

Secondary Chool Newsletter



22 September 2023





Head of Secondary Message





Hello all,

This past cycle has been brimming with exciting activities and events that have kept us wonderfully occupied. Instead of a lengthy write-up, I'd like to share a selection of captivating snapshots with you.



Monday 25 September New Parents Coffee Morning: Learning Systems

Join us at 7.45am in the Presentation Hall to learn about our approaches to learning and the use of online platforms.

Monday 25 September

Year 7 Focus Group

Parents of Year 7 students are invited to join us in the Presentation Hall at 2.00pm. Check emails for more info.

Tuesday 26 September

Year 8 & 9 Focus Group

Parents of Year 8 & 9 students are invited to join us in the Presentation Hall at 7.45am. Check emails for more info.

Wednesday 27 September

Year 10 & 11 Focus Group

Parents of Year 10 & 11 students are invited to join us in the Presentation Hall at 7.45am. Check emails for more info.

Thursday 28 September

Year 12 & 13 Focus Group

Parents of Year 12 & 13 students are invited to join us in the Presentation Hall at 7.45am. Check emails for more info.

Friday 29 September

Prophet Mohammed's [PBUH] Birthday

No school for staff and students.

Monday 02 October

MYP to DP/CP Awareness Coffee Morning

Join us at 7.45am in the Presentation Hall to learn more.

Tuesday 03 October

Year 11 Personal Project Parent Session

Join us at 7.45am in the Presentation Hall to learn more.

Wednesday 04 October

Study in the UK and Europe Information Session

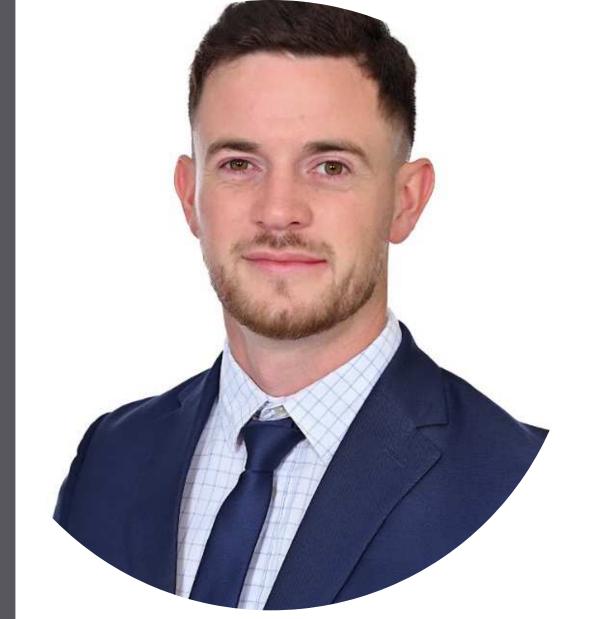
Join us at 9.00am in the Presentation Hall to learn more.



Celebrating our Diverse Community

Awareness Day Friday 6th October





Pastoral & Wellbeing

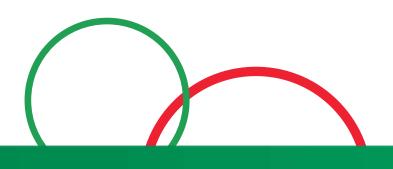
New to the SMT team: Mr. Daniel Murphy

I am delighted to be entering my third year at DIA Emirates Hills, this year as Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral), after being Head of Year 13 in 2022/23. Prior to becoming a part of DIA Emirates Hills in 2021, I trained to become a teacher of Design Technology in the University of Limerick, Ireland, and worked in London, UK, for 7 years before joining DIA from another school in Dubai.

Working with the Year 13s last year in what was arguably the most stressful and time-consuming year for the students, it was also excellent to be a part of their school journey as it culminated with their final IB DP exams. There were lots of lessons learned and the school and I hope to put in place various measures to ensure all students are welcomed to a productive, safe learning environment that they can all enjoy. I look forward to effectively working with Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral), Mr. Colin Leacy, the Heads of Year 7 - 13, and the Homeroom tutors as the students' secondary school journey begins, continues, or comes to a close with us here at DIA Emirates Hills.

Email address: <u>DanielM@DIAdubai.com</u>





Years 7 to 9



Young Chefs @ DIA: Entrepreneurial cookery on the Future Skills Programme

Bake Sale Tomorrow!

by Year 7 & 8 Young Chefs @DIA FSP students



Open Baguette Sandwich- 15AED

Baguette topped with melted cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato

Chocolate Chip Cookie- 5AED

Freshly baked cookies with dark chocolate chips

and scrambled egg

Pink Lemonade- 10AED

Lemon and strawberries together for a refreshing drink



TThe term is well and truly underway and our Lower MYP students have been wholeheartedly participating in many activities both inside and outside the classroom. There have been Performing Arts auditions, a full schedule of sports training sessions, a rich and varied CCA programme and much, much more. This fortnight, we are celebrating just a few of the many individual and collaborative successes of our younger students. We look forward to sharing many more in our upcoming newsletters!

Talented Young Writers

We have a few published writers now in our MYP student body and are delighted to share that one of our Year 7s is part of this select group!

Aarav Vashnari in fact wrote his book, *Kohsheen*, last year, when aged just 10! It is an exciting, action-packed fantasy adventure, reminiscent of *Harry Potter*. We have copies in our library. Why not give it a read?

Sporting Superstars



In Year 9, we are immensely proud of our very own national basketballer, **Raya Balish**, who represented the UAE at the Jr. NBA Europe and Middle East Finals.

To compete on an international stage, against teams which included Spain, Germany, England, Lebanon and Qatar, is an invaluable experience and showcases

Raya's special talents.

Well done, Raya!



EVA CHACRA

JUNIOR ESSAY SHORT LISTED



We are thrilled to share the remarkable achievement of Eva Chacra, a talented Year 10 student at Dubai International Academy. Eva's exceptional intellect and writing prowess have earned her a spot on the shortlist for the Junior Category of the prestigious John Locke Institute 2023 Global Essay Prize.

Her thought-provoking essay caught the attention of judges from around the world, leading to an invitation to the esteemed awards ceremony at the University of Oxford's historic Sheldonian Theatre in England.

This accomplishment not only reflects Eva's dedication and intellectual prowess but also highlights her commitment to academic excellence.

Congratulations, Eva, on this incredible milestone!





School Events:

International Peace Day 21st September Students and staff wear white.

Thursday 21st September:

The DIA Quad area was alive on Thursday where there was a sea of white being worn by staff and students alike to celebrate International Peace Day 2023.

Organized in school by Ms. Palak Mathur, there was music, celebrations, and as can be seen in the photos, lots of food! Students could purchase pizza, donuts, and some other healthy treats during lunch time.





International Peace Day lunchtime concert by Performing Arts Department



<u>Thursday 21st September:</u>

The Performing Arts department and students treated the DIA school community of students and staff alike to some wonderfully rehearsed music led by secondary teachers, Mr. Jamie O'Sullivan and Mr. Paul McCabe.

Students involved were from Y11, Y8, Y7 including: Emir, Richard, Lea and then an ensemble from Year 7.

School Events:

Year 13 Prefect Investiture 2023/24

Monday 18th September:

The DIA Year 13 Prefect Investiture 2023 / 24 was held this week in the PE Hall.





Described as a celebration of responsibility, the Prefects that were carefully selected by Head of Year 13, Mr. Dollour Toma, and other members of the Secondary school staff were sworn into duty as they read their 'Prefect Pledge' which has been designed to mirror the DIA Emirates Hills school values.



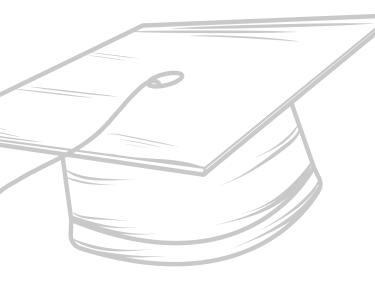


They will now go forward with their badges of responsibility, along with with the well wishes and some wise words from Headteacher, Ms. Michelle Puxty, and Deputy Heads, Ms. Claire Inglis and Mr. Colin Leacy, and already mentioned Mr. Toma.

This group will now be the leaders and role models of the student body for 2023/24. Good luck to them all.







School Events:

University of Cambridge



<u>Friday 22nd September</u>
College Counselling Session with Cambridge Professor



Dr Matthias Dörrzapf is the Director of Scholarships & International Programmes. He is also the Director of Studies in Mathematics.

On Friday, we welcomed Dr. Matthias onto campus to share this experience and insights with Students and Parents in the following areas:

- Discovering the exciting opportunities available in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields at the University of Cambridge.
- The application process for Cambridge, including tips and advice on making a strong application.
- Understanding how the Cambridge educational system works and the unique benefits of the collegiate system.
- An insider's perspective on student life, extracurricular activities, and the vibrant community at Cambridge.







SECONDARY SCHOOL HOUSE TEAM UNVEILS MASCOT ON SPIRIT DAY

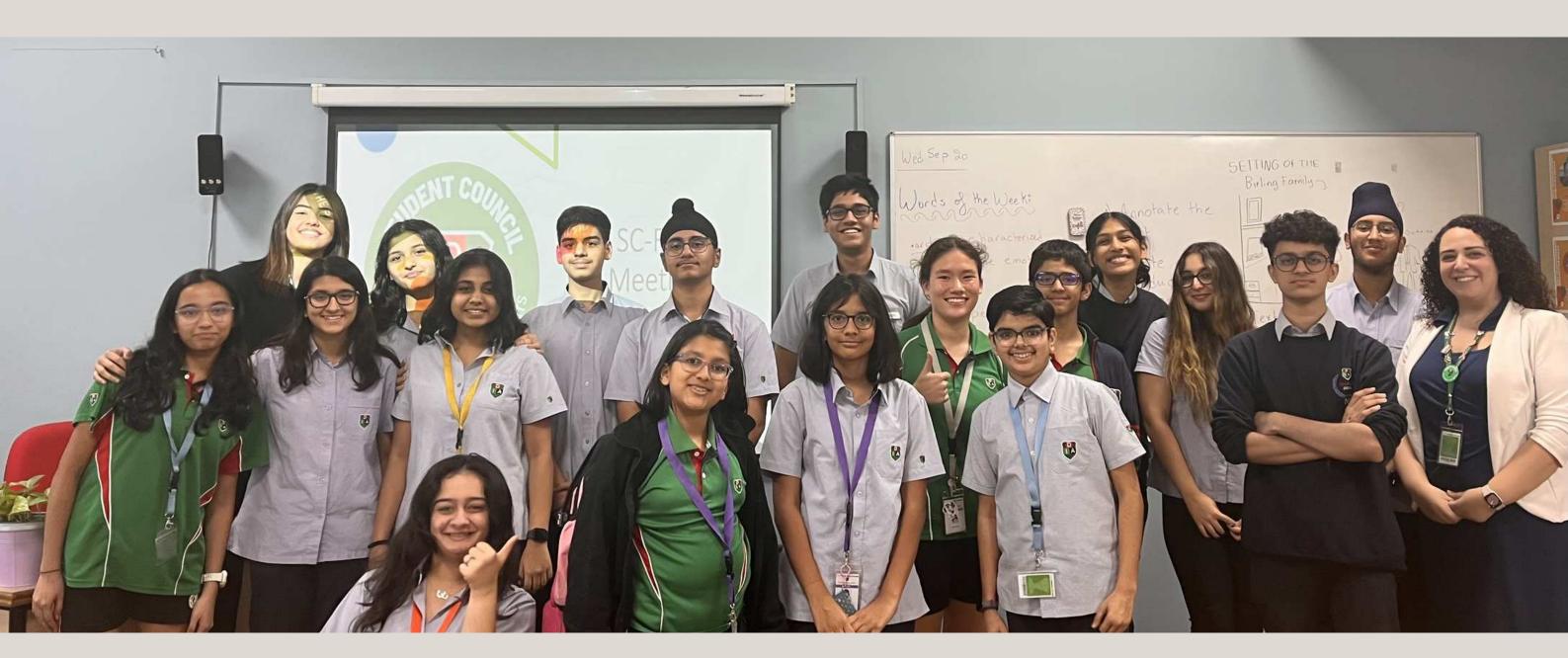
Our recent Spirit Day at school was truly a remarkable event that brought our students together in an unforgettable manner. The highlight of the day was the introduction of our new school mascot by our dedicated House Team. The atmosphere was charged with excitement as the mascot, representing each of the four houses with vibrant colors, was unveiled. The collective cheer and applause from the students underscored the sense of pride and unity felt throughout the school community.

Following the mascot's introduction, our students engaged in a series of engaging activities organized within their homerooms. This encompassed a range of friendly House competitions, from trivia quizzes to spirited activities. It was heartening to witness our students, including those typically reserved, embracing the spirit of competition, supporting their respective houses, and participating with great enthusiasm.

INTRODUCING

THESTUDENT COUNCIL

This year, we witnessed an incredible level of enthusiasm and engagement from our students, as a total of 130 applicants from Year 7 all the way up to Year 12 applied for positions on the Student Council. The rigorous selection process included application submissions, teacher recommendations, shortlisting, interviews, and ultimately, the selection of dedicated student representatives.



The newly formed Student Council has already hit the ground running with their first official meeting. During this gathering, they discussed the upcoming class representative elections and laid out the procedures to ensure a fair and transparent process. Additionally, they brainstormed a multitude of exciting ideas to enhance the overall student experience at our school. We are proud of the dedication and commitment our students have shown in taking an active role in shaping our school community, and we look forward to witnessing their positive impact in the months ahead.

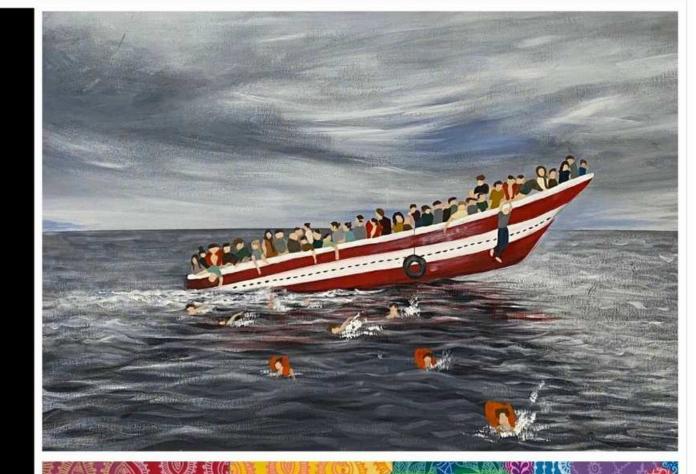


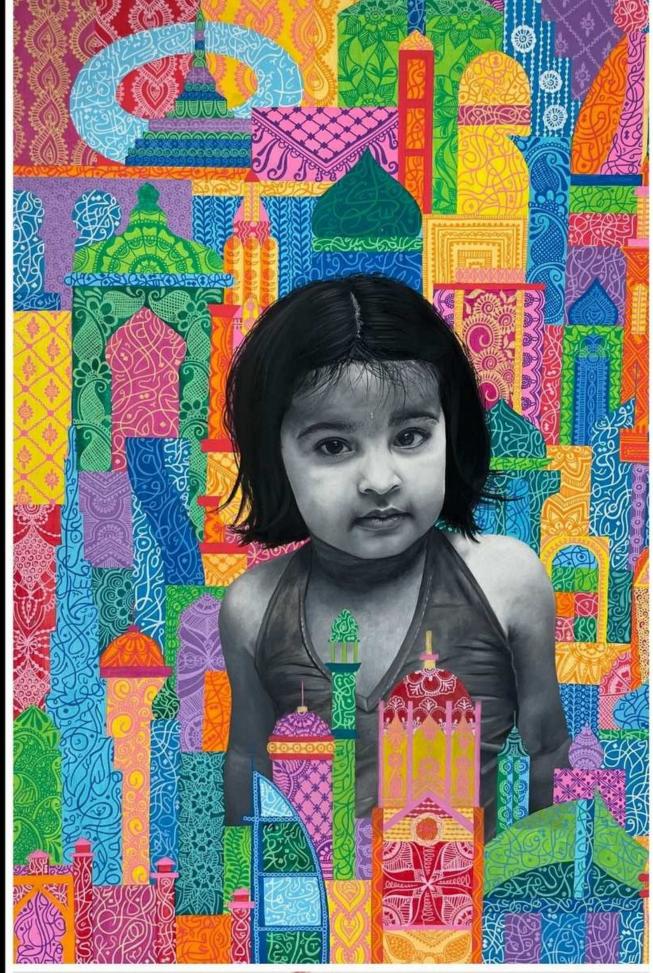
Experience the Artistic Journey: Embark on a vibrant journey where your creativity knows no bounds. From understanding the principles of art to experimenting with various mediums, discover a place where every stroke of brush tells a story.

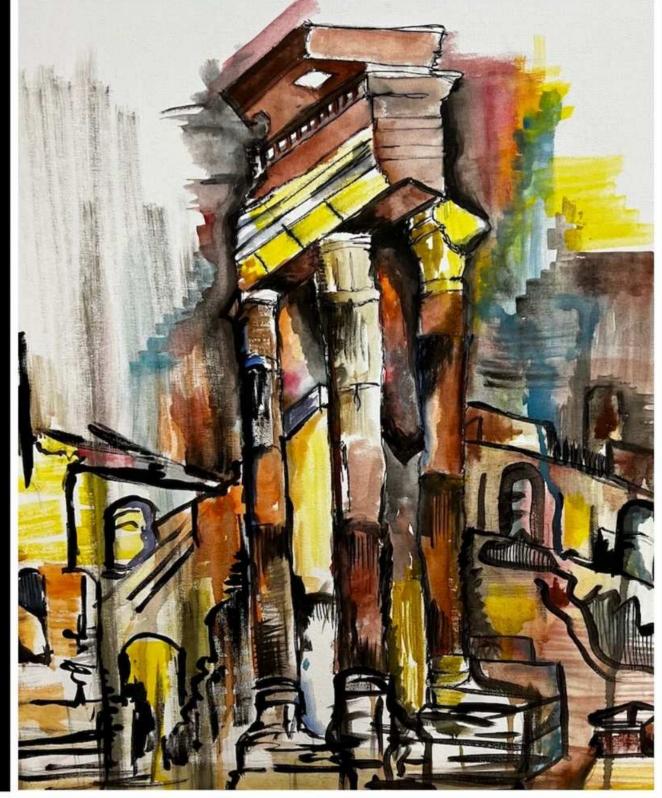
Why Choose Visual Arts at DIA?

- Diverse Curriculum: Our carefully curated curriculum ranges from mixed media explorations in Year 7 to in-depth project developments in the DP years, facilitating comprehensive growth for every student.
- Global Citizenship: Through artistic explorations, we foster a community of global citizens equipped with the awareness and empathy to make a positive change in the world.
- Holistic Development: Our students are not just artists, but thinkers, creators, and leaders, with the ability to analyze, conceptualize and create pieces of art that resonate on a deeper level.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @DIADUBAI ARTS















Social Media Photography Journalism Filmmaking Marketing



DEVELOP LIFELONG SKILLS THAT -

- Enrich educational experiences.
- Help students to become responsible individuals that practice online safety.
- Learn how to actively make the world a better place through advertising campaigns, filmmaking and more.
- Develop research, analytical, technical and communication skills.



Contact Seon Lewis Seonl@diadubai.com



Careers & College Counselling

Lower MYP: Years 7, 8 & 9



Building Strong Study Habits:

Organized Daily Schedule: Create a daily schedule (electronic & on paper) to organize - study time, assignments, extracurricular activities, even social time. For students, *success* looks like a stress-free routine allowing time for learning, leisure, and rest.



Active Learning: In class and with homework - summarize after learning, use flashcards (<u>Quizlet</u>), or <u>notes</u>, and ask questions. *Success* means the ability to engage in learning actively and retain information.

Teamwork: Form study groups with classmates. Ask questions and share study tips in WhatsApp chats. Collaboration promotes a sense of community and helps identify resources. For students, *success* means actively participating in group discussions, helping others, and seeking assistance.

Active Learning: In class and with homework - summarize after learning, use flashcards (Quizlet), or notes, and ask questions. *Success* means the ability to engage in learning actively and retain information.

Teamwork: Form study groups with classmates. Ask questions and share study tips in WhatsApp chats. Collaboration promotes a sense of community and helps identify resources. For students, *success* means actively participating in group discussions, helping others, and seeking assistance.

Goal Setting: Set goals using <u>SMART</u> (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound). *Success* looks like striving toward defined goals and adapting.

Minimize Distractions: Create an environment conducive to study. Turn off notifications, find a quiet place, and use web blockers and timers.

Conversation Starters: Use these helpful questions to open communication between parents and teens.

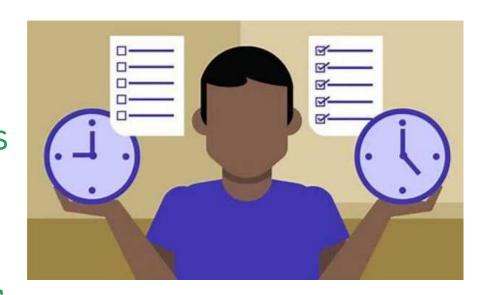
What are your short-term academic goals for this school year?



Careers & College Counselling Higher MYP & DP/CP: Yr 10, 11, 12 & 13

Time Management:

Effective Planning: Create a daily schedule using digital tools or a physical planner. <u>Manage tasks</u> and allocate specific time slots for different activities to avoid multitasking and maintain focus. *Success* looks like a well-organized calendar,



including study time, classes, extracurricular activities, and personal time (self-care.)

Prioritize: Focus on the most important or timely tasks. The Eisenhower Matrix can be a valuable tool.

Goal Setting: Both short-term and long-term goals can impact motivation. Try <u>SMART</u> (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). *Success* means striving toward defined goals and adapting!

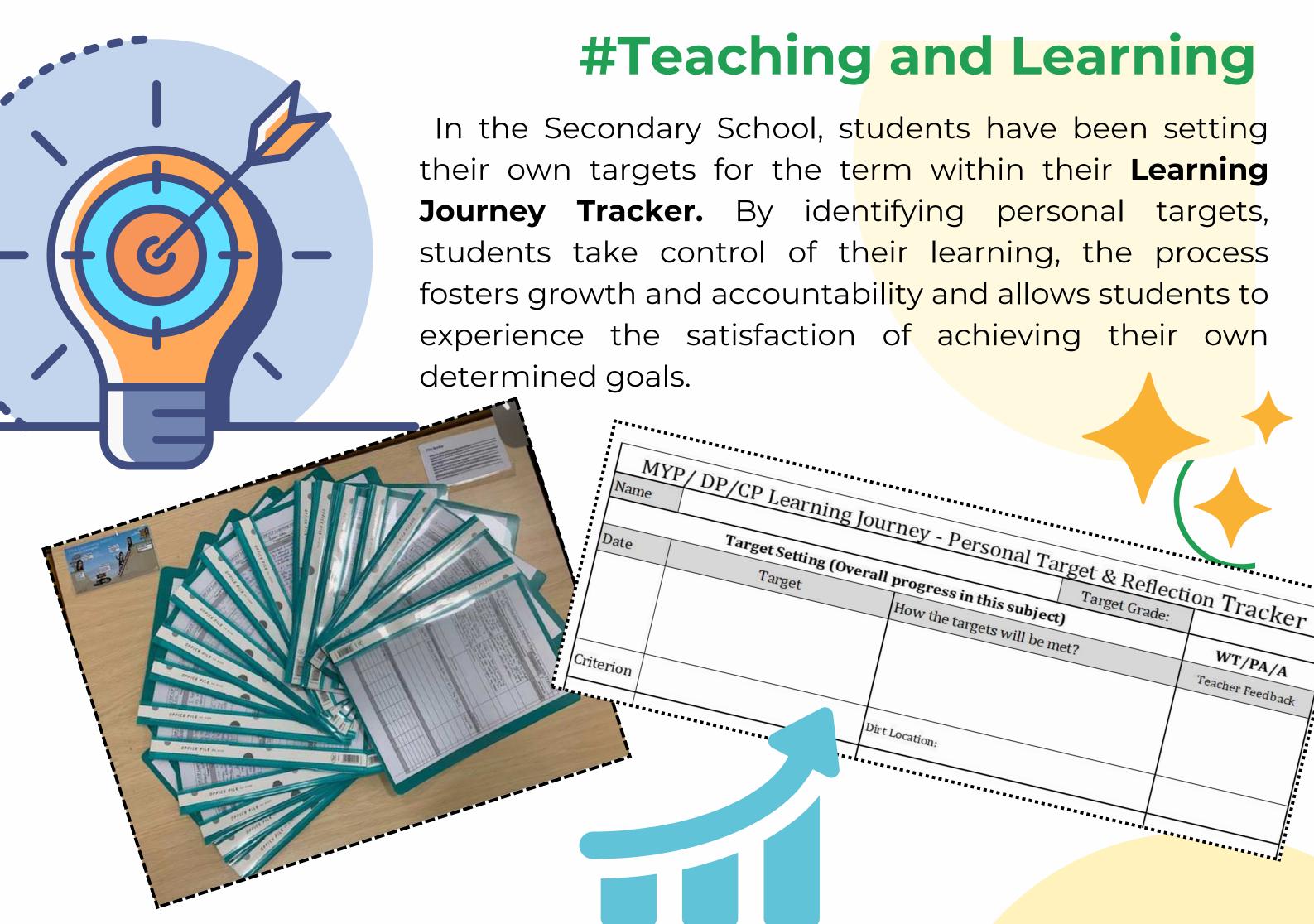
Often, the most successful students are well organized, have effective time management, complete assignments and projects on time, actively participate in various events, and keep reduced stress levels.

Did you know that some of our Year 13 DIA students are wrapping up their Early Applications to university **right now**? Senior year is 'NON-STOP' so learn how to manage your time!

FUTURE FOCUS: A regular feature here to learn trends & up-and-coming careers!

- What Is Data Science and Why Is It Important? (link)
- Data Scientist: Occupational Outlook (link)
- Video Resource (link)





- 1. **Clear direction:** Setting personal targets helps students to define what they want to achieve, giving them a clear sense of direction. This can help them stay focused and motivated to work towards their learning goals.
- 2. **Personal growth**: By setting personal targets, students can challenge themselves and strive for self-improvement. This allows them to develop new skills, broaden their knowledge, and build confidence in their abilities.
- 3. **Accountability**: Setting personal targets helps students take ownership of their learning and progress. When they have specific goals to work towards, they are more likely to take responsibility for their actions and make consistent efforts to achieve those targets.

Growth

- 4. **Measure progress**: Personal targets serve as a benchmark for students to track their progress. They can regularly assess how far they have come and identify areas that may need more attention or improvement, which can be motivating and help them stay on track.
- 5. **Celebrate achievements**: When students achieve their personal targets, it gives them a sense of accomplishment and boosts their self-esteem. Celebrating these achievements can further motivate them to set new goals and continue their growth.

Sport & PHE

Passion For Sport

Thrilled to start the sports training season with an overwhelming 520+ students stepping up for trials across 38 teams in swimming, cricket, basketball, football, water polo, aquathlon, and cross country.





















Co-Curricular Activities CCAs







A guide to help streamline Year 7 communication.

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Kevin Johnson	kevink@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Shannon Meehan	shannonm@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Shannon Meehan	shannonm@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Asha Karam	ashak@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including standardized tests.	Susan McMechan	susanm@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Stewart Pinkerton	stewartp@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Shannon Meehan	shannonm@diadubai.com
Transition from Year 6 - Year 7	Shannon Meehan	shannonm@diadubai.com
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A guide to help streamline Year 8 communication.

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PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Donna Campbell	donnac@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
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A guide to help streamline Year 9 communication.

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The Middle Years Programme.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
Year 10 Subject Options	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
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Future transition into Year 10	Amy Dowling	amyd@diadubai.com
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2022-2023

A guide to help streamline Year 10 communication.

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A guide to help streamline Year 11 communication.

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School uniform concerns.	Naveen Tyagi	naveent@diadubai.com
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A guide to help streamline Year 12 communication.

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The Career-related Programme / BTEC	Kanchi Das	kanchid@diadubai.com
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Aim High Programme	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@diadubai.com
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Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com







A guide to help streamline Year 13 communication.

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The Diploma Programme.	Mona Khreis	monak@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC	Kanchi Das	kanchid@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
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Aim High Programme	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	TBC	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com





School Principal Hitesh Bhagat hiteshb@diadubai.com

Secondary Communications

Secondary School Senior Leadership

Head of Secondary Michelle Puxty michellep@diadubai.com

Deputy Head Pastoral Colin Leacy

Deputy Head Years 7 - 11 Michael Norton michaeln@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Pastoral Daniel Murphy danielm@diadubai.com Deputy Head Year 12 -13 Claire Inglis clairei@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Years 7 - 9 Susan McMechan susanm@diadubai.com

Director of Sports Mihail Kouzev mihailk@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Years 10 - 13 Gerhard Van Der Wal gerhardv@diadubai.com

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DP Coordinator Mona Khreis monak@diadubai.com

CP Coordinator Kanchi Das kanchid@diadubai.com

Head of Inclusion Asha Karam ashak@diadubai.com

Heads of Year

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HoY 8 Donna Campbell donnac@diadubai.com

HoY 9 **Amy Dowling** amyd@diadubai.com

HoY Year 10 **Stephen Cleary** stephenc@diadubai.com Assistant HoY Year 10 Srishti Jain srishtij@diadubai.com

HoY 11Assistant HoY 11 Naveen Tyagi naveent@diadubai.com

Assistant HoY 11 Jennifer Agacy jennifers@diadubai.com

HoY 12 John Aboaja johna@diadubai.com

HoY 13 Dollour Toma dollourt@diadubai.com

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Arabic B **Mohamed Nasr** mohamedn@diadubai.com

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Maths DP Vidya Shriram vidyas@diadubai.com

Science MYP Nemanja Dordevic nemanjad@diadubai.comm

Science DP Barbara Timlin

Mahua Paul barbarat@diadubai.com mahuap@diadubai.com

Humanities MYP

Humanities DP Reena Tikku reenat@diadubai.com

Language B MYP Blanca Gonzales blancag@diadubai.com

Language B DP **Yolaine Siko** yolaines@diadubai.com

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Design DP Faryal Arsalan faryala@diadubai.com

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Visual Arts Veronica Richards veronicar@diadubai.com

Media Seon Lewis seonl@diadubai.com

VFiona Turnbull fionat@diadubai.com

PHE

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