



Secondary School Newsletter

20th September 2024

Head of Secondary Message

Hello All,

This week, we are incredibly proud of our MUN students who are currently representing our school in India. Their dedication and passion for global issues continue to shine as they participate in what is sure to be a valuable and enriching experience. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to hearing all about their adventures upon their return!

It was a true pleasure meeting many of our new-to-school parents during the recent information sessions. Thank you for taking the time to join us as we introduced you to the opportunities and support networks available at DIA. We are thrilled to welcome you to our school community and look forward to working closely with you to ensure your children thrive.

Additionally, I'm excited to remind you about the focus group parent meetings happening this week. These sessions provide a great opportunity for you to share your feedback and thoughts on how we can continue improving and enriching our school environment. We value your input and would love to see as many parents there as possible. Your voice is crucial in helping us shape the future of our students' experience at DIA.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and hearing your ideas!



Michelle Puxty

Head of Secondary



Key Diary Dates

Focus Groups

Join us in the Presentation Hall to discuss current areas of focus for our Secondary School students

Date	Year Group	Location and Time
Monday 23rd September	7	Presentation Hall 7.45 - 8.30am
Tuesday 24th September	8 & 9	Canteen Extension 7.45 - 8.30am
Wednesday 25th September	10 & 11	Canteen Extension 7.45 - 8.30am
Thursday 26th September	12 & 13	Canteen Extension 7.45 - 8.30am

Monday 23rd September

DELE Spanish Exam - Parent Information

Join us in the Canteen Extension, from 7.40 - 8.35am to learn about the benefits of this exam for your child

Friday 27th September

Islamic Department - Coffee Morning

Join the Islamic Department in the Canteen Extension, from 7.40 - 8.35am to discuss the Umrah trip and curriculum information.

Key Diary Dates

Friday 27th September

Secondary School - House Spirit Day

House colours for all students to kick off our house events for the year!

Tuesday 1st October

Year 9 & 10 - Career Pathway Coffee Morning

An opportunity to discuss future pathways with our College Counselling team in the Canteen Extension, 7.45 - 9am

Wednesday 2nd October

Year 11, 12 & 13 - Study in the UK - Coffee Morning

Join us in the Canteen Extension, 7.45 - 9am, to discuss study pathways in the UK

Thursday 3rd October

Dyslexia Awareness Day

Students to wear **red** to raise awareness of dyslexia in our school community

Friday 4th October

World Teachers Day

A day dedicated to our wonderful teaching staff, who positively change lives on a daily basis!

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

NEW



LEAD PRACTITIONER
Hi! I'm Peter Williams, the new Lead Practitioner for AI, at DIA. This is an exciting time for education and we aim to be at the forefront of innovation. At DIA, we will teach students to use AI responsibly but also how it can enhance their academic ability.

The future is bright and the possibilities are endless!

DID YOU KNOW?

Testing is proven to be more effective for revision than re-reading notes? Use this tool to create your own AI generated Flashcards:
<https://www.quizrise.com/flashcard-generator>

AN AI HAIKU

Golden sands gleam bright
Skyscrapers touch azure skies
Dubai's dreams take flight

AI TEAM

Watch this space as we will be creating an AI team which we will need students help with to lead the way for DIA!



Dubai *International Academy*

Presents

International Happiness Week

23 – 27 September.



Next week we will be focusing on Staff Wellbeing.

Student Wellbeing will take center stage in November.

Reminder Friday 27th will be House Spirit Day.

Students are encouraged to wear House colours and reminded to be culturally sensitive with outfit selection.





CELEBRATING PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY

Both Primary and Secondary students came together to celebrate the Birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The event featured a rich program of student-led activities, informative videos, and an inspiring speech by our esteemed guest speaker, **Mr. Ahmed Hamed from Al Manar Islamic Centre**. Mr. Hamed's speech beautifully emphasized the values of mercy, kindness, and tolerance, which are central to the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Our students were deeply inspired by the messages shared and actively participated in the activities, reflecting the spirit of unity and compassion.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this event possible and to our students for their enthusiastic participation. Let's continue to embody and spread these values within our community and beyond.



DP: TOK @ DIA



TOK- YEAR 12 STUDENTS

Year 12 TOK students had an insightful class exploring how our beliefs shape our perspectives and influence us as knowers. Through a hands-on activity, they ranked various beliefs and engaged in lively debates about their significance. The class will continue this conversation, diving deeper into how these beliefs and perspectives interact with power and shape our understanding of the world.

TOK- YEAR 13 STUDENTS

Year 13 TOK students had an assembly to unpack the essay titles and explore some examples shared on Padlet. By this week, each student should have selected the title and supporting examples.





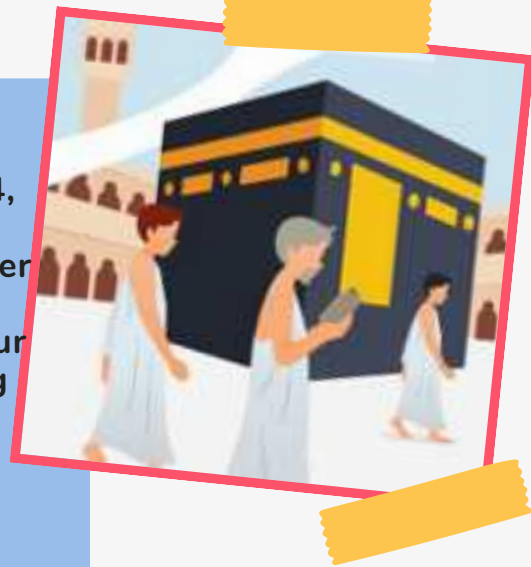
Inclusion Coffee Morning Presentation.

ISLAMIC COFFEE MORNING

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to invite you to our Islamic Morning Coffee on Friday, September 27th, 2024, at 7:40am in the canteen extension. This special gathering is an opportunity for us to come together as a community and share exciting news. During the event, we will present details about our upcoming Umrah International Trip, an enriching experience for both parents and students. Additionally, we will introduce our new Islamic application, "Islamic Treasures," designed to provide valuable resources and enhance your family's spiritual journey.

We look forward to your presence and participation. Let's enjoy a warm cup of coffee and inspiring conversations.



Mystery

Secondary School

Short Story

Writing
Contest



- Write your own Mystery
- 1001 words or less
- Send your entry in PDF to
library@diadubai.com
- Submission deadline: 7th October
(Monday)



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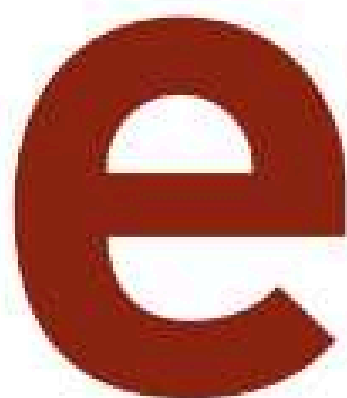
DUBAI
INTERNATIONAL

28 October - 1 November Bookfair



DELE EXAM INFORMATIVE SESSION

**Internationally recognized Spanish
language certification**



**Diplomas de
Español como
Lengua
Extranjera**



**Monday, September 23
7:40 a.m. in the cafeteria extension**



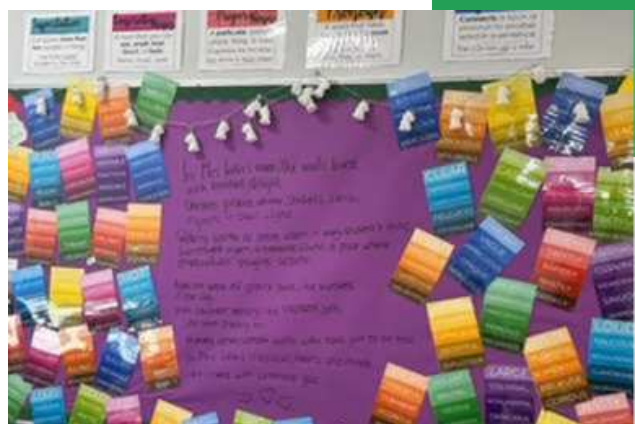
#Teaching and Learning

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

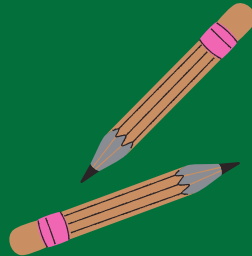
The classroom environment and the teaching tools within it play a crucial role in fostering learning for several reasons:



1. Promotes Engagement and Focus
2. Stimulates Creativity and Critical Thinking
3. Encourages Collaboration and Interaction
4. Supports the Development and Adaptation of different types of Learning
5. Creates a Positive Learning Environment
6. Helps to nurture Technology and Innovation within Learning



NEW PARENT SESSION

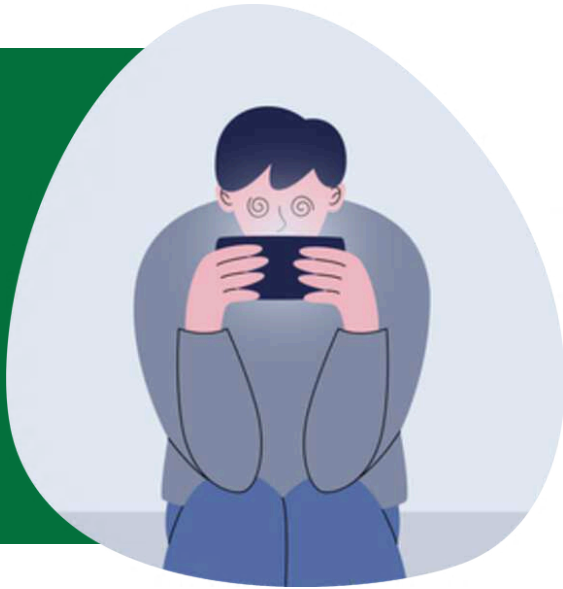
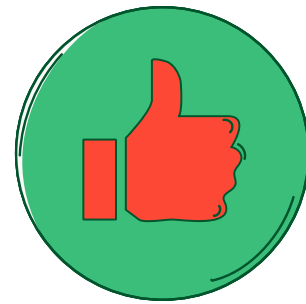


On Friday, 20th September, we hosted a workshop for all new parents to DIA, facilitating an introduction to criterion, learning systems and our wonderful PADIA team who drive community action in our school on a wide variety of fronts. Our sessions were student-led, who all did a wonderful job to describe integral elements of the IB philosophy to ease the transition into our school community.



DIGITAL AWARENESS

SAFE & RESPONSIBLE USE



In today's digital age, technology plays a significant role in our children's lives, offering both opportunities and challenges. As parents, it is crucial to ensure that our children use technology and social media responsibly and safely. In the UAE, strict digital laws are in place to protect users, especially minors, from online dangers. These laws prohibit cyberbullying, inappropriate content sharing, and invasion of privacy, with serious consequences for violators. Educating children about these laws is essential, but so is guiding them in daily digital habits.

One of the best ways parents can support their children is by being actively involved in their online activities. Regularly checking devices, social media accounts, and gaming platforms not only helps you stay informed about what your child is exposed to, but it also opens up conversations about digital safety. Encourage discussions around privacy settings, the dangers of sharing personal information, and the importance of kindness and respect in online interactions.



Having open, judgment-free conversations at home is key to fostering a responsible relationship with technology. Set clear expectations, such as designated screen-free times, and discuss the importance of balance between online and offline activities. Remind your children that what they post online is permanent and can have long-lasting effects.



By being proactive and informed, parents can create a safe digital environment for their children, ensuring that they benefit from the advantages of technology without falling prey to its risks. Let's work together to ensure our students grow up as responsible digital citizens, aware of both the benefits and responsibilities of the online world.



COLLEGE & CAREERS

PARENT COFFEE MORNINGS



Year 9 Career Path Sessions

Discussion on
subject choices &
career paths.

Tuesday 1 Oct
7:45 am

Study in UK & Europe

All you need to
know: application to
studying.

Wednesday 2nd Oct
7:45 am

Study in USA & Canada

All you need to
know: application to
studying.

Thursday 10th Oct
7:45 am

Careers Fair

25th October
Further information
to follow

Travel the World International Trips



Feb 2025

Book your place to experience the best

<https://www.innoventureseducation.com/week-without-walls>

*Celebrating our
Diverse Community*

*Dyslexia
Awareness Day
Thursday,
3rd October
Non-uniform day*

*Students to
wear
RED*





**ARE YOU
READY
FOR**

SPIRIT DAY @DIA?



FRIDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER

**WEAR YOUR HOUSE
TEAM COLOR**

**All clothing must be
SCHOOL APPROPRIATE**



ANYTHING BUT A BACKPACK DAY



**BE CREATIVE BUT
PLEASE KEEP IT
WITHIN REASON**

24 SEPTEMBER

YEAR 13 + TEACHERS

School Principal
Hitesh Bhagat
hiteshb@diadubai.com



Secondary School Senior Leadership

Head of Secondary Michelle Puxty michellep@diadubai.com	Deputy Head Year 7 - 11 Jonathon Dunn jonathond@diadubai.com	Deputy Head Year 12 -13 Claire Inglis clairei@diadubai.com	Director of Sports Mihail Kouzev mihailk@diadubai.com
Deputy Head Pastoral Colin Leacy colinl@diadubai.com	Assistant Head Pastoral Daniel Murphy danielm@diadubai.com	Assistant Head Years 7 - 11 Nemanja Dordevic nemanjad@diadubai.com	Assistant Head Years 12 - 13 Gerhard Van Der Wal gerhardv@diadubai.com

IB Coordinators

MYP Coordinator Ruba Jeshi rubaj@diadubai.com	DP Coordinator Mona Khreis monak@diadubai.com	CP Coordinator Kanchi Das kanchid@diadubai.com
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Heads of Year

HoY 7 Katy Dolan katyd@diadubai.com	HoY 9 Donna Campbell donnac@diadubai.com	HoY 10 Amy Dowling amyd@diadubai.com	HoY 11 Stephen Cleary stephenc@diadubai.com	HoY 13 John Aboaja Johna@diadubai.com
HoY 8 Shannon Mehan shannonm@diadubai.com	Assistant HoY 9 Jennifer Agacy jennifers@diadubai.com	Assistant HoY 10 Jamie O'Sullivan Jamieo@diadubai.com	HoY 12 Naveen Tyagi naveent@diadubai.com	

Heads of Department

Arabic A Reda Al Ashmawey redaa@diadubai.com	Arabic B Mohamed Nasr mohamedn@diadubai.com	Islamic Waleed Ahmed waleeda@diadubai.com	English MYP Maha Zaouil mahaz@diadubai.com	English DP Nagina Chaudhry naginac@diadubai.com
Maths MYP Katherine Beswick katherineb@diadubai.com	Maths DP Rohanna Hymers rohannah@diadubai.com	Science MYP Liam Cronin liamc@diadubai.com	Science DP Barbara Timlin barbarat@diadubai.com	Humanities MYP Mahua Paul mahuap@diadubai.com
Humanities DP Reena Tikku reenat@diadubai.com	Language B MYP Blanca Gonzales blancag@diadubai.com	Language B DP Yolaine Siko yolaines@diadubai.com	Design MYP Somya Jajor somyaj@diadubai.com	Design DP Rajani Anoop faryala@diadubai.com
Performing Arts Jill Martin jillm@diadubai.com	Visual Arts Veronica Richards veronicar@diadubai.com	Media Seon Lewis seonl@diadubai.com	PHE Fiona Turnbull fionat@diadubai.com	

Important Contacts

College Counsellor 12-13 Rachana Sippy rachanas@diadubai.com	College Counsellor 7-11 Stewart Pinkerton stewartp@diadubai.com	Head of Inclusion Asha Karam ashak@diadubai.com	Secondary Secretary Chimone Bailie chimoneb@diadubai.com
IT Support helpdesk@diadubai.com	Accounts Department accounts@diadubai.com	Personal Project Coordinator Nithya Sankaran nithyas@diadubai.com	Attendance Officer Evelyn Pakatan evelynp@diadubai.com





EMIRATES
HILLS



Dream - Inspire - Achieve