



# Secondary School Newsletter



EMIRATES  
HILLS

Friday 16th May

# Head of Secondary Message

Hello All,

As we move through this important season in the academic calendar, I want to take a moment to share how incredibly proud I am of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Their dedication, focus, and resilience throughout the IB final assessments have been truly commendable. These students have faced the challenges of their exams with maturity and a strong work ethic, and I have no doubt that their efforts will yield excellent outcomes. It has been inspiring to see them support each other and demonstrate such commitment to their futures.

At the same time, our newly appointed prefects have stepped into their roles with energy and enthusiasm. Whether leading assemblies, supporting events, or serving as positive role models for their peers, they have quickly embraced the responsibilities entrusted to them. Their leadership is already making a difference in the school community. As we look ahead, excitement is building for the upcoming graduation ceremonies – a special time to celebrate our students' achievements and reflect on the journeys they've taken. We can't wait to share these proud moments with you.



*Michelle Puxty*

*Head of Secondary*

# Key Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th May

## **DIA Film Festival**

Lights, camera, creativity – welcome to our Film Festival, where student stories shine on the big screen!

Wednesday 21st May

## **MYP Graduation: SS PE Hall: 5.30-8pm**

Join us in celebrating achievement, growth, and new beginnings at the MYP Graduation Ceremony!

Wednesday 21st May

## **Final DP2 Exam**

The culmination of dedication and perseverance at the final DP2 Exam – the gateway to new horizons!

Wednesday 21st May

## **Parent Wellbeing Session**

Join us in the Canteen Extension, 7.45-8.45, to discuss the crucial area of maintaining the wellbeing of your children

# Key Diary Dates

Monday 26th May

## **DP Graduation: Dubai Opera**

Celebrate the journey, achievement, and future ahead at the DP Graduation Ceremony – a milestone moment for the Class of 2025!

Monday 26th - Friday 30th May

## **Year 11 into 12 Taster Lessons**

Step into the future with Year 11 into 12 Taster Lessons – a glimpse of the exciting pathways that lie ahead!

Monday 26th - Friday 30th May

## **DP1 End of Year Exams**

The journey continues – DP1 End of Year Exams begin as students showcase their learning and prepare for what's next!

16TH MAY 2025

# WELLBEING CORNER

## TERM 3:

Dear Students and Parents,

As we move further into Term 3, the pressure of exams becomes more present across all year groups. From our senior students completing final assessments to younger students preparing for end-of-year exams, this is a time of challenge—but also a chance to show growth, resilience, and pride in all that's been achieved.

We send our best wishes to our Year 13 students as they approach the final few days of their DP exams, with their last paper on Wednesday 21st May, followed by a well-earned celebration at their graduation on Monday 26th May. Similarly, our Year 11s conclude their MYP exams on Monday 19th May, before celebrating their achievements at their graduation on Wednesday 21st May. These key milestones serve as powerful reminders of what commitment, preparation, and perseverance can lead to.

For our Year 12s and Year 10s, your turn begins soon, with exams starting the week of Monday 26th May. Let the accomplishments of the senior students inspire you to stay focused, stay organised, and step into the exam period with confidence.

Likewise, Years 7, 8, and 9 are now entering the final stretch of revision ahead of their exams on Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th June. Now is the time to continue building strong habits—reviewing consistently, asking for help when needed, and believing in the work already done.

This season is more than just exam timetables and revision notes—it marks a transition, a rite of passage. Especially for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, these weeks will be filled with memories you'll carry with you for life. The laughter in the corridors, the nervous excitement before exams, the friendships formed in study groups—these moments are part of your story. Embrace them, take pride in how far you've come, and look ahead with hope and determination.

Mr. Murphy



# DIAMWWEF



THURSDAY 08/05/2025

MODEL WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



ON THURSDAY, MAY 8TH, DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY MADE HISTORY BY HOSTING THE FIRST-EVER **MODEL WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM** (MWEF) IN THE MIDDLE EAST — A DYNAMIC SIMULATION OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING.

PARTICIPANTS STEPPED INTO THE ROLES OF WORLD LEADERS, CEOs, AND HEADS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO TACKLE REAL-WORLD CHALLENGES THROUGH HIGH-PRESSURE NEGOTIATION, DEBATE, AND COLLABORATION. ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN STUDENT LEADERS AND STAFF, THE EVENT HIGHLIGHTED CRITICAL THINKING, ADAPTABILITY, AND GLOBAL AWARENESS.



**WITH TROPHIES FOR BEST REPRESENTATIVE, CERTIFICATES FOR BEST POLICY, AND PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES FOR ALL, MWEF WAS A BOLD AND ENRICHING STEP INTO GLOBAL DISCOURSE AT DIA.**





Positive Living  
UAE



## Term 3 Wellbeing Session

We would like to invite all Secondary School & Primary School parents to our Term 3 Wellbeing Session, delivered by Luz Maria Villagras Surco - Founder of Positive Living UAE

Luz Maria has worked with numerous multinational companies, including Honeywell, Repsol YPF, Oshkosh, Shell, Emirates Airlines, and other Fortune 500 firms. Recognized as one of the leading holistic psychotherapists in the UAE, she brings 28 years of experience living in the region, offering deep insight into Asian and Middle Eastern cultures. Her transformative healing approach emphasizes natural, integrative psychological methods over medication.

### Theme

*“Conscious Parenting Method”.*

Should you wish to attend, please sign up using the link shared via email.



Date: Wednesday 21st May 2025



Time: 7:45am - 8:45am



Location: Canteen Extension

[SIGN UP →](#)

[Sign Up Link](#)

# LUZ MARIA VILLAGRAS SURCO FOUNDER OF POSITIVE LIVING UAE

## BEST HOLISTIC THERAPIST 2024



Best Relationship  
Therapist 2024

Best Teen Coach

Excellence Award in  
Childhood Trauma  
Psychotherapy

Cert. Parenting Coach  
Certf. RTT Hypnosis Therapist  
Cert, Couple Therapist  
Neurofeedback Practitioner  
Master NLP



**Positive Living UAE | Award-Winning  
Holistic & Therapy Center**

Positive Living UAE is an award-winning holistic  
center, offering Conscious Couple Therapy, Teen...

[positivelivinguae.com](https://positivelivinguae.com)

# CAS in Action in Kenya

## Ambitious Action, Transformative Impact

At the heart of the IB Diploma Programme is CAS (Creativity, Activity, and Service) an opportunity for students to grow beyond the classroom and connect their learning to the wider world. This year's project was a powerful example of Learning Outcome 6: Demonstrate engagement with issues of global significance. Through their work, our students explored the global implications of poverty, education inequality, and digital access, taking concrete, appropriate action to address these challenges in a meaningful way.



A group of 13 exceptional students—Aleksandra Lubenko, Arika Panchabhavi, German Khaustov, Paula Odman, Iman Roessner, Dorothy Carter, Kriti Gupta, Rahini Shettii, Malak Bayad, Zain Sarfraz, Noah Grunfeld, Yujin Chu, and Rachit Saboo—took the leap into a world far removed from their own. They left comfort behind, embraced discomfort, and showed courage, humility, and heart. Their commitment and sacrifice were a powerful reminder of what it means to be globally minded and action-oriented.

Our destination was Green Garden Academy in Kinondo, Kenya, a school that began as a feeding centre for children who had been scavenging at the local dump to survive. Over time, that feeding centre grew into a place of learning, safety, and hope. Today, the school serves hundreds of students from under-resourced communities and provides boarding for over 30 children who have been rescued from neglect and abuse. It is a place built on compassion and necessity, where every improvement has a direct, tangible impact on children's lives.

Last year, our DIA team helped construct a brand-new classroom. This year, we were tasked with something just as urgent: building a secure wall around the school to protect students throughout the day. But our impact didn't stop there. Our students rolled up their sleeves—literally—mixing cement and moving bricks by hand, working side-by-side with local builders. Alongside the physical construction, we brought vital donations: laptops, iPads, desks, and lockers, as well as equipment to enhance internet connectivity. We set up email accounts for students and staff, trained teachers in digital literacy, and helped the school step into a more connected educational future. For a community with limited access to technology, these efforts were game-changing.

MYP Class of 2025



GRADUATION  
*Ceremony*



21 May 2025  
Starts at 5:30pm -8:00 pm  
DIA-EH PE Hall

Let's come together to celebrate this milestone moment for our MYP graduates.

For inquiries, please contact: Mrs Ruba jeshi  
[rubaj@diadubai.com](mailto:rubaj@diadubai.com)  
Congratulations Class of 2025



# MODERN WORLDS DEBATE

## DIA EMIRATES HILLS SECURE 2ND POSITION AT THE PRESTIGIOUS MODERN WORLD DEBATE COMPETITION!



Massive congratulations to Krish Joseph, Aditya Sativada, and Avyukta Pragnya Raja Ankam for securing an impressive 2nd place at the prestigious Modern Worlds Debate hosted by GEMS Modern Academy!

This rigorous two-day tournament challenged participants with a series of both prepared and impromptu debates, pushing their critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork to the limit. Facing off against top teams from across the region, these three young debaters rose to the occasion with sharp arguments, quick wit, and outstanding collaboration.

A special round of applause to Aditya Sativada, who was awarded Best Speaker in the Quarter-Finals, and to Krish Joseph, who earned Best Speaker in the Semi-Finals—a true testament to their skill, poise, and presence under pressure.



Together with Avyukta's strategic contributions and composure, this dynamic team demonstrated what excellence in debate looks like. We're incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they represented themselves and their school with such grace and intelligence.

Judged by elite local experts and international judges flown in from Europe (plus virtual pros worldwide!), this competition was no small feat. A special shoutout to our very own Dr. Kanchi Das for representing UAE as one of the local judges!

The DIA recycle team invites you to:



DUBAI  
INTERNATIONAL  
ACADEMY  
Emirates Hills



# COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

FRI 23rd MAY  
7.15am - 13.30pm



Cash  
or card

DIA primary school gym

PRE-LOVED CLOTHES | HOUSEHOLD  
GOODS | TOYS & MUCH MORE

FOR DIA FAMILIES & FRIENDS



MYP 2025

# VALEDICTORIAN

We are proud to announce the two students selected as the Valedictorians for the class of MYP 2025, for consistently maintaining top grades across all subjects, and demonstrating remarkable resilience, personal growth, and a strong commitment to lifelong learning.

*EVA CHACRA*

*ADIT MITAL*



*Congratulations!*

# QURAAN COMPETITION



## EVI QUR'AN COMPETITION SUCCESS

This week, our students from Year 7 to Year 10 participated in the prestigious IEVI Annual Qur'an Competition. It was a truly enriching experience, offering our students the chance to demonstrate their memorization, recitation, and love for the Qur'an in a spiritually uplifting environment

We are proud to announce that our students brought home Gold medal, reflecting not only their commitment to the Holy Qur'an but also their hard work and preparation

Beyond awards, the competition was a valuable opportunity for our students to grow spiritually, gain confidence, and connect with the wider Islamic educational community

A heartfelt congratulations to all participants and winners 🌟  
may the Qur'an continue to be a light in their lives —



# 6 Principles for Raising a Child with ADHD

– Dr. Russell Barkley

In this essential video, leading ADHD expert Dr. Russell Barkley shares six science-based parenting principles to better support children with ADHD. Dr. Barkley emphasizes that ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder, not a result of bad parenting, and requires unique strategies.



## Key Takeaways:

- Parent with Compassion, Not Comparison-ADHD kids need more patience and structure, not judgment based on neurotypical standards.
- Externalize Motivation-Use clear rewards, consequences, and visual reminders to support their self-regulation challenges.
- Create a Structured Environment-Routines, schedules, and clear rules help reduce chaos and improve behavior.
- Manage Emotions Proactively-Teach coping skills and model calm behavior; ADHD affects emotional control as well as attention.
- Be Their Executive Function Coach-Children with ADHD need daily support with time management, organization, and planning.
- Use Positive Reinforcement-Frequent, immediate praise and rewards are far more effective than punishment.

Dr. Barkley reminds us: Your child isn't giving you a hard time—they're having a hard time. Parenting with empathy, structure, and science-backed strategies makes all the difference.

Watch full presentation video [here](#)





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

Best International Baccalaureate Curriculum School in the UAE 2023 - 2024

**DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
EMIRATES HILLS**

**WINNER**

Best

**INTERNATIONAL  
BACCALAUREATE  
CURRICULUM**

**SCHOOL IN THE UAE 2023-24**



Johnathan Westley  
Managing Editor

James Mullen  
Co-Founder

David Westley  
Co-Founder

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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EMIRATES  
HILLS



**Dream - Inspire - Achieve**