

Dubai International Academy

8th May 2026



EMIRATES
HILLS

Secondary School
Newsletter

Head of Secondary Message

Hello All,

As we return to school, it feels strange to once again find ourselves transitioning back online due to the current situation. Despite the challenges and uncertainty, I want to take a moment to recognise how incredibly well our community has adapted. I am immensely proud of our students for their resilience, positivity, and continued commitment to their learning, and equally proud of our staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure continuity and high-quality provision throughout every stage of change. I would also like to sincerely thank our parents for their ongoing support, patience, and partnership with the school during these unprecedented times. The strength of our community has truly shone through.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, we know this is not the ending to the academic year that many had hoped for, particularly with the changes to examinations and the uncertainty surrounding assessments. While they may not experience the traditional exam period and finish to the year, we are very much looking forward to celebrating them properly at their graduation events and giving them the send-off they deserve as they close this important chapter of their lives.



Michelle Puxty

Head of Secondary

Key Diary Dates



Monday 11th May - 15th May

The Year 11 Post 16 Tasters

Year 11 students



Thursday 14th May

The Year 11 IDU Assessment

Year 11 students



Wednesday 20th May

The Year 11 Graduation

Year 11 students and Families 5pm PE Hall



Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Eid Break

School Holiday



Year 13 Farewell 2026

The **Year 13 Farewell Ceremony** took place on **Friday, 24 April**, bringing together students, staff, parents, and members of the DIA Emirates Hills community to celebrate the graduating **Class of 2026**. The event marked an important milestone for our **Post-16 students** as they prepare for the next stage of their lives. Throughout the afternoon, the venue was filled with excitement, laughter, reflection, and gratitude as students reunited with peers and teachers who supported them over the past two years.



Throughout the event, many moments highlighted **the strong sense of community** that has defined this cohort. Students recorded heartfelt speeches and appreciation messages for their teachers, reflecting on the guidance and support received over the past two years. In return, teachers prepared farewell videos for their classes, sharing messages of encouragement, humour, and pride as students prepare for their next chapter beyond DIA Emirates Hills. These exchanges created an uplifting atmosphere, reminding everyone of the meaningful relationships formed during the Diploma and Career-related Programme journeys.



A particularly memorable moment of the afternoon was the address delivered by **Head of Year 13, Mr. Tyagi**, who reflected on some of the most defining moments experienced by the cohort over the past several years. His speech celebrated the resilience, humour, achievements, and character shown by students throughout their Post-16 journey, while also recognising the strong sense of unity that shaped the year group.

Bye

Year 13 Farewell 2026

Adding further warmth and humour to the event, Mr. Clearly also shared his farewell wishes with the graduating cohort, proudly reminding students that they remain **the only year group** in DIA Emirates Hills history to avoid defeat against staff members in the traditional football match.



We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to all students who were unable to attend the ceremony in person, but who still took the time to record thoughtful farewell messages for their homeroom and subject teachers. A special thank you must also go to the **Student Leadership Team** for their continuous collaboration, detailed planning of the event sequence, and outstanding support provided before, during, and after the ceremony. Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to all supporting staff members and **PADIA representatives** whose diligent preparation, coordination, and dedication allowed the celebration to become one of the most memorable and meaningful moments for our graduating cohort.



As our Year 13 students now approach their final examinations and prepare to embark on new academic and professional pathways around the world, we would like to wish every member of the graduating Class of 2026 the very best for the future. We are immensely proud of everything this cohort has achieved and grateful for the positive impact they have made within our school community.

*We will
miss
you*



DUBAI
INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

CLASS OF
2026

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

—●—
Save the date as we
honour our graduates

—●—
JUNE 2ND, 2026
LA PERLE, DUBAI

—●—
Where bright futures begin



innoventures
education

TALIA AWAIDA



20
25

Talia has earned recognition for the positive attitude and resilience she displayed during distance learning. At a time when staying motivated was not always easy, Talia has remained fully committed to her studies and continued to approach her learning with enthusiasm and purpose. She engaged actively in lessons, met deadlines, and showed a clear willingness to develop through feedback. Her effort, responsibility, and commitment make her a strong role model within the BTEC Business cohort.



**BTEC
STUDENTS OF
THE MONTH**

**BENEDEK P
MOLNAR SZABO**

Benedek has been selected as one of our BTEC Business April Students of the Month in recognition of his excellent engagement during distance learning. Throughout this period, Benedek showed real consistency and maturity, attending every lesson and ensuring that all required work was completed and submitted on time. He also made strong use of feedback, taking the initiative to ask questions and improve the quality of his work. His reliability, focus, and determination reflect the habits of a successful BTEC Business student.





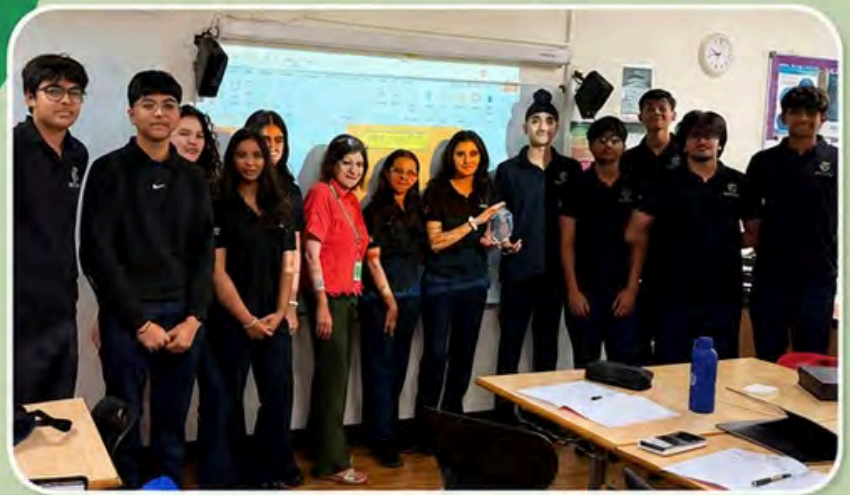
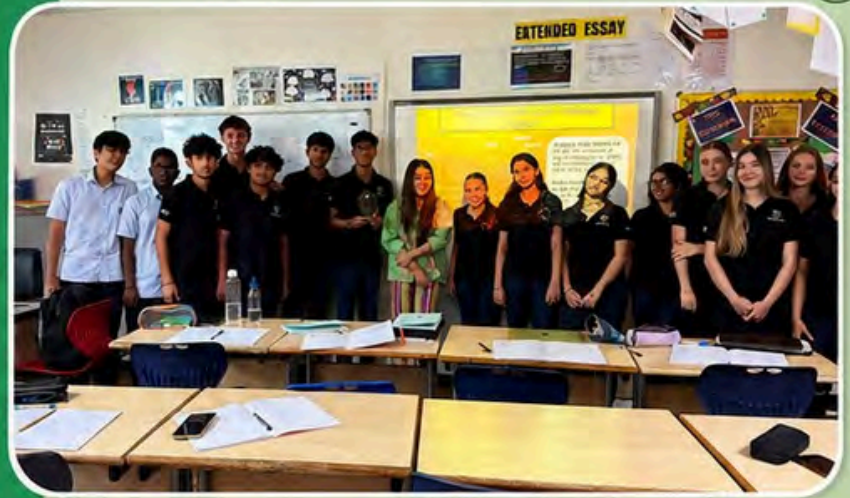
EMIRATES HILLS



Smarter, Richer, Braver

DIA Emirates Hills shines as the top-performing school in Dubai

Smarter, Richer, Braver is a financial literacy programme designed to build awareness and confidence in dealing with money matters. Through the world's first Financial Identity app, students experience a gamified, mobile-first journey that reshapes how they think, feel, and act with money.



What makes the programme unique?

- ✔ **Identity-based learning** – students reflect on who they are becoming with money.
- ✔ **Micro-interactions** – tap, swipe, and guess-reveal moments that train judgment, not just memory.
- ✔ **Real-world tracking** – the Cost Tracker links classroom learning with daily life.
- ✔ **Fun, friction-light, and scientifically** structured to build habits that stick.



DIA EH was the **first institution** in this pilot cycle to complete the **full Level 1 journey**, with some of the strongest outcomes across all participating schools.

Outstanding cohort outcomes



100%
Activation



97%
Completion



89%
Concept
Mastery



91%
Decision-Quality
Signals



85%
Identity Shift



LEADERSHIP IN FINANCIAL EDUCATION – FOUNDING PILOT PARTNER (2026) AWARD



A proud milestone for DIA Emirates Hills and a powerful step forward in empowering financially confident young people.

DUBAI
INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMY



Celebrated Autism Awareness Day 14th April

**Celebrating Differences,
Promoting Inclusion**

Movie & Reflection Time

Students watched short films exploring autism and neurodiversity.

Wear Blue with Purpose

Students and staff wore blue to show solidarity and acceptance.

Learning Through Discussion

Students reflected on strengths, inclusion, and different ways of thinking.

Creative Expression

Students created posters, videos, and written reflections.



Students came together to celebrate acceptance, empathy, and neurodiversity.

More than awareness—celebrating different ways of thinking

Student Reflections & Key Takeaways

23 days ago
the world will change if we understand different ways of thinking because we might discover new things we never knew and we will be able to talk to people with conditions like autism



23 days ago
They can memorise small details and since they're more sensitive they can pick up on small things most people wouldn't notice

23 days ago
make them feel included

Inclusion begins with understanding

23 days ago

the world better and appreciate different ways of thinking?



23 days ago

Just include them in everything, be patient talking to them, and help them with things they need

23 days ago
Today, I learned more about autism and how it affects people in different ways. Some people with autism may find social communication difficult while others may be very sensitive to sounds or actions. I also learnt that many autistic people have unique strengths, like strong memory, a different thought process, or a deep focus in what they're interested in. Understanding autism helped me realize how important patience, kindness, and inclusion are so that everyone feels valued.

TERM 3
RETURN



WELCOME BACK



EMIRATES
HILLS

After five weeks of online learning and two weeks of holidays, it was truly wonderful to see our students back in the school building once again.

The excitement was infectious bright smiles, loud laughter, and the constant buzz of conversation reminded us just how alive a school becomes when it is filled with students again. From the moment students stepped through the gates, our campus was once again full of energy, learning, and joy.

Whether arriving by bus, reconnecting with friends, or returning to classrooms and corridors filled with conversation and curiosity, there was one shared feeling across the school community: happiness to be back together.

The heart of DIA came alive once again as students returned to campus.



DOORS OPEN.
CLASSROOMS BUZZING.
SMILES EVERYWHERE.
IT'S SO GTO BE BACK.





Welcome!

We are absolutely delighted to welcome our students back where they belong, and we look forward to all the moments of growth, connection, achievement, and discovery ahead.



Here's to a fantastic term three filled with learning, friendship, and unforgettable memories.





MYP Study Skills

PREPARING FOR THE
END OF YEAR ASSESSMENTS

Focus on the ATL skills

MYP study skills, focus on developing "learning how to learn" through the Approaches to Learning (ATL): thinking, social, communication, research, and self-management skills. These skills are explicitly taught to help students become independent, reflective learners, shifting the focus from speed to process, critical thinking, and real-world application.

General Study Tips

- Start early and create a realistic revision timetable and break study sessions into manageable chunks across different subjects.
- Use active revision strategies such as flashcards, mind maps, self-quizzing, and practice questions instead of only rereading notes.
- Review feedback from classwork, formative assessments, and past tests to identify areas for improvement.
- Practice time management by completing revision tasks and sample questions within a set time limit.

Effective MYP Study Techniques

1. Choose a concept

2. Teach it to someone

The Feynman Technique

4. Refine and simplify your knowledge

3. Identify gaps in your knowledge

Subject specific tips

Mathematics

Practise solving a variety of problems step-by-step and focus on understanding the method, not just memorising answers.

Individuals & Societies

Revise key concepts, case studies, and command terms (e.g., explain, analyse, evaluate) and practise writing structured responses using evidence.

Sciences

Focus on understanding scientific processes, key terminology, and how to apply concepts to real-world scenarios and data analysis questions.

Languages

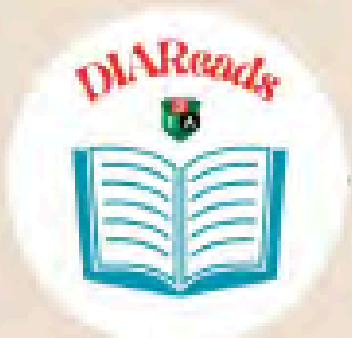
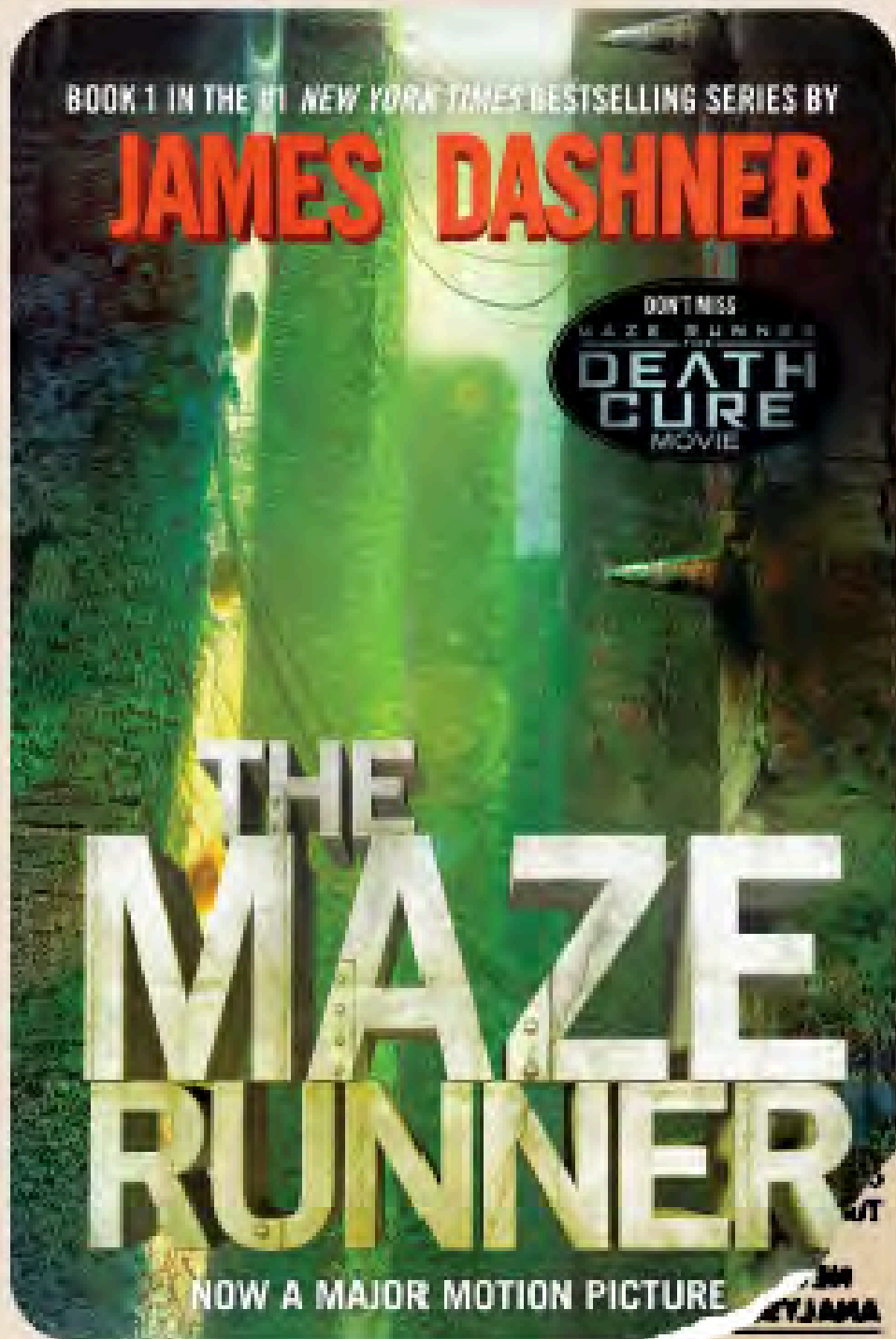
Read regularly in the target language, revise vocabulary in context, and practise writing and speaking using accurate grammar and varied sentence structures.

Wellness tips to follow during exams

- ✓ Maintain a healthy routine by getting enough sleep, eating balanced meals, staying hydrated, and taking short movement breaks between study sessions.
- ✓ Manage stress positively by using relaxation strategies such as deep breathing, mindfulness, exercise, or talking to a trusted adult, teacher, or friend when feeling overwhelmed.

May

BOOK OF THE MONTH SECONDARY



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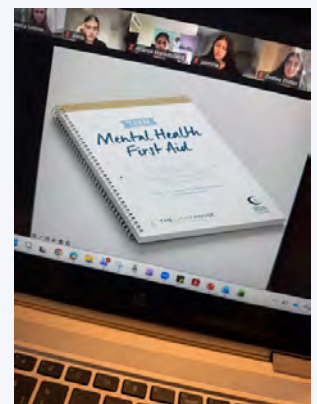
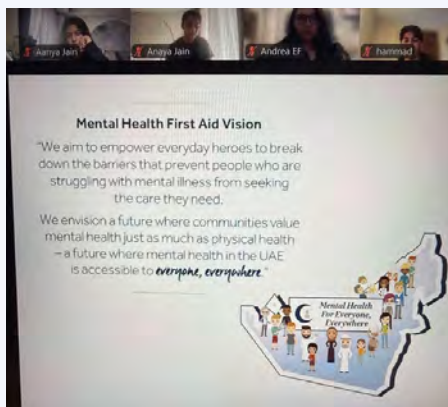
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Empowering Student Voices at DIAEH

On the 8th and 9th of April, some of our Year 11 and 12 students took part in the Teen-to-Teen Mental Health First Aid training programme, delivered online in conjunction with Lighthouse Arabia.

Throughout the sessions, students were engaged, reflective, and actively involved in meaningful discussions, demonstrating maturity, empathy, and a real commitment to supporting others.

👏💙 Congratulations to our newly trained Mental Health First Aiders!



A special thank you to Daniela and the team at Lighthouse Arabia for their time, flexibility, and for delivering such an impactful and inspiring programme. We may have missed being face-to-face, but the online sessions were just brilliant!

DIA Emirates Hills Peer Mentoring Programme

This training marks the foundation of what we hope will become the DIA Emirates Hills Peer Mentoring Programme. For any Year 11 and 12 students interested in becoming mentors, watch this space and keep an eye on your year group Teams!

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EMIRATES HILLS**

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Best

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SCHOOL IN THE UAE 2023-24



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EMIRATES
HILLS



Dream - Inspire - Achieve