



Secondary School Newsletter



EMIRATES
HILLS

Friday 2nd May

Head of Secondary Message

Hello All,

It's been a wonderful two weeks filled with achievements and moments to celebrate, many of which you'll find in this newsletter. Our Year 13 students have begun their final assessments with focus and maturity, and we're proud of the way they've approached this important period. Our Year 11s are preparing to begin next week, and we wish them all the very best.

Thank you to the parents who raised the concern about water temperature. With the weather heating up, it's more important than ever that students stay well hydrated. Cold water (not just room temp) is now available from our dispensers, and we encourage all students to bring in their reusable water bottles each day—supporting both their well-being and our commitment to sustainability.

Our new student leadership team has also been announced, and we're excited to see them begin their journey. Be sure to read on to meet our newly appointed Head Team.



Michelle Puxty

Head of Secondary

Key Diary Dates

Monday 5th May

MYP Exams Begin

Good luck to all of our Year 11 students!

Friday 9th May

Medical Student Meeting (Year 10-12) 11-12.30

Student meeting for those interested in a discussion about pursuing studies in Medicine

Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th May

ACER ISA Testing (Y7-10)

Progress tests for English, Maths and Science

Friday 16th May

Year 7 Bounce Trip

Year 7 are off to Bounce for an action-packed trip—don't miss out on the fun!

SERVICE AS ACTION



WHAT IS A SA

Service as action is a foundational element of the IB MYP. It is a mandatory requirement for students to complete. The program seeks to develop caring members of the community who act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and their environment. It starts in the classroom and extends beyond it, requiring students to take an active part in the communities in which they live



REQUIREMENTS

Each year 7-11, students are required to complete 2 Service as action each year

These should be logged in to Managebac



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Work collaboratively with others
- Show perseverance and commitment
- Undertake new challenges
- Develop new skills or understandings
- Plan and initiate activities
- Consider the ethical implications of your actions
- Engage with issues of global importance

TYPES OF SA

- **Direct Service** is action that happens in the presence of the persons, animals, or places we want to impact. This may include volunteering or cleaning up a park.
- **Indirect Service** may not be in the presence of the person or thing you are impacting. Service might take the form of fundraising or collections.
- **Advocacy** is when you speak up for or against an issue or solution. When we use our voices, we are being advocates.
- **Research** involves finding out new information that informs or demands action. For example, collecting scientific data or surveying a group.

2ND MAY 2025

WELLBEING CORNER

TERM 3: MAKING THE MOST OF TERM 3

Dear Students and Parents,

As we move into May, our focus turns even more sharply to revision. Whether you are preparing for end-of-year exams in Years 7-12 or final assessments in Year 13, now is the time to make every moment of study count. With a structured approach, revision can be not only productive but also empowering.

Planning Your Revision Wisely:

A strong revision plan is essential. Break your study sessions into focused blocks, setting realistic targets for each day. Prioritise the topics you find most challenging, while still revisiting your stronger areas to maintain confidence. Mixing different subjects across a day can also help keep your mind fresh and prevent fatigue.

Active Over Passive Revision:

Simply reading through notes is not enough. Aim for active revision strategies that involve engagement and recall:

- Self-testing: Create flashcards, practice quizzes, or write down everything you remember about a topic before checking your notes.
- Teaching others: Explaining a concept out loud to a family member or friend can highlight gaps in your understanding.
- Past papers: Completing timed questions under exam conditions will help build familiarity and confidence.

Balancing Study and Wellbeing:

Revision is important, but so is maintaining your health. Schedule regular breaks, stay active, and ensure you get plenty of rest. Short walks, breathing exercises, and healthy meals can significantly improve focus and memory retention.

Making the Most of Small Opportunities:

Remember, not all revision has to happen in long, formal sessions. Small pockets of time—such as a 15-minute review before dinner or a quick recap while commuting—can be powerful. Reviewing a few key points regularly throughout the day helps strengthen memory over time. Being consistent, even in small ways, will build your confidence and make a noticeable difference when it comes to exam day.

Mr. Murphy

22 Apr 2025 ::::::::::::::::::::

Innovent Robotic Competition



The Innovents Robotics Competition 2025, hosted by DIAEH featured three engaging challenges focused on innovation and robotics. In the Innovation category, teams of 3-4 primary, middle, and secondary students explored New Horizons in Healthcare, identifying a problem and designing a creative solution.

The Robot Football challenge required teams to build and remotely operate EV3 robots in an exciting 3-minute match. Meanwhile, the Robot Challenge tasked participants with programming a prebuilt Spike Prime robot equipped with two movement motors and one attachment motor to autonomously complete a task (such as moving objects or navigating a course) within 1 minute 30 seconds. Teams constructed an attachment and wrote the code on-site, testing their problem-solving and technical skills under time pressure.

The competition fostered teamwork, creativity, and STEM learning in a dynamic and competitive environment, encouraging students to think critically and apply robotics in real-world scenarios. DIAEH emerged as the overall winner with our students securing first positions in Primary and Middle Football as well as Primary and Senior STEAM Innovation Project.



<https://www.instagram.com/diatech.2025/?hl=en>

TED YOUTH @DIA

BEYOND the HORIZON

2024 - 2025

TEDxYouth@DIA was an inspiring evening filled with energy, ideas, and meaningful moments. Under the theme "Beyond the Horizon," our passionate student speakers and performers captivated the audience with powerful talks and creative expressions. The event was elevated by the enthusiasm and engagement of the audience, whose presence turned the evening into a truly interactive and unforgettable experience making this event a resounding success.



TED X YOUTH @DIA

BEYOND the HORIZON

2024 - 2025





CAPTURE @ DIA

MASKED STORIES

FRAMING THE UNSEEN



On April 23rd, DIA Emirates Hills became the heart of a powerful movement as it hosted Masked Stories, a national photography competition led by Capture@DIA. The event united students, families, educators, and industry leaders to honor voices too often unheard—finalists chosen from over 150 powerful submissions across the UAE.



The evening opened with stirring speeches from Capture@DIA Presidents, senior leadership, and renowned photographers who shared stories that moved the room. A soulful performance by our student band set the tone, followed by a riveting panel that revealed the power of storytelling through the lens.

Masked Stories was not just a celebration of art—it was a call to see the invisible. Through bold images and raw words, students uncovered the dignity, struggle, and quiet heroism of those who work in the shadows of our daily lives. It was a tribute to gratitude, justice, and the power of youth-led truth-telling.



Winners were announced to thunderous applause, receiving professional camera kits and gift cards from sponsors including Digital Future Solutions, Canon Middle East, and Emax. But the real reward was deeper—shared purpose, community connection, and the courage to tell stories that matter.



Digital
Future Solutions





CAPTURE @ DIA

MASKED STORIES

THE WINNERS

Hands of Craft and Care



Chloe Wienand

FRAMING THE UNSEEN



Vaibhav Mundanat

Night Watchers
& Silent Responders

Family Anchors



Abigail Tak

School Stewards



Hridaan Parekh



"You may not know his name, but you've seen the sparkle in his eyes and felt the kindness in his smile."



Aanya Jain

Invisible Guardians



We are proud of our students and grateful to our judges, sponsors, Capture@DIA President Ramita and Co-President Alexia, Mr. Seon Lewis and a dedicated team who made this event a lasting legacy.

OVERALL WINNER



Vritti Suvarna

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Abhinav Venkateswaran



The Bridge Hub Student CCA Event

On the 25th of April, The Bridge Hub hosted a subject selection event designed to support Year 9 students through a crucial milestone – choosing their MYP subjects. Understanding just how overwhelming this transition can be, the event provided clarity, confidence, and community-driven guidance for the students.

Senior students from Years 10, 11, and 12 volunteered at the event to share their personal experiences and thoughts on a variety of subjects. They offered realistic insights into the courses, expectations, workloads, and how each subject connects to future academic and career aspirations. The event featured open Q&A sessions, one-on-one peer conversations, and student-led presentations, creating a safe and supportive space for Year 9s to ask questions and explore their options. The students felt that the event provided insight on aspects they hadn't considered and made them more confident in their decisions.

Through this initiative, The Bridge Hub continues its mission to bridge gaps between year groups, encourage mentorship, and promote mindful, informed decision-making across the school community.



GO TEAM!



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

On Friday 25th April, the Year 12 BTEC Business students Dubai International Academy, completed the final aspect of their Unit 9: Team Building in Business with an unforgettable visit to Al Ain Adventure. We managed to get the trip in before it got too hot!

The opportunity for the BTEC students to truly submerge themselves in experiential learning is powerful and this day was designed to bring together everything they had learned about the dynamics of leadership, teamwork, communication, and resilience.

At Al Ain Adventure, students put their knowledge to the ultimate test. Students tackled the white water rafting course with determination and energy, relying on communication and collaboration to navigate the rapids.

They demonstrated innovation and leadership through the raft building challenge, working against the clock to create structures that could stand the water test. In addition, the human knot exercise tested their patience, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills. Across all activities, students showed incredible teamwork!

Students adapted to challenges, motivating one another, and made collaborative decisions to maximise outcomes. It was a brilliant, high-energy day full of fun, leadership, learning, and memories that captured exactly what great teamwork and the Pearson BTEC Business Program is all about.

DIA shines at World Scholar's Cup Dubai Regional Round



Participating in the WSC Regional Round was an unforgettable experience that truly pushed me beyond my comfort zone. From the moment we arrived, the energy in the room was electric, with students from different schools, cultures, and backgrounds all united by a shared passion for learning. The event challenged us in a variety of ways including debating unfamiliar topics, collaborating during the Team Writing, and thinking quickly during the Scholars' Challenge and Bowl. What I enjoyed most was the opportunity to work closely with my teammates; we learned to trust each other's strengths, share ideas openly, and think critically under pressure. Beyond the academic side, the event was filled with a real sense of community. Meeting new people and celebrating each other's successes made the experience even more special. WSC helped me develop not only my public speaking and writing skills, but also my confidence and resilience. It taught me the importance of teamwork, time management, and creative thinking - skills that I will carry forward in many aspects of my life. I am proud to have represented our school, and I am already looking forward to the next challenge.

Vihaan Shukla, Year 10

When I think of World Scholar's Cup, only one word comes to mind, 'Alpaca'. You can find elements of alpaca in the opening and closing ceremony, the academic events, the website, and almost everything about WSC. It isn't just about the competition, the memories you come back with are amazing! Seeing scholars and an exceedingly talented demographic of individuals perform was a phenomenal experience! This was my first ever round of WSC, and it won't be my last, because my team has qualified for Global! Every challenge had its own 'fun' facets. My favourite was going for the debates with apprehension about the uncertainty of the debate motion and speaking in front of judges. But we won all 3 debates! I will never forget the way my anxiety slowly faded away after this moment.

Asya Veerwani 8C

This April, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the WSC – an unforgettable experience filled with learning, laughter, and llamas! I enjoyed every event, from the exciting activities and energetic sing-alongs to the academic challenges that tested my intellect, speaking skills, pushed me to think critically and creatively as well as collaborate with my teammates. I am proud to share that my team won two of our debates! I am incredibly proud that my team qualified for the Global Round, and I cannot wait to begin the next chapter of this incredible journey at the WSC!

Aarna Jain, 7D



Student Spotlight



MAYA PATEL - 9C

MAYA HAS BEEN LEARNING INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE FORM "KATHAK" FOR OVER 7 YEARS NOW. ALONG WITH HER GROUP, MAYA PERFORMED IN FRONT OF A LARGE AUDIENCE AT GLOBAL VILLAGE RECENTLY, REPRESENTING THE INDIAN CULTURE AND SHARING THE BEAUTIFUL ART FORM.



Student Spotlight



ATHARV SHAH - 9F

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF ATHARV SHAH FROM 9F FOR REPRESENTING DIA IN TWO PRESTIGIOUS EXTERNAL ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS. HE REACHED BAND 3, LEVEL 4 IN THE CHALLENGE ME COMPETITION AND EARNED A SILVER MEDAL IN THE FINALS HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2025. ADDITIONALLY, ATHARV SECURED FIRST PLACE IN THE ACADEMIC OLYMPIAD ON 22ND JANUARY 2025, BRINGING HOME A TROPHY AND A GOLD MEDAL FOR DIA.





CONGRATULATIONS

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievement of Chloé Biouki, Viva Davis, Maja Asch, Thalia Altaki, and Daniella Dot Ribas, who recently competed as part of an external football team at an international tournament in Singapore. Their team emerged victorious as the Plate Champions in the Girls U14 category! Their dedication, skill, and team spirit truly shone on the international stage—congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment!

AIR

WATER

Deputy



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Spirit
Ambassador

Deputy



Isabela Deckers Trevino



Lucie Salem

Spirit
Ambassador

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Deputy

Deputy



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Alix Des Cressonnieres

Spirit
Ambassador



EARTH



FIRE



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RISHABH MITTAL

HEAD BOY 2025-26

I am Rishabh Mittal, Head Boy for the academic year 2025-2026. Having been a student at DIAEH since KG1, I have grown alongside its values and culture. With extensive experience in robotics and a strong passion for research and sustainability, I thrive in hands-on learning environments and welcome every challenge as an opportunity to grow. As Head Boy, I aim to foster a collaborative and inclusive spirit within the school community and lead a positive change throughout the upcoming academic year.





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SIYA SAWHNEY

HEAD GIRL 2025-26

I'm Siya Sawhney and I will be serving as the Head Girl for 2025-2026. Having joined DIA in Year 9, it truly is a pleasure to now represent the student body. I hope to contribute to improving our school community and to creating an inclusive, open, and comfortable environment for all students.



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AADIT CHANDRANI

DEPUTY HEAD BOY 2025-26

My name is Aadit Chandrani and I'm honored to serve as Deputy Head Boy as part of the Student Leadership Team for the coming year. I've been at DIA for two and a half years and am someone who enjoys taking initiative, supporting my peers, and working with students across year groups. I'm especially committed to listening to and implementing the ideas and feedback of all secondary students to make the year ahead as memorable, inclusive and student-driven as possible.



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MAIIA SHAKER

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL 2025-26

My name is Maiia Shaker, and I'll be serving as the Deputy Head Girl for the Class of 2026. Having been at DIA for two and a half years, it's truly an honor to give back to this community through this role. I hope to support students by listening to their ideas, promoting inclusivity, and helping build a stronger, more connected school environment. I'm excited to work alongside the leadership team to make this year meaningful for everyone!

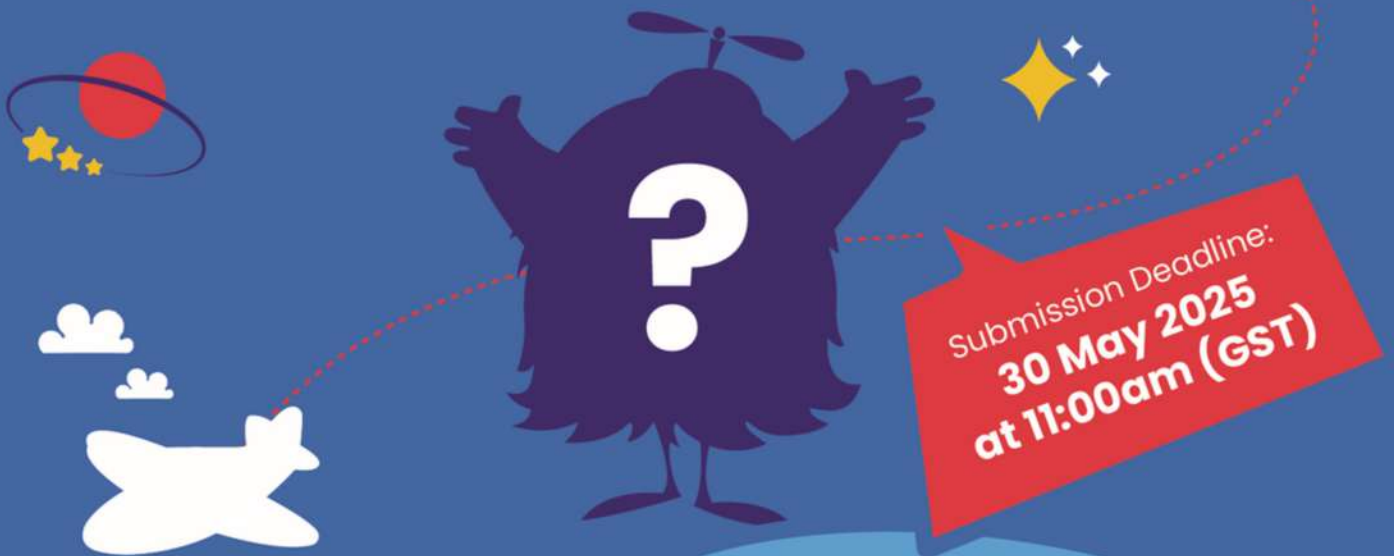


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Calling all young creators, artists, and dreamers!

The Dubai Airshow needs a mascot—and we want YOU to design it!
Imagine a character that represents flight, innovation, and the future.

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Age Group: **4-17**

Judging Criteria:
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Prize:

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**Virgin Megastore
voucher**

Exclusive Invitation:

**The winner, classmates
and family, will attend
the Mascot's Official
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Scan the QR code
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Instagram Teen Accounts



We are committed to keeping you informed about developments that impact our students' well-being, both offline and online. Recently, Instagram introduced a new feature called Teen Accounts, designed to provide a safer and more controlled environment for users aged 13 to 17. This initiative has been rolled out globally, including here in the UAE, over the past few weeks.

What Are Instagram Teen Accounts?

Instagram's Teen Accounts automatically apply a set of safety and privacy features to users aged 13 to 17. These measures aim to protect young users from unwanted interactions and exposure to inappropriate content, while also promoting healthier usage habits.

Key Features of Teen Accounts

Private by Default: New accounts for teens are set to private automatically, meaning only approved followers can view their content.

Messaging Restrictions: Teens can only receive direct messages from users they follow, reducing unsolicited contact.

Sensitive Content Control: The strictest settings are applied to limit exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate content in areas like Explore and Reels.

Interaction Limits: Only followers can tag or mention teen users, and offensive comments or messages are filtered out using the Hidden Words feature.

Time Management Tools: Teens receive reminders to take breaks after 60 minutes of daily use, and notifications are muted during designated "sleep mode" hours from 10 PM to 7 AM.

Parental Supervision Options

Instagram offers a Supervision feature that allows parents to:

View who their teen has messaged in the past seven days (note: message content remains private).

Set daily time limits for app usage.

Schedule breaks during specific times, such as school hours or bedtime.

See the topics their teen is interested in on the Explore page.

To enable supervision, both the parent and teen must have Instagram accounts and agree to the setup.

[CHECK OUT THEIR OFFICIAL INFO PAGE HERE](#)

With the increasing use of social media among adolescents, features like Teen Accounts are crucial in fostering a safer online environment. They help mitigate risks associated with online interactions and content exposure, while also encouraging responsible usage habits.

We encourage you to discuss these new features with your child and consider setting up the Supervision tools to stay engaged with their online activities.



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Best

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SCHOOL IN THE UAE 2023-24



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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