

Y2F2-With Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Benil









Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!

Miss Jinitra and Miss Maryam





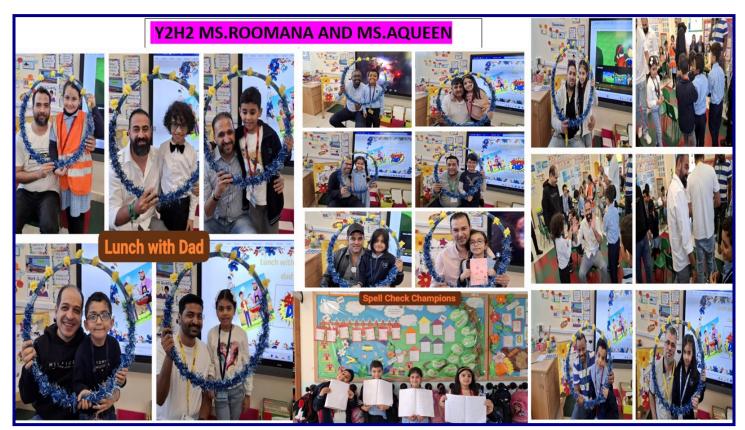






Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!







Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions! SPEA Al-Munathar Protected Area Tree-Planting Campaign, 29/1/25!















Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions! SPEA Al-Munathar Protected Area Tree-Planting Campaign, 29/1/25!









WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Y6 Superstar champions!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Y4 Class Champions, Dojo Superstars & distinguished Reading stars!

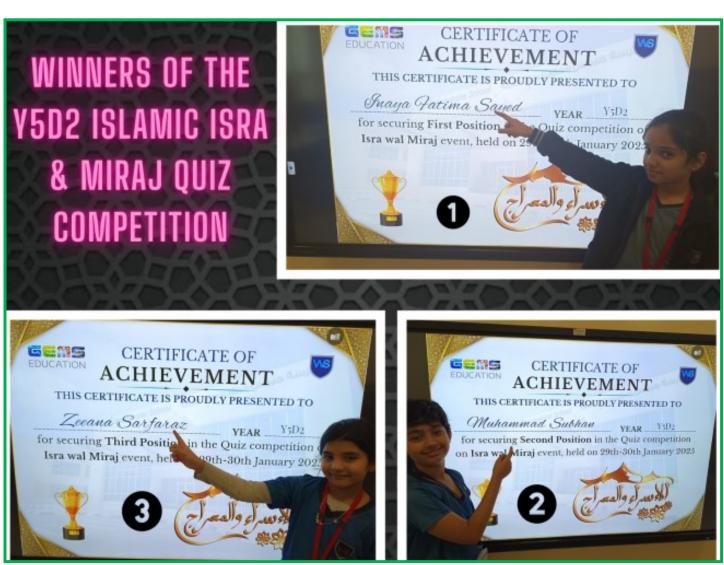




Congratulations to Yaseen Moaz (Y5H1) who was awarded Best Swimmer in a swimming competition held last Saturday. He received a gold medal and was honored by Olympic swimmer Farida Osman for his outstanding performance. We love the family teamwork, too!

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



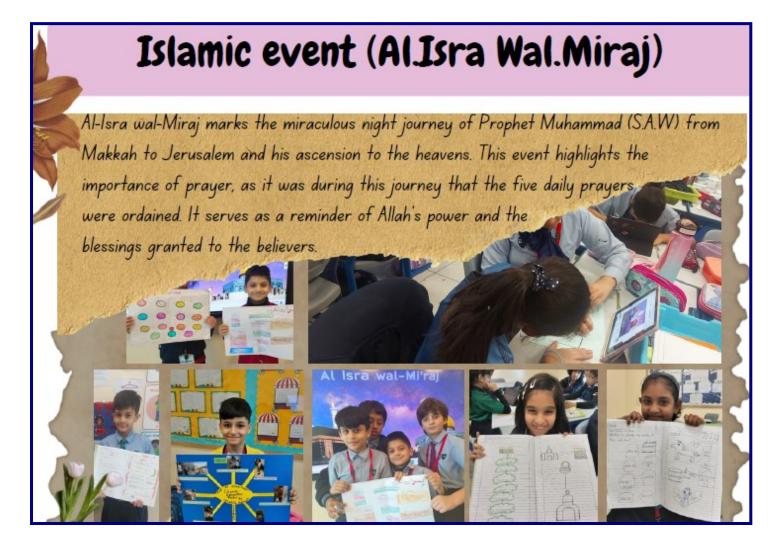


Primary Section News; Celebrating Isra Wal Miraj, 30/1/25!









Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y6GH, 29/1/25!



We enjoyed a unique & very interesting Assembly about the learning we do in all parts of the school, not just our classroom, such as learning confidence in the Auditorium, learning to be creative in the art room, & learning to be innovative in the Labs. The girls were confident, enthusiastic & practiced presenters. Well done!















Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y4F1, 29/1/25!















Y4F1 presented a super Assembly on teh theme 'Respect'. They linked this to every day situations with friends & family, & presented a beautiful song about sharing kindness with others. Many thanks to all our parents who attended our Assemblies.









WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

Appreciation message from Ms. Laneetha, KS3 Phase Leader, to our dear KS3 Terrarium Competition parents: "On behalf of our WSS Team, I am thrilled to extend our heartfelt gratitude for making the Terrarium—Making Event an absolute showstopper! Your creativity, passion, and commitment turned this event into a breathtaking masterpiece of innovation and teamwork. WOW doesn't even begin to describe the level of effort and artistry you poured into every terrarium! Your participation not only made the competition a grand success but also exemplifies the spirit of our Parental Engagement Programme.

Together, we're fostering a vibrant and collaborative environment for our KS3 students—an inspiration for everyone involved. Thank you for your support, time, and love that continue to enrich our school community. Your contributions remind us that when we work together, we grow together—just like the thriving terrariums you've created. Once again, a Heartfelt Thank You to Our Amazing Parents! "

I'm writing to share my gratitude with Mr. Mahmoud who helped my son Ahmed Elamin from the class Y13BS to attain the A* grade in his IGCSE Arabic October/November session.

Although he wasn't his designated school teacher, Mr. Mahmoud spent his free time sitting with him during that time period to cover the syllabus as well as guide him through past papers and we both really couldn't be any more grateful.

Once again, thank you very much for all your efforts.

Regards,

Ahmed's Parent

Secondary Section News; KS5 Learning & Leadership!

ed to this PC

MUN experience by Carine Jizdan Year 13GD



SIXTH FORM GIRLS

Model United Nations has deepened my knowledge on serious world issues, taught me how to Additionally, solutions on the spot, to think like a politician and most importantly how to defend myself while presenting persuasive arguments against others. It all started with going to an MUN just to "see what it's like", little did I know I was going to get addicted and join more. Not only was I a delegate 4 times, but I have chaired twice and have 4 more chairing experiences coming in the next few weeks. I have also served as the USG of Public Relations and Outreach here at WSSMUN, which has taught me a lot about planning and organizing an MUN as well as communicating with big personalities and businesses and inviting them over. Additionally, I was a Crisis Director at ASCSMUN and have won The Best Chair Award at GWAMUN. Looking back, I am extremely glad I took that big step. I encourage you all to push yourselves outside your comfort zone, no hesitation, no second thoughts!

Year 13 GD

Secondary Section News; WSS MUN Report!

Step into the world of diplomacy, debate, and global collaboration -WSSMUN 2025! As one of the most dynamic Model United Nations conferences, WSSMUN fosters critical thinking, negotiation skills, and leadership among young changemakers. Delegates engaging in thought-provoking discussions, tackle pressing global issues, and draft impactful resolutions—preparing to lead the world of tomorrow.





Secondary Section News; WSS MUN Report!



GRATITUDE JOURNAL ACTIVITY KS4







where students
wrote about 3
things they were
grateful for as part
of the KS4 Wellbeing Month
Celebration

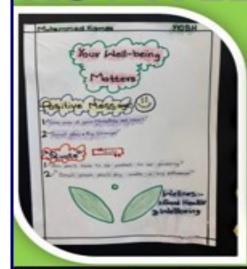


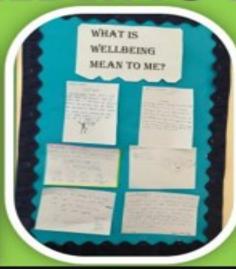






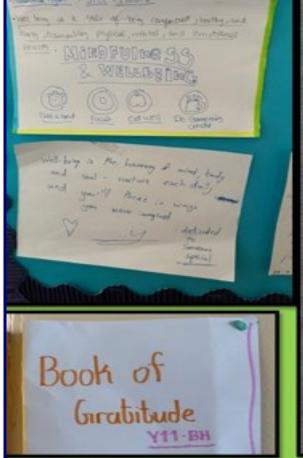
KS4 WELLBEING MONTH

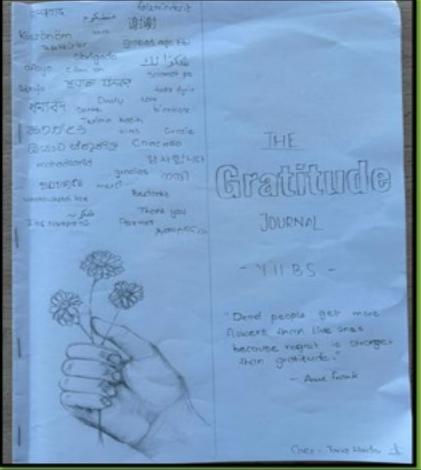






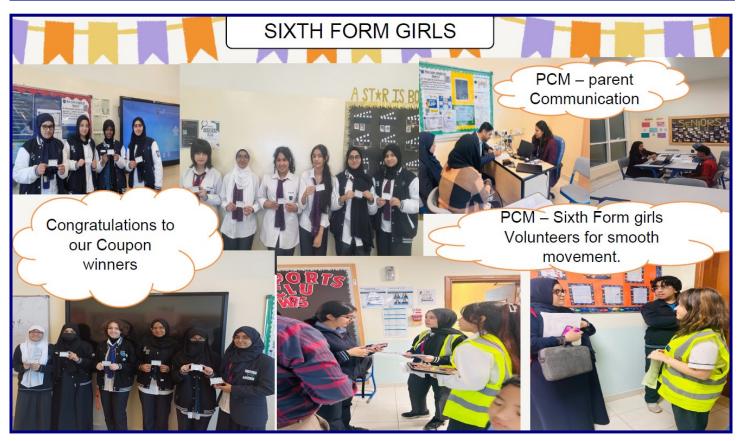
GRATITUDE JOURNAL



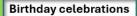


Secondary Section News; KS5 Learning & Leadership!





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The KS 5 Boys making good use of their Independent Learning time to prepare for their Term 2 Examinations.

KS5 BOYS

Y12 Jasir helping out with the boards.











PASS Survey KS 5 Boys Survey plays a crucial role in understanding students' needs, fostering a positive school

environment, and enhancing overall educational environment.





