



# Secondary School Newsletter



EMIRATES  
HILLS

Friday 13th June

# Key Diary Dates

Friday 13th June

**CCA's final day**

Last Week of CCAs – Thanks for Participating!

Tuesday 17th June

**Year 12 Prefect Investiture (7.45 - 8.45am PS PE Hall)**

Honouring Our New Student Leaders

Wednesday 18th June

**Secondary School Awards Evening (5pm SS PE Hall)**

Awards Ceremony – Celebrating Student Success for the Academic Year 24-25

Friday 20th June

**Secondary School Sports Awards (11.30am - 1.30pm SS PE Hall)**

Celebrating Athletic Achievement

Tuesday 24th June

**DI@Tech (8am onwards SS PE Hall)**

Exploring New Horizons – Join us for the annual Di@Tech exhibition

Friday 27th June

**Final Day of Term 3 for all students**

Wishing you a great break and we look forward to seeing you in August

# Head of Secondary Message

Hello All,

Over the past fortnight, our Year 11 students have had a taste of what's to come, participating in the IBDP and IBCP taster sessions. These experiences gave students a chance to explore the expectations and opportunities that lie ahead in their post-16 pathways, and the feedback from both students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, Year 11s have been out on their work experience placements and job shadowing programmes, engaging with the real world of work and developing valuable skills. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who supported us in sourcing and coordinating these placements—your involvement has been invaluable in making this a meaningful experience for the students.

As we move toward the end of the academic year, all end-of-year assessments are now complete and teachers are fully immersed in marking and moderating the results to ensure every student receives accurate, reflective feedback. With just a few weeks remaining, we are shifting our focus to celebration and recognition. We look forward to honouring the achievements, efforts, and talents of our students in the upcoming FR Awards, as well as the School and Sports Awards. These events are always a highlight in our calendar and a wonderful way to reflect on a year of hard work, growth, and success.



*Michelle Puxty*

*Head of Secondary*

13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

# WELLBEING CORNER

## TERM 3: 'BEYOND EXAMS – REFLECTING, RESETTING, AND LOOKING FORWARD'

Dear Students and Parents,

With the final exams now behind most students and the last day of term approaching on Friday 27th June, this is a time to pause and reflect—not only on what has been achieved but also on what lies ahead.

Across all year groups, we've seen outstanding resilience and determination throughout this term. From our Year 13s completing their IB journey, to our younger students sitting their first secondary exams, every student has experienced growth worth celebrating. Now is the moment to step back and acknowledge those milestones—academic progress, improved routines, newfound confidence, and positive relationships.

As we move into these final two weeks of the year, students will begin wrapping up the term with feedback, class celebrations, transition activities, and goal-setting for the future. This is a valuable period of consolidation, where learning continues in different forms—through reflection, gratitude, and preparation for the next stage of school life.

We encourage all students to take pride in their progress and to think about how they want to approach the next academic year. What new goals can be set? What habits should be carried forward? And what lessons—academic or personal—will shape the months to come?

Finally, as summer draws near, we'll also be sharing wellbeing resources and ideas for using the holiday productively while still making time for rest and enjoyment. Let's make the last two weeks of Term 3 purposeful, positive, and memorable

Mr. Murphy

# Year 11 Job Shadowing



Year 11 students took part in our Job Shadowing programme over the last two weeks, gaining real-world experience across a wide range of industries. This invaluable initiative gives our students the opportunity to explore potential career pathways and better understand how the skills they develop in school apply beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of the maturity, curiosity, and professionalism they demonstrated throughout their placements. It has been inspiring to hear from employers about the confidence and enthusiasm with which our students approached their roles.

Thank you to all families, staff, and community partners who supported with placements and made this programme possible. We encourage our students to continue reflecting on what they've learned, asking questions, and remaining open to the many exciting paths ahead.



# Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Days:

## A Confident Step Forward!

**Date:** Monday & Tuesday, June 2–3

**Location:** Secondary Campus

As part of our commitment to ensuring a smooth and confident transition from primary to secondary school, our **Year 6 students** took part in a **two-day transition programme** designed to introduce them—and their families—to life in Year 7.



*A range of collaborative skills were put to test upon exposing learners to various mathematical puzzles.*

Beyond the classroom, students were guided around the secondary campus, familiarizing themselves with key locations such as classrooms, labs, the library, and communal spaces. They also had a chance to meet and interact with key staff members, helping them put friendly faces to the names they'll hear often in Year 7.



*During visual arts session, students used shapes to depict feelings of selected objects.*

Over the course of two dynamic days, our soon-to-be secondary students engaged in **Year 7 taster lessons**, allowing them to explore a variety of exciting subjects including Math, Science, the Arts, and more. These sessions gave students a glimpse into the rigour and creativity of the secondary curriculum, all while offering hands-on, interactive learning opportunities.



*Science sessions allowed learners to re-create 'rainbow' inside the test tube!*

# Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Days:

## A Parent Q&A Session

To support our families through this important milestone, we also hosted a **Parent Q&A session**. This informative meeting covered a wide range of topics, including:

- ✓ Curriculum structure and expectations
- ✓ Academic and pastoral support systems
- ✓ Inclusion and learning support provision
- ✓ Key contacts and communication pathways



*Ms. Inker, future Head of Year 7, introduced herself to Year 6 families!*



*Ms. Puxty, our Head of Secondary, welcomed Year 6 families to the secondary school!*



*Ms. Jeshi, our MYP coordinator, introduced intricacies of IB curriculum.*



*Ms. Karam, our Head of Inclusion, introduced efforts to support primary-to-secondary transition.*

This transition experience was not just about logistics—it was about building **confidence**, creating **excitement**, and starting new relationships. We are incredibly proud of how well our Year 6 students embraced this opportunity, and we look forward to welcoming them officially into secondary school in the new academic year!



*Year 6 student was proud of the artwork during Arts taster session.*



*Student designed the 'dream' student ID card for secondary school.*

A big thank you to all staff, students, and families who helped make these days a success.

# YEAR 12- TOK EXHIBITION

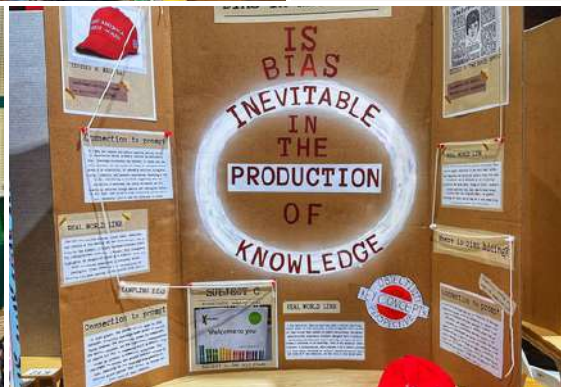


On 11<sup>th</sup> of June, our Y12 students brought the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) to life through their exhibition.

This year's displays explored powerful connections between knowledge and the real world – from the impact of technology and political narratives to interpretations of history and personal belief systems.

Students engaged deeply with a range of areas of knowledge and optional themes, sparking meaningful conversations around how we construct and question what we know.

A massive thanks to our TOK teachers and our Tok coordinator!



# Innoventures Education Basketball



# DASSA & Innoventures Education Table Tennis



# AI ASSEMBLIES

This week, Year 10 and Year 12 students attended an engaging keynote session on Generative AI, hosted by the Real World Academy. The talk offered a glimpse into one of the fastest-growing areas of technology, exploring developments like GPT-4, autonomous AI agents, and the increasing use of AI in everyday life.

Students were introduced to cutting-edge tools such as ChatGPT, Gamma, Notion, and Canva, with live demos showing how these platforms enhance productivity and creativity. The session also prompted important discussions around ethical AI use, particularly in academic settings, encouraging students to think critically about integrity and responsibility in the digital age. A live demonstration and interactive Q&A made the experience hands-on and highly relevant. Students left the session inspired, informed, and more aware of the skills they'll need to thrive in an AI-driven future.

This was a timely and exciting opportunity that aligns with our vision of preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.





# UNIVERSITY BRAG SHEET ASSEMBLY & WORKSHOP



Building a unique and course-aligned profile is vital for securing a university offer, especially in a competitive admissions environment. With many applicants presenting similar grades, universities look for individuals who show genuine interest and commitment to their chosen field. Aligning a student's experiences—such as subject choices, extracurricular activities, internships, or volunteering—with their intended course demonstrates focus, motivation, and readiness.

For example, a student applying for law who has taken part in debate clubs or legal internships stands out as purposeful and prepared. This alignment also helps create a compelling personal statement, allowing the student to present a clear narrative and rationale for their university and course choice. Ultimately, a tailored profile not only strengthens an application but also helps admissions officers see the student's potential contribution to the university community.

## BRAG SHEET

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO INCLUDE IN A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

- Academic awards or honors
- Leadership positions
- Projects or research
- Internships or work experience
- Hobbies or interests
- Competitions or Olympiads
- Clubs or sports teams
- Key skills or expertise
- Volunteer work
- Community involvement
- Mentorship or tutoring
- Philanthropic initiatives

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
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# CANON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
Emirates Hills

# Canon

DIA Year 10 Media students with a passion for photography were invited to take part in an exclusive workshop hosted by our student lead CCA, Capture@DIA in collaboration with Canon, a global leader in imaging and media technology. Held on Friday, 13th June, this hands-on session gave 30 selected students the chance to train with a certified Canon Ambassador and gain real-world experience using professional-grade Canon cameras.

The workshop focused on technical skills, composition, and printing, with students capturing, editing, and taking home their own printed photographs. Most impressively, participants received an internationally recognized Canon Photography Training Certificate, marking a meaningful first step into the world of professional photography.

This was a unique opportunity for students to develop their creative skills and build a standout credential for future pursuits in the visual arts.





BE A PART OF THIS INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF LEARNING, GROWTH, AND INSPIRATION FOR WORKERS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

# DONATE YOUR USED BOOKS

THE GOAL OF THIS DRIVE IS TO PROMOTE LITERACY AND SUPPORT LIFELONG LEARNING BY GIVING WORKERS ACCESS TO BOOKS THAT CAN HELP THEM GROW PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. THE BOOKS WILL BE PLACED IN THE LABOUR ACCOMMODATION OF THE DUBAI FRUIT & VEGETABLE MARKET (A DP WORLD COMPANY).

## THE BOOKS THAT YOU CAN DONATE:

HINDI BOOKS

TAGALOG BOOKS

BASIC BOOKS TO LEARN ENGLISH

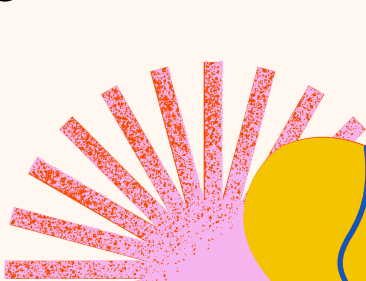
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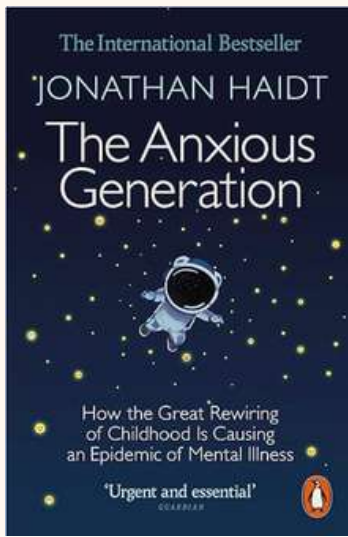
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# Book Review

## The Anxious Generation

### Jonathan Haidt

In his thought-provoking book *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt explores the sharp rise in anxiety, depression, and social struggles among today's youth. Drawing on years of research, Haidt pinpoints a key shift around 2010—when smartphones and social media became central to young people's lives—as a turning point in childhood development.

#### Key Takeaways for Parents:

**-The Phone-Based Childhood:** Haidt argues that today's children are growing up in a "phone-based childhood," replacing play, exploration, and real-world connection with screen time and curated digital interactions.

**-Mental Health Impact:** The rise of anxiety, depression, and self-harm—especially in teen girls—closely aligns with increased use of social media and the loss of unstructured, face-to-face play.

**-Overprotection vs. Independence:** While children are digitally exposed, they are often physically and socially overprotected. Haidt advocates for a return to more independent, free-range childhoods to build resilience.

**-The Decline of Play:** Unstructured play and real-world peer interactions have sharply declined, yet these are vital for emotional and social development.

#### What Families Can Do:

- Delay smartphones and social media use, especially before age 14.
- Encourage device-free play, outdoor activities, and independence.
- Foster real-world friendships and face-to-face communication.
- Partner with schools and other families to set healthy tech norms.

Haidt's message is clear: the path to emotionally healthy kids lies not in more digital connection, but in giving children back a childhood rooted in real-life experiences.



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

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EMIRATES HILLS

**WINNER**

Best

**INTERNATIONAL  
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CURRICULUM  
SCHOOL IN THE UAE 2023-24**



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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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