



Secondary School Newsletter



EMIRATES
HILLS

Friday 7th March

Head of Secondary Message

Hello All,

What an incredible few weeks it has been! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making our International Evening such a spectacular event. A special thank you for our PADIA team who worked tirelessly to support in making the magic happen. The energy, the effort, and the amazing showcase of cultures truly highlighted the spirit of our school community. It was wonderful to see so many families coming together to celebrate our diversity – we are so grateful for your support!

A big well done to our students as well – not just for their performances and participation, but also for their outstanding academic achievements. We are thrilled to share that our school has been recognized as one of the top private schools in the UAE based on our TIMSS results, and we were honored with an award from KHDA. This is a testament to the hard work of our students and teachers, and we couldn't be prouder.

As we move forward, our Year 11 and Year 13 students are heading into the final stretch before their IB examinations next term. This is their last big push, and we encourage them to keep up their momentum. Every effort now will make a difference, and we are here to support them every step of the way.

Michelle Puxty

Head of Secondary



Key Diary Dates

Friday 14th March



International Pi Day

Students will enjoy fun math activities and challenges centered around 3.14159265359.....

Friday 14th March



Community Iftar

Join us at 6pm to break the fast with delicious food and wonderful company

Friday 21st March



Last day of Term 2

We hope you enjoy a restful two week spring break with your friends and family

Monday 7th April



First Day of Term 3

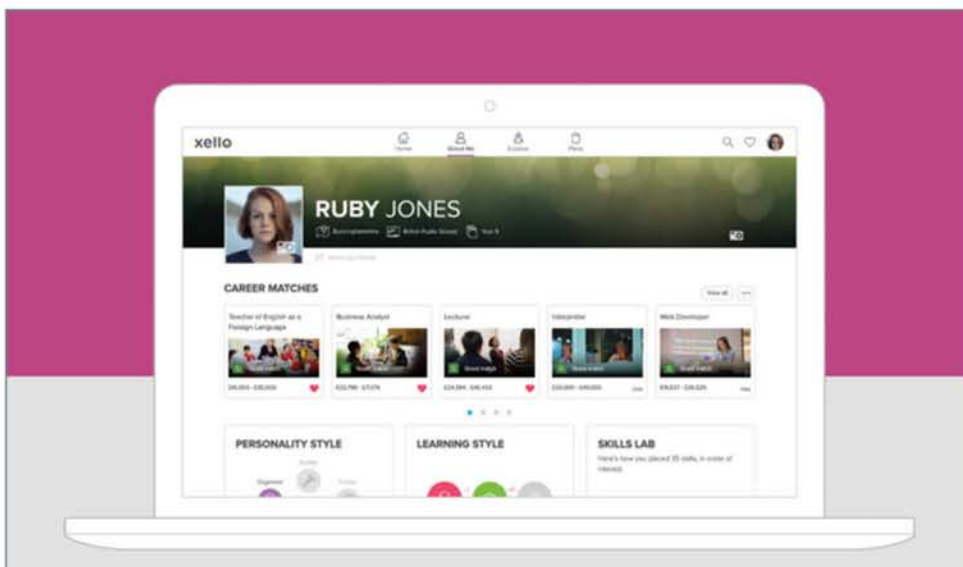
The final term of 24-25 begins!

DIA Year 7, 8 & 9

Say hello to Xello!

Xello is an online program that helps you create your very own, unique roadmap for post-secondary, career, and future success. This year, discover your own personalised pathway through self-knowledge, exploration, and planning. Sign in today and get started!

Career Exploration – University Planning



“I can tell it’s geared more toward younger students than University programs I’ve seen.”

Year 9 Student

With Xello, your child will:

- 1. Build Self-knowledge** – Interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations
- 2. Explore Options** – Learn about career possibilities & educational pathways
- 3. Create a Plan** – Action plans with steps toward school, career & life goals
- 4. Learn & Reassess** – Interactive lessons, age-appropriate skills & knowledge

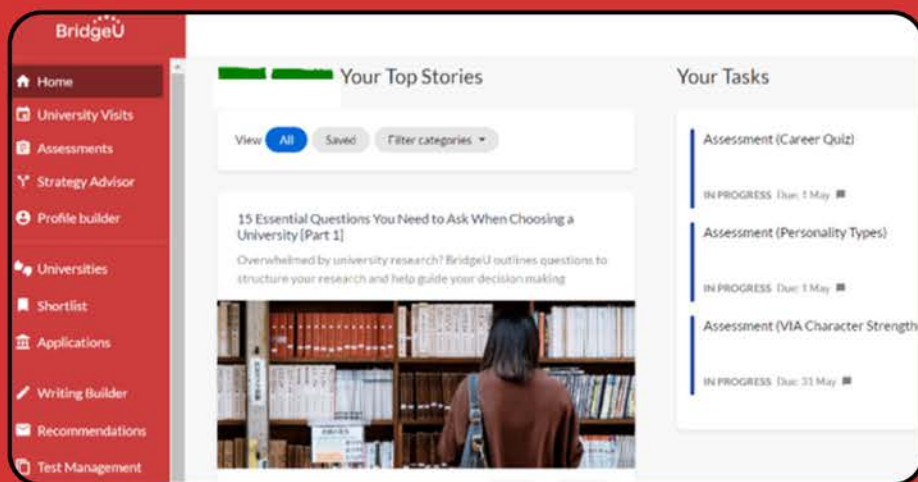
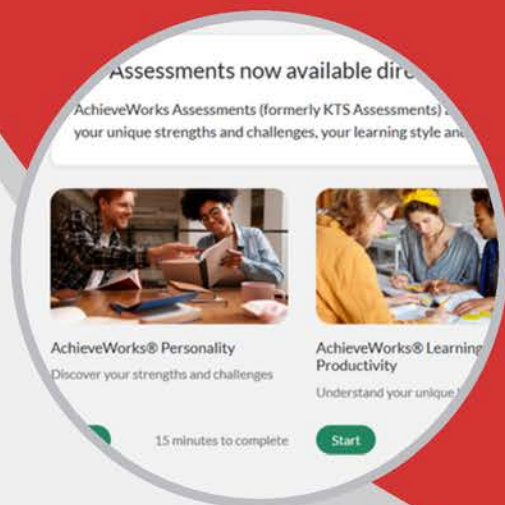
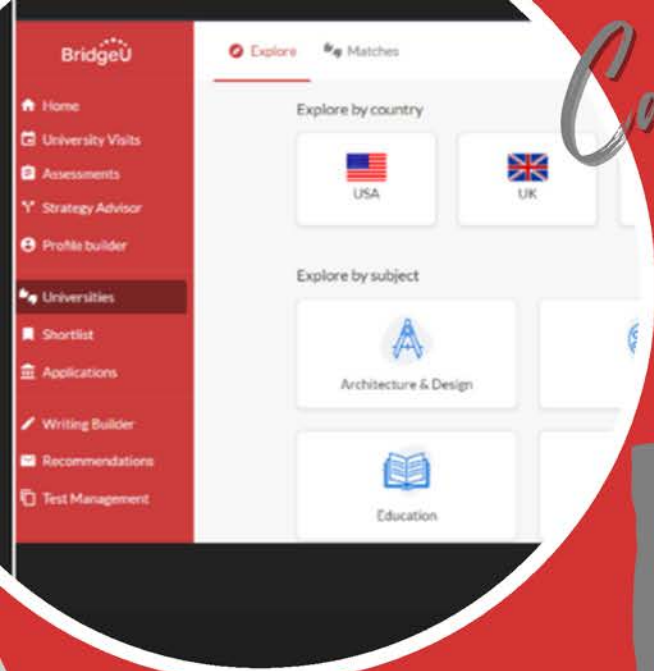
www.xello.co.uk

Career/College Platform

DIA Year 10 - 13

BridgeU

Did you know **EVERY DIA STUDENT** has a **BridgeU** account for career & college planning?



PLATFORM FEATURES:

Personality - Interest - Skills Inventory

CV/Resume + Essay Writing
University Research
Teacher Rec Letters

CHECK STUDENT EMAIL FOR LOGIN DETAILS

'CLICK' THE LINK, OR SCAN BELOW...

<https://app.bridge-u.com/>



7TH MARCH 2025

WELLBEING CORNER

TERM 2: RE-SETTING IN RAMADAN

'Academic Focus - Smart Study Habits During Ramadan'

Dear Students and Parents,

As we continue through the term, we find ourselves in a unique period of reflection, discipline, and adaptation with Ramadan. With a reduced school timetable and shortened lessons, students—both fasting and non-fasting—have additional free time in the mornings and afternoons. This presents an excellent opportunity to refine study habits, maintain focus, and prepare for upcoming assessments while balancing wellbeing.

Using Extra Time Wisely:

With shorter school days, students have more flexibility to structure their revision. Consider dedicating early mornings or late afternoons—when energy levels are higher—to focused study sessions. Using techniques such as active recall (self-quizzing) and spaced repetition (reviewing material at intervals) can help make study time more efficient.

Balancing Rest, Nutrition, and Productivity:

For students who are fasting, maintaining concentration can be challenging, especially as the day progresses. It's important to prioritize rest, stay hydrated during non-fasting hours, and choose nourishing suhoor and iftar meals that support brain function. Non-fasting students can also use this time to support peers, engage in quiet study spaces, and respect the adjustments that come with Ramadan.

The Power of Mindful Learning and Community Support:

Ramadan is a time of patience and reflection, making it an ideal period to practice mindful learning. Rather than rushing through revision, use this opportunity to engage deeply with subjects, ask thoughtful questions, and even collaborate with classmates in study groups. Learning together not only reinforces understanding but also builds a sense of support during this special time.

Maintaining Motivation and Mental Wellbeing:

As we adapt to a different daily rhythm, it's essential to stay motivated without feeling overwhelmed. Setting small, achievable study goals can provide structure while allowing time for rest and reflection. Keeping a journal to track progress, practicing gratitude, and incorporating moments of mindfulness can help reduce stress and keep energy levels steady. Above all, students should listen to their bodies, take breaks when needed, and remember that academic success is best achieved with a balanced approach to learning and self-care.

As we embrace this month, let's make the most of our time, balancing academic progress with self-care and reflection. Wishing everyone a successful and meaningful Ramadan.

Mr. Murphy



Year 7-9 Mid Year Awards



We recently celebrated the outstanding efforts of our secondary school students at the Mid-Year Awards, recognising Excellent Achievement and Most Improved across all subjects. These awards highlight the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of our students, whether excelling consistently or making remarkable progress throughout the year. It was wonderful to see so many students being acknowledged for their commitment to learning. Congratulations to all our award recipients—your efforts truly embody our school's values of growth and excellence! Check out the highlights below for moments from this special event.





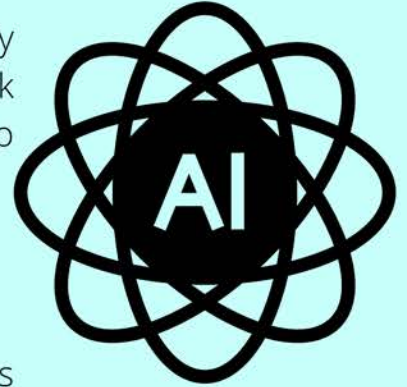
Year 10-13 Mid Year Awards



AI & STUDENT SAFEGUARDING

IS AI IS CREATING A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN FOR OUR STUDENTS & CHILDREN?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an integral part of students' daily lives, from chatbots and social media filters to AI-powered homework assistants. While these tools offer exciting opportunities, they also present new safeguarding challenges that parents should be aware of.



AI-Powered Chatbots & Risks

Many students interact with AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT, Snapchat's My AI, and other AI-driven platforms. While these tools can be useful for answering questions and providing recommendations, they also pose risks. Some chatbots may generate misleading information, expose students to inappropriate content, or even be manipulated to share personal details. Parents should encourage open discussions about how students use AI and remind them never to share private information with these tools.



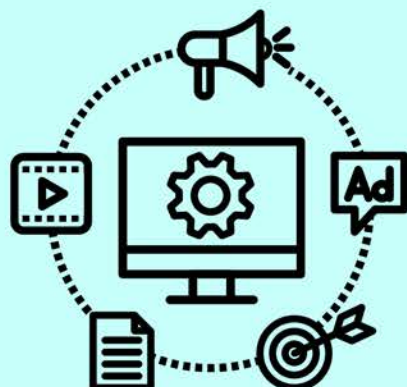
Deepfakes & Digital Misinformation

AI-generated deepfake videos and altered images are becoming more common. These can be used to spread false information or even create harmful content involving students. Teaching young people to critically assess digital media is essential. Parents can support this by discussing media literacy and ensuring students verify sources before believing or sharing content.



AI and Online Predators

AI has made it easier for online predators to disguise their identities. Some use AI-generated profile pictures and chatbots to engage in conversations that appear realistic, making it harder for young people to identify potential dangers. Parents should talk to their children about online safety, encourage them to be cautious when speaking to strangers, and remind them to report anything suspicious.



At DIA, we are committed to educating students on how to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. By working together, we can help ensure they develop the awareness and skills needed to stay safe online.

Student Spotlight



PERLA SIDHOM - 9D

PERLA WENT ON A MISSION TRIP TO KENYA TO SPREAD JOY FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN. SHE ALSO INTERACTED WITH PARENTS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

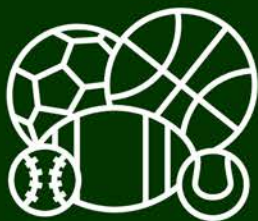


Student Spotlight



AANYA VORA - 12D

AANYA FOUNDED EQUIP2EMPOWER, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HOSTED A CHARITY SPORTS EVENT, WHERE SHE RAISED AED 22000, AND 150 KGS OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN IN INDIA.

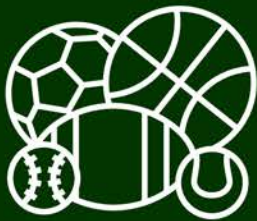


Student Spotlight



ARYA SANKAR BANERJEE - 9D

ARYA PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE OLYMPIAD 2024 ORGANIZED BY SPACETRIX AEROSPACE (REGISTERED SPACE TUTOR OF ISRO) AND ACHIEVED A CERTIFICATE FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE OLYMPIAD.



Duke of Edinburgh

Gold and Silver International Awards

Last week, 51 of our Year 11 students and 11 of our Year 12 students embarked on their assessed expeditions for the Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, pushing themselves further than ever before. Building on the skills developed during previous expeditions, students demonstrated impressive growth in their ability to plan routes, manage their energy, and support one another through difficult terrain.



The longer expeditions tested their perseverance as they adapted to unpredictable conditions, navigated challenging trails, and remained focused on their goal. Both groups demonstrated remarkable resilience, overcoming moments of exhaustion, steep inclines, and unpredictable weather to achieve their goal. Their ability to stay motivated, support one another, and push through difficulties was a true testament to their character.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their commitment and perseverance in taking on this challenge. Special thanks go to our dedicated team of coordinators and teachers who provided invaluable support and guidance throughout this journey. Their encouragement and expertise played a key role in helping our students succeed in this demanding but rewarding experience.



This achievement marks a significant milestone in their Duke of Edinburgh journey, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow as confident, capable, and adventurous young leaders.



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HILLS



The MYP Personal Project Exhibition

Empowering students to explore their interests, think independently, and turn ideas into action—fostering creativity, resilience, and lifelong learning.

This week, our Year 11 students reached a significant milestone in their MYP (Middle Years Programme) journey – the successful completion of their Personal Project Exhibition! This culminating experience is a testament to their dedication, creativity and inquiry-driven learning.

The Personal Project is an independent, student-led endeavor that allows learners to explore a passion, develop new skills, and demonstrate the IB Learner Profile attributes in action. From designing sustainable fashion pieces to creating coding applications, from composing original music to researching global social issues, our students showcased a diverse and inspiring range of projects.



Throughout this process, students honed their Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills, including research, self-management and communication. They navigated challenges, refined their problem-solving abilities, and confidently presented their projects to peers, teachers, and parents. The exhibition was a true celebration of their perseverance and passion.

We extend our gratitude to our dedicated supervisors, who provided invaluable guidance and mentorship throughout this journey. We also thank our parent community for their unwavering support in nurturing these young innovators.



As our Year 11 students prepare for the next stage of their academic journey, we encourage them to carry forward the confidence, curiosity, and skills they have developed through this enriching experience. Congratulations to all our students on their outstanding achievements!

Congratulations to our students on a fantastic exhibition!

This experience has been a valuable journey of learning and growth.





YOU ARE INVITED TO:

RAMADAN

Iftar

We invite you to join us in breaking the fast with delicious food and wonderful company.

14 March 2025
6 PM, DIA Emirates Hills

innoventures
education



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

MYP MEDIA ARTS

The Growing Influence of Media in Our Lives

Media is evolving rapidly, becoming essential in all aspects of our lives. Yet, few of us critically examine how it shapes our thoughts, culture, and perceptions.

The Power of Media Studies in Shaping Perspectives

Media Studies provides students with the opportunity to analyze how media influences society while exploring fields like advertising, photography, social media, and filmmaking. This subject is especially valuable today, as media literacy is crucial for careers in digital marketing, journalism, content creation, and public relations.

Building Career-Ready Skills in a Media-Driven World

With a balanced curriculum of theory and practical skills, students gain the tools to critically engage with media and create content—preparing them for success in today's media-driven job market.



DP FILM STUDIES

FILM STUDIES OFFERS STUDENTS A BLEND OF THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE, PREPARING THEM FOR VARIOUS CAREERS IN THE FILM INDUSTRY. THEY LEARN TO "READ FILM" BY ANALYZING HOW ELEMENTS LIKE CINEMATOGRAPHY, EDITING, AND SOUND CONVEY MEANING AND SHAPE AUDIENCE PERCEPTION. STUDENTS ALSO GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN ROLES SUCH AS DIRECTOR, EDITOR, AND SCREENWRITER, EQUIPPING THEM FOR CAREERS IN PRODUCTION, MARKETING, AND MORE. DP STUDENTS FURTHER DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING AND AN APPRECIATION FOR DIVERSE CULTURES IN FILM, OPENING DOORS TO CAREERS IN SCREENWRITING, CINEMATOGRAPHY, SOUND DESIGN, MARKETING, AND DISTRIBUTION.





International Evening 2025



PADIA

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International Evening 2025



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SchoolsCompared.com presents The Top Schools Award for...

Best International Baccalaureate Curriculum School in the UAE 2023 - 2024

**DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
EMIRATES HILLS**

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Best

**INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE
CURRICULUM**

SCHOOL IN THE UAE 2023-24



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James Mullen
Co-Founder

David Westley
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Awarded by the Editorial Board of SchoolsCompared and the Top Schools Awards Independent Judging Panel for consistently outstanding feedback from parents and teachers, school-wide innovation, whole child development and outstanding contribution to the quality and standards of education for children in the UAE 2023.

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Dream - Inspire - Achieve