9TH OCT 2026

Dubai International Academy

EMIRATES HILLS

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Your bi-weekly update from DIA Emirates Hills

REMINDERS

CELEBRATIONS

TEAM SPOTLIGHTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



DREAM • INSPIRE • ACHIEVE

A Letter to Our Parents



Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of the first half term, I would like to extend a huge thank you for your continued support, engagement and partnership. It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we are so grateful for the positive energy you bring to our school community.

We are now entering our trip season, an exciting and enriching time in our school calendar. This week, some of our students are representing DIA at a **Model United Nations conference in India**. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to hearing about their experiences and the learning opportunities this will bring.

This also marks the start of our **International Award training**, with students beginning their journey towards the **Duke of Edinburgh's International Award**. These experiences, both in school and abroad, are an important part of the opportunities we offer, helping our students develop new skills, confidence and a global outlook.

If you have any questions, queries or need any support, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You will find our **Who to Contact** page at the end of this newsletter with key contacts who are here to help.



International Award Training

Have a wonderful and safe mid-term break!

MYP

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

INQUIRY | CREATIVITY | CHALLENGE

GLOBAL THINKING | GROWTH

EXPLORE
QUESTION
CREATE
CONNECT
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A Brighter More Compassionate World

Different Perspectives A Brighter Tomorrow

KINDNESS
EQUITY
COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

Ideas Discoveries Solutions

你好
Bonjour
Hola
مرحبا
Hallo

Curious Mindset Brighter Futures

Learn Create Collaborate Belong

SCIENCE
MATHEMATICS
LANGUAGE
ARTS
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION
INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES
COMMUNITY & SERVICE

Think Question Grow

Small Actions Big Change

STRONGER
KINDER
BRAVER
TOGETHER

LEARN • BELONG • MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY

Navigating Assessment & Student Progress

MANAGEBAC

ManageBac is an important platform for keeping up to date with your child's learning and assessment. Parents can use it to:

- View the Gradebook and monitor academic progress.
- Check upcoming assessment deadlines and important submission dates.
- Read teacher feedback provided on assessed work.
- Support students in planning ahead and responding to feedback.

We encourage parents to check ManageBac regularly and discuss upcoming assessments and feedback with their child.

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

The Term 1 assessment calendar gives families an overview of the key assessments taking place during the term. It is designed to help students:

- Plan and organise their workload.
- Prepare effectively for upcoming assessments.
- Avoid leaving revision or preparation until the last minute.
- Balance academic commitments across different subjects.

Parents can support by reviewing the calendar with their child and encouraging good organisation, revision and time-management habits.

NGRT

Students in Years 7–11 complete the New Group Reading Test (NGRT), a standardised reading assessment used to help us understand each student's reading profile.

The results are used alongside other school data to help teachers understand students' reading needs, plan appropriate support and ensure that students are challenged at the right level.

NGRT provides information about areas such as:

- Reading comprehension
- Vocabulary
- Understanding and interpreting written texts
- Areas where a student may require additional support or further challenge

Reading Age shows the age level at which a student is currently reading, helping teachers identify whether they are below, at, or above age expectations.

CAT4

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is designed to help us understand how students think, reason and approach new learning.

CAT4 measures four main areas of reasoning:

- Verbal Reasoning – understanding and working with words and language.
- Quantitative Reasoning – recognising patterns and relationships using numbers.
- Non-verbal Reasoning – solving problems using shapes, patterns and visual information.
- Spatial Reasoning – visualising and manipulating shapes and objects in the mind.

CAT4 helps us understand each student's learning potential, strengths and areas for development. It supports teachers in planning the right level of challenge, support and academic targets, alongside other assessment data and classroom performance.

September Humanities Student Spotlight

Celebrating inquiry, achievement and outstanding learning in Individuals and Societies

FEATURED LEARNER | **ANCIENT EGYPT: PROGRESS AND INNOVATION**



Haya Al Abbadi

Year 7 Individuals and Societies

Haya's Civilisation Investigation

Haya investigated progress and innovation in Ancient Egyptian civilisation. She selected and cited relevant sources, then communicated her findings through a multimedia presentation. Her reflection thoughtfully evaluated both the research process and the development of her final project.

WHAT STOOD OUT

- Effective inquiry and investigation reflection on the learning process
- Creative use of multimedia
- Thoughtful

IB SKILLS IN ACTION: • Inquiring • Researching • Reflecting • Communicating

FEATURED LEARNER | **CLASSROOM CONTRIBUTION**



Pia Gerritsma

Geography MYP 10

Pia's Classroom Contribution

Pia has started the academic year with real flair in Geography. She demonstrates insightful analysis, looks beyond the surface and develops a strong understanding of geographical concepts. Pia applies her knowledge effectively to new scenarios and contributes thoughtfully to classroom discussions, demonstrating excellent geographical thinking. Her positive attitude, critical engagement and valuable contributions make her a wonderful influence on those around her. I look forward to seeing her build on this excellent start and make outstanding progress throughout the year.

WHAT STOOD OUT

- Year 10 Geography Student of the Month for Communication

IB SKILLS IN ACTION: • Researching • Reflecting • Communicating

FEATURED LEARNER | **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**



Ayaan Agrawal

Economics DP 12

Ayaan's Academic Achievement

Ayaan's performance in his first Economics HL summative assessment was outstanding. His essays followed the required structure effectively and demonstrated excellent subject knowledge, detailed understanding and well-developed economic analysis. His carefully constructed and accurately labelled diagrams were clearly explained and supported his arguments successfully. Ayaan's ability to combine strong theoretical knowledge with clear, precise presentation is highly commendable. This is a fantastic start to his DP journey, and we look forward to seeing him continue to build on this strong foundation.

WHAT STOOD OUT

- Strong essay structure
- Depth of understanding
- Clear economic analysis

IB SKILLS IN ACTION: • Thinking • Self-Management • Communicating • Knowledgeable

Think Deeply
Create Your Future

Ideas
Ethics
Perspectives
Solutions

Global Citizens
Brighter Tomorrows

UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS
CAREERS
LEADERSHIP
SERVICE
INNOVATION

TOK
EXTENDED ESSAY
CAS
IBDP | A BROADER PERSPECTIVE
IBCP | REAL WORLD BRIGHTER FUTURES

KNOWLEDGE
SKILLS
EXPERIENCE
IMPACT

Pathways with Purpose

Research
Analyse
Create
Collaborate
Present

Independent
Learning
Lifelong
Growth

Lead Courageously

POST 16

IBDP & IBCP

CHALLENGE | EXPLORE | APPLY | MAKE AN IMPACT

SCIENCE
MATHEMATICS
ECONOMICS
LANGUAGES
LITERATURE
VISUAL ARTS
MUSIC
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
HEALTH & SOCIETY
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

OPPORTUNITY
PURPOSE
PROGRESS

Career-related Study
- ☑ Work Experience
- ☑ Real-world Skills
- ☑ Industry Connections
- ☑ Personal Development

SERVICE LEARNING

Different Passions
A Brighter World

FUTURE READY

CREATE
COMMUNICATE
INSPIRE

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
EMPLOYABILITY
ADAPTABILITY
RESILIENCE
LIFELONG LEARNING

Knowledge today
Opportunities tomorrow

More than a qualification
A positive future

Curiosity
Kindness
Action
Change

A GLOBAL FUTURE AWAITS

LEARN • CONNECT • BELONG • CREATE CHANGE

Mid-Term Break: Rest, Reset, Revise

A balanced break for Post-16 students



Use the break to recharge, and use some of it to move your learning forward.

YEAR 12

- Prepare for resits if you have them.
- Revise content and practise solving IB-style questions.
- Do readings from your IB textbooks.

YEAR 13

- Work on your EE/RP feedback.
- Work on IAs that need your attention.
- Revisit topics you feel you are struggling in and focus on those areas for development.

For everyone: look after yourself

- Sleep well.
- Eat well.
- Manage your time: plan short, focused study sessions and protect time to rest.

Build your personal profile

- Look for opportunities in co-curricular and extracurricular activities (CAS, clubs, service, leadership) that strengthen your profile.

Rest well, work smart, and come back ready.

Different Paths Brighter Futures

UNIVERSITIES
APPLICATIONS
SCHOLARSHIPS
CAREERS
GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES
LIFE BEYOND SCHOOL

Explore Apply Belong Thrive

A Global Community A Brighter Tomorrow

UK
USA
CANADA
EUROPE
AUSTRALIA
GCC
GLOBAL

EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITY
PERSPECTIVE
PURPOSE

University Pathways Real Possibilities

Research
Shortlist
Applications
Personal Statement
Interviews
Next Steps

Big Dreams Brighter Futures

DISCOVER PLAN GROW BELONG

College Counselling Team

GUIDING FUTURES

EXPLORE | PLAN | APPLY | ACHIEVE

GOOD GUIDANCE BRINGS GREAT DESTINATIONS

More Than a Destination A Fuller Life

ENGINEERING
MEDICINE
BUSINESS
ARTS & HUMANITIES
COMPUTER SCIENCE
SCIENCES
SOCIAL IMPACT
ENVIRONMENT
LAW
AND MORE...

SAME CURIOSITY A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

SUPPORT INFORM EMPOWER BELONG

Personal Guidance

- Subject Choices
- University Pathways
- Applications & Admissions
- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- Career Exploration
- Wellbeing & Transitions

SKILLS
CONFIDENCE
OPPORTUNITY
INDEPENDENCE
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

PASSPORT
A WIDER WORLD AWAITS

New Places New Perspectives A Brighter You

Ideas Today Opportunities Tomorrow

Learn Experience Connect Make an Impact

PEOPLE • OPPORTUNITIES • PERSPECTIVES • BRIGHTER FUTURES

LEARN • BELONG • THRIVE

Brighter Futures Together

EXPLORE • PLAN • BELONG

Great Conversations Shape Bright Futures

College Counselling Parent Sessions

Key Dates for Parents

INFORMATION • GUIDANCE • OPPORTUNITIES

Supporting every student's next chapter

Year 9 & 10 Career Path Coffee Morning

EXPLORE OPTIONS • DISCOVER POSSIBILITIES

29th September

Study in UK & Europe Coffee Morning

TOP UNIVERSITIES • PATHWAYS • Q&A

1st October

Study in USA & Canada Coffee Morning

OPPORTUNITIES • APPLICATIONS • STUDENT LIFE

7th October

Study in Australia & GCC Coffee Morning

PATHWAYS • SCHOLARSHIPS • GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

5th November

Year 7 - 8 Student Support Through MYP Presentation

WELLBEING • LEARNING • A SMOOTH TRANSITION

11th November

We look forward to welcoming you.

SAME COMMUNITY • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

7:45AM START

PADIA

PARENT ASSOCIATION

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
EMIRATES HILLS

Parents Commuinity Together

IN THIS SECTION

PADIA *News*

Catch up on the latest updates, events and initiatives from our Parent Association (PADIA) – celebrating our strong and supportive school community.



PADIA

PASSIONATE ABOUT DIA

PADIA

Passionate About Dia ♥

GARAGE Sale

BOOK NOW!



FRIDAY, OCT 23

7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

PS GYM

Recycling Team on site



Second-hand uniform and textbooks sale available

Treats & Sips Available!

Set up starts for 6 AM

Come Early for Best Finds!

PADIA
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Meet our PADIA Parent Representatives for 2026–2027!
Our wonderful parent volunteers across Primary and Secondary are here to help keep families connected, support communication between parents and the school, and strengthen our DIA community throughout the year. They are here to support you, share information and help make this a positive and memorable year for all our families.



Year 7

Clotilde Vallée El Tajoury

I'm Clotilde Vallée El Tajoury, mum of four children at DIA — two in Primary and two in Secondary. This is our third year at the school, and I'm very pleased to be your PADIA Parent Representative for Year 7 this year.



Year 8

I'm delighted to be joining the PADIA team as the Year 8 Parent Representative this year. I'm a jewellery designer and gemologist with two children at DIA, in Years 8 and 5. Having previously served as a Class Parent in Primary, I'm excited to stay involved, connect with families and support our school community.

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Year 9

Maria Kuzeva

I'm Maria Kuzeva, originally from Bulgaria and living in Dubai with my husband and our son, Emanuele. I have a passion for wellness, balance and personal growth, and I enjoy connecting with people and supporting our community. I'm very happy to be your Year 9 PADIA Parent Representative and look forward to a wonderful year together.



Year 10

Z. Seda Volkan

A big hello to everyone at DIA! We're very happy to be back this year with our son, Diego Emre, in Year 10, and I'm delighted to be joining PADIA as the Year 10 Parent Representative. Our DIA journey began in 2007 when our daughter joined the school, so returning after several years away feels very special. I now work as a strategic creative consultant and look forward to reconnecting with families, meeting new parents and being part of the DIA community again.

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Year 11

Agnes Rohde

Hello, I'm Agnes Rohde, and I'm delighted to be the Year 11 Parent Representative this academic year. I've been part of the DIA community for over a decade and have two sons at the school, in Years 11 and 6.

I'm an interior designer with a professional background in communications, which has shaped my appreciation for collaboration, thoughtful exchange and different perspectives.

I look forward to supporting positive communication between parents and the school, particularly during this important Year 11.



Year 12

Mridumesh Kumar

Hello, I'm Mridumesh Kumar, or Mridu as my friends call me, and I'm delighted to be the Year 12 Parent Representative this academic year.

Originally from Bangalore, my wife Radhika and I have two children — our younger child is at DIA, while our eldest is in the final year of university in the UK.

I'm a retail professional, angel investor and hobby runner, and I've also enjoyed collaborating with universities as a guest lecturer and Board of Studies member. Having participated in DIA's Career Fair, I'm looking forward to becoming more involved with the DIA community.

PADIA
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

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Year 12 CP

Mona Moussa

Year 12 CP Ambassador

Having been part of the DIA community since 2010, I'm thrilled to serve as your CP Y12 parent representative this year. Working in university education myself, I truly appreciate the hard work that teachers put into helping our learners build strong foundations for the future.

I look forward to working with you all and to discovering all the opportunities that CP has in store for our children.



Year 13

Nina Chams

I'm Nina, a working mum of two — my son is in his first year of university and my daughter, Carla Oneissi, is in Year 13.

I'm very happy to be joining the PADIA team again as a Year 13 Parent Representative. Having represented Year 13 last year and helped organise special moments such as the Senior Breakfast and Senior Walk, I'm excited to bring that experience into this year.

I look forward to working closely with our parents and the school to make our students' final year positive, memorable and special.

PADIA
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Celebrating the parent leaders who help keep our DIA community connected, supported and thriving.



Matilda Gradnitzer

PADIA Chair

Year 13 Parent Representative
Year 13 CP Ambassador

Hi everyone! I'm Matilda, and together with Nina, I'll be your Year 13 Parent Representative this year.

Many of you may already know me through PADIA, where I'm currently the Chair. I'm also a proud Year 13 mum, so I'm very excited to share this special final school year with you all.

I am looking forward to keeping everyone connected, supporting our parents and students, and making their last year at DIA a truly memorable one!

I am also delighted to take on the role of CP Ambassador, supporting CP families and helping strengthen the connection between parents, students and the school.

A passionate champion of the DIA community and a dedicated leader within PADIA.

PADIA

PASSIONATE ABOUT DIA

INVITES YOU TO OUR 2026

WINTER SOUK

27TH NOVEMBER
10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER, SHOPPING, ACTIVITIES, AND WONDERFUL MOMENTS WITH OUR DIA COMMUNITY.



COME SHOP, CONNECT & CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH US! ❤

Every child known

A stronger community

BELONG
SUPPORT
WELLBEING
RESPECT
GUIDANCE
KINDNESS
GROWTH

A KINDER BRIGHTER BRAVER YOU

KIND PEOPLE · BRIGHTER FUTURES

Safe, seen, valued

PASTORAL

Care, Guidance and Belonging

PEOPLE • OPPORTUNITIES • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

ATTENDANCE
CHARACTER
STUDENT VOICE
SAFEGUARDING
PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY

Listening guiding supporting

A brighter chapter together

CONFIDENCE
KINDNESS
RESILIENCE
OPPORTUNITY
BELONGING

GUIDANCE
PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES
PURPOSE

SAFE
SUPPORTED
EMPOWERED
ALWAYS

Brighter futures together

BELONG
ACHIEVE
BE YOU

WELLBEING
RELATIONSHIPS
OPPORTUNITIES
A STRONGER TOMORROW

Together we make a difference

HOUSE TEAM

HOUSE SPIRIT IN ACTION

Teamwork, creativity and friendly competition across Years 7-9





Three events. Four Houses. One community.

The House programme has opened the year with energy, creativity and plenty of friendly competition.

FRI 25 SEPTEMBER

Year 7 Relay Riddle

Speed, problem-solving and House pride came together as Year 7 teams raced through a sequence of challenges. Communication mattered just as much as pace.

FRI 2 OCTOBER

Year 8 Project Runway

Students transformed recyclable materials and classroom items into imaginative House looks before presenting their creations to the audience.

FRI 9 OCTOBER

Year 9 Project Runway

Year 9 raised the bar with bold designs, confident presentation and plenty of House spirit. Points were awarded for teamwork, creativity, presentation and spirit.

HOUSE POINTS ARE EARNED EVERYWHERE

Every event contributes to the wider House competition, alongside the points students earn every day for effort, contribution, leadership, kindness and positive choices around school. The opening cycle has already shown that every point matters - and every student can make a difference.

HOUSE POINTS

CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER

Recognising the students leading the way through positive contribution

Top scorer in each House

AIR	Junfeng Gu	7C	16 POINTS
WATER	Leonie Kubik	7E	19 POINTS
FIRE	Sahara Kelly	8D	15 POINTS
EARTH	Leopold Schaeflein	8D	21 POINTS



CERTIFICATES SENT HOME

Digital certificates celebrating the September House Point leaders were emailed directly to students and their parents, recognising a strong start to the school year.

Year-group winners

Year 7	Leonie Kubik	Water	19 pts
Year 8	Leopold Schaeflein	Earth	21 pts
Year 9	Demir Gurevin	Earth	15 pts
Year 10	Ismail Khan	Air	13 pts
Year 11	Sophie Baweja	Fire	14 pts
Year 12	Eryk Gebski	Fire	9 pts
Year 13	Noah Asch	Earth	5 pts

THE HOUSE RACE IS UNDERWAY

Relay Riddle, Project Runway, lunchtime events and everyday House Points are all shaping the standings. The next cycle will bring even more opportunities for students to move their House up the table.

HOUSE COMMUNITY

LEADERSHIP, CONNECTION & FUN

Building the team behind the House programme



ANNUAL HOUSE TEAM TRIP

IMG Worlds of Adventure

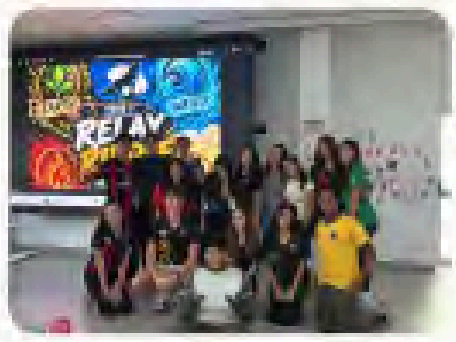
Stronger teams make stronger Houses

The annual House team bonding trip to IMG Worlds of Adventure gave student leaders the chance to spend time together away from school, strengthen relationships and build the teamwork that will support the House programme throughout the year. The experience was also an opportunity to celebrate the enthusiasm and commitment that student House leaders bring to school life.

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Students vs Staff Lunchtime Sports

Students and staff went head-to-head in a lively lunchtime fixture that brought the school community together and provided another opportunity to earn valuable points for the Houses. The competitive spirit was matched by good humour, encouragement and plenty of support from the sidelines.









WHAT COMES NEXT?

More challenges, more opportunities to lead, and more chances for Air, Earth, Fire and Water to earn points.

Every contribution counts.

UNDERSTAND
SUPPORT
INCLUDE
EMPOWER

DIFFERENT PATHWAYS BRIGHTER FUTURES

Every Learner Matters

INCLUSION

BELONG | ACHIEVE | THRIVE

An inclusive community where every individual is valued, supported and empowered to reach their potential.

EQUITY
OPPORTUNITY
ACCESS
SUCCESS

KINDNESS
UNDERSTANDING
ACCEPTANCE
RESPECT
BELONGING

DIFFERENT TOGETHER STRONGER

Potential has no limits

SUPPORT
GUIDANCE
RESOURCES
OPPORTUNITIES



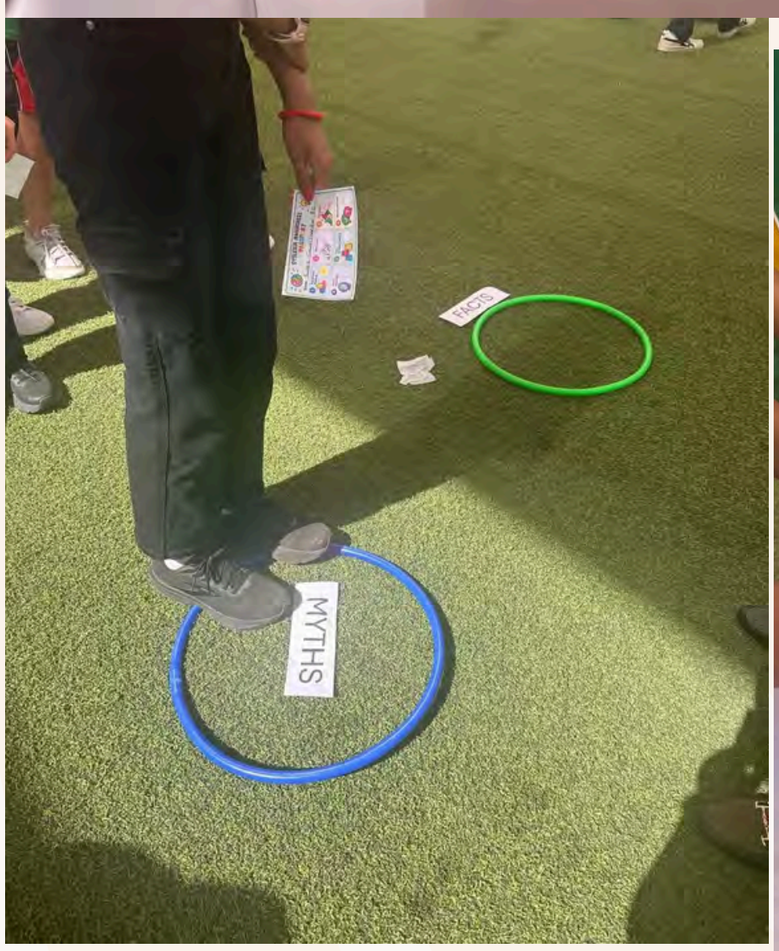
8TH OCTOBER 2026

Our Dyslexia Awareness Day was a wonderful opportunity for students to challenge themselves and experience how differently dyslexic minds may approach problem-solving. Through engaging activities, students gained a greater appreciation of the diverse ways we think, learn and process information. The event encouraged empathy, raised awareness, and reminded us that different ways of thinking are strengths to be celebrated.













Celebrating Strengths, Ebracing Differences

Mr. Tom Collar, Head of Primary

As we mark Dyslexia Awareness Day, I have been reflecting on the importance of recognising strengths before focusing on difficulties. My own experience of living with dyslexia has taught me that every child learns differently, and that the right relationships, encouragement, and support can make a profound difference to their confidence and success. While it is important to support children with areas they find challenging, we must ensure these difficulties do not overshadow their strengths, interests, creativity, and unique ways of thinking. As parents and educators, we have an important role to play in helping children discover what they are good at, celebrate their successes, and build the confidence to navigate challenges. Sometimes, the very things that feel difficult can become the experiences that shape our resilience, help us understand ourselves better, and ultimately become part of what makes us stronger.

DYSLEXIA

Dyslexia in the teen years

Dyslexia doesn't go away with age. As schoolwork gets heavier, it can show up in new ways, and many teens hide their struggles. Here's what you might notice.

Heavy reading load

Long texts and textbooks take much more time and energy.

Writing under pressure

Essays, note-taking and timed exams can be a real struggle

Confidence dips

Avoiding homework or reading aloud may be frustration, not laziness

Big strengths too

Many dyslexic teens are creative, strategic thinkers, strong talkers and natural problem solvers

10 ways to back your teen

Support that respects their growing independence.

★ **Embrace assistive tech**

Text-to-speech, dictation and audiobooks are tools, like glasses. They're not cheating.

★ **Ask about exam access**

Extra time, a reader or a scribe may be available. Talk to the school early.

★ **Let them lead**

Ask what helps and what doesn't. Teens stick with strategies they choose.

★ **Build organisation habits**

Planners, phone reminders, colour-coded folders and a tidy study spot.

★ **Teach study strategies**

Mind maps, short chunks, recorded lessons and summaries in their own words.

★ **Spotlight strengths**

Sport, music, coding, art, leadership? Their talents matter as much as grades.

★ **Watch their wellbeing**

Stress, low confidence or school avoidance deserve a kind open chat

★ **Practise self-advocacy**

Help them explain what they need to teachers, so they can do it alone later.

★ **Plan the next step**

College, university and work all offer support. Look into it before they apply.

Learn more, together

Handy places to start

Understood.org: friendly episodes on learning and including Dyslexia

The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan by Ben Foss (self-advocacy)

The Dyslexic Advantage by Brock & Fermette Eide

Overcoming Dyslexia by Sally Sheywitz

For teens: the Percy Jackson series, whose hero is dyslexic, plus audio book editions

Learning Ally and **Bookshare**: accessible audiobooks and ebooks

Made By Dyslexia: free courses on dyslexic thinking

Play
Learn
Lead
Belong

THAN A
CLASSROOM

SPORTS & CCAs

EXPLORE | DEVELOP | BELONG

LEADERSHIP
COMMUNITY
CREATIVITY
WELLBEING
SERVICE

Discover Your Passions

BE ACTIVE | BE CREATIVE | BE CURIOUS | BE A PART OF SOMETHING

FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2026

SPORT NEWS

CLUTCH PERFORMANCES



DIA EH U19 BASKETBALL TEAMS CELEBRATE DOUBLE SUCCESS AT GIS

Our U19 Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams enjoyed an excellent start to the season, with both teams winning their respective events at the pre-season tournament organised by GIS. The players demonstrated impressive skills, determination and teamwork, delivering fantastic performances against competitive opposition. This double success provides an encouraging foundation for the season ahead and reflects the effort invested by our students and coaches in their preparation. The tournament also offered valuable match experience, allowing both squads to put their training into practice and develop their understanding as a team. Congratulations to all our players and coaches for their contribution to these achievements and for representing DIA Emirates Hills with pride. We look forward to seeing both teams carry this confidence and commitment into their upcoming fixtures, building on a start that our whole school community can celebrate.

Congratulations to every player, and a special thank you to Fiona and John for their coaching, guidance and continued commitment to the teams. Our appreciation also goes to GIS for hosting such an enjoyable tournament and to all participating teams for the quality of competition and sportsmanship. We look forward to seeing our players build on this achievement as the season progresses. Well done to everyone involved; you have made our school community proud!





DIA EH U16 GIRLS DELIVER A STRONG TEAM PERFORMANCE AGAINST NORD ANGLIA

Our U16 Girls' Basketball team secured an impressive 48–24 victory against Nord Anglia School this week, with all nine players enjoying valuable court time and contributing to a strong team performance. Yas earned Most Valuable Player honours, scoring 20 points while showing outstanding vision and passing to create opportunities for her teammates. Farida impressed in defence, applying consistent pressure to the opposition, while Tabby made an important contribution through her rebounding and ability to turn those opportunities into baskets. Nicola, Aavika, Farida and Pratyusha also added to the score, reflecting the shared effort behind the result. The match gave the whole squad an opportunity to gain experience and build confidence together. Congratulations to the players and coaches on an encouraging performance, with teamwork at the heart of their success. We look forward to following their progress throughout the season.

DIA EH U14 B FOOTBALL TEAM MAKE A WINNING START

Our U14 B Football team enjoyed a successful opening to the season, securing a victory in their first match with a strong collective performance. Controlled possession and positive attacking play were central to the team's approach, complemented by encouraging attitudes across the squad. Dani found the net with a well-placed toe poke past the goalkeeper, providing a memorable moment in an impressive first outing. Alongside the result, the players' commitment and willingness to work together offered plenty to celebrate. This opening performance provides a positive foundation as the team build confidence and develop their understanding on the pitch. Congratulations to the players and coaches on a rewarding start. We look forward to seeing the squad carry this enthusiasm and teamwork into their upcoming fixtures.







DIA EH U14 GIRLS EARN A HARD-FOUGHT VICTORY AGAINST NORD ANGLIA

Our U14 Girls' Football team secured a well-earned 2–1 victory against Nord Anglia School in a closely contested match. Leah opened the scoring with a first-half free kick, giving DIA EH the lead before Felicia produced a superb second-half strike to make it 2–0. Nord Anglia responded with a goal of their own, setting up a challenging finish that demanded determination and sustained effort from our players. The girls worked hard to protect their advantage and see the game through, showing the value of supporting one another when the pressure increased. Alongside two memorable goals, it was the collective effort that made this performance especially pleasing. Congratulations to the team and coaches on a rewarding result and an encouraging display of commitment, teamwork and resilience.

DIA EH U12 GIRLS B SHOW DETERMINATION IN GOALLESS DRAW

Our U14 B Football team enjoyed a successful opening to the season, securing a victory in their first match with a strong collective performance. Controlled possession and positive attacking play were central to the team's approach, complemented by encouraging attitudes across the squad. Dani found the net with a well-placed toe poke past the goalkeeper, providing a memorable moment in an impressive first outing. Alongside the result, the players' commitment and willingness to work together offered plenty to celebrate. This opening performance provides a positive foundation as the team build confidence and develop their understanding on the pitch. Congratulations to the players and coaches on a rewarding start. We look forward to seeing the squad carry this enthusiasm and teamwork into their upcoming fixtures.







DIA EH U19 BOYS BEGIN BASKETBALL SEASON WITH A CONVINCING WIN

Our U19 Boys' Basketball team made a strong start to their season with a 77–53 victory over CIS. Excellent shooting from Misha, Tamim and Kosmas helped secure the result, while positive performances throughout the squad made this a pleasing collective effort. The opening fixture provided valuable match experience and an opportunity for the players to put their preparation into practice. With contributions across the team, there is plenty to build on as the season progresses and new challenges emerge. Congratulations to the players and coaches on an encouraging start. We look forward to seeing the squad carry this confidence into their upcoming fixtures while continuing to develop their skills and teamwork.

DIA EH U16 BOYS A SECURE AN IMPRESSIVE AWAY VICTORY

Our U16 Boys' A Football team earned all three points with a convincing 3–1 away win against Nord Anglia School. A strong first-half display saw DIA EH establish a 3–0 lead at the break, putting the team in a commanding position. Although the hosts pulled a goal back, our players controlled the second half and managed the game well to secure the victory. With captain Pietro unavailable, the squad stepped up collectively, showing shared responsibility and the strength of their teamwork. It was an encouraging performance that demonstrated the team's ability to adapt and deliver together. Congratulations to the players and coaches on a well-deserved result. The squad can take confidence from this display as they prepare for their next fixture.







DIA EH U13 GIRLS EARN A HARD-FOUGHT DRAW IN SEASON OPENER

Our U13 Girls' Football team began their season with a closely contested 1–1 draw against Arcadia, delivering an encouraging performance with notable contributions at both ends of the pitch. Goalkeeper Lena earned a deserved Player of the Match award, producing a string of excellent saves to keep DIA EH in the game. Belle provided the attacking highlight with an impressive individual equaliser, bringing the team back on level terms. The girls enjoyed the majority of possession in the second half and continued to push for a winner, but the match finished with honours even. This opening fixture offered valuable competitive experience and plenty of positives to build on in training. Congratulations to the players and coaches on a promising start, with determination and individual quality contributing to a strong collective effort.

DIA EH U16 GIRLS SHOW PROMISE IN SEASON-OPENING DRAW

Our U16 Girls' Football team opened their season with a hard-earned 1–1 draw against a strong Arcadia side, showing encouraging teamwork in hot conditions. With many of the players still getting to know one another on the pitch, the squad produced several standout performances. Inaaya scored early in the first half, giving DIA EH a positive start, although a second goal proved elusive. Maja and Thalia were solid in defence alongside new teammate Clara, while Chloe delivered an impressive performance in midfield, showing strength throughout. In goal, Victoria made a series of excellent saves to keep the team in contention right up to the final minute. The result provides a promising foundation for a squad whose understanding will continue to grow with training and match experience. Congratulations to the players and coaches on a determined opening performance and a valuable first step into the season.





Dubai International Academy

CALENDAR OUTLINE

2026 - 2027

Key dates: August - December 2026

AUG 19	SMT return to School for Orientation and Training
AUG 20	HODs, Subject leaders, HOYs and Year level leaders return to School for Orientation and Training
AUG 24	Teachers return to School for Orientation and Training
AUG 25	Prophet Mohammad's birthday* (No school for students and staff)
AUG 31	Primary School 'Hopes & Dreams'
AUG 31	Secondary School new students' orientation All Year 7, 11 and 13 students orientation and all new students.
SEP 1	Lessons start for KG2 – Year 13 students
AUG-SEP 31–4	KG1 settling in programme
OCT 12–16	Mid-term Break
OCT 29	Innoventures Education PD Day (Early dismissal for all students)
NOV 3	Parent Teacher Consultations KG1 – Year 6 (No school for PS students)
NOV 10	Parent Teacher Online Consultations Year 7 – 13 (No school for SS students)
NOV 20	Parent Teacher Consultations Year 7 – 13 (No school for SS students)
DEC 2–4	UAE National Day* (No school for students and staff)
DEC-JAN 14–3	Winter Break

Dubai International Academy
Emirates Hills

CALENDAR OUTLINE

2026 - 2027

JAN 4	Lessons start for KG1 – Year 13 students
FEB 2	Innoventures Education PD Day (Early dismissal for all students)
FEB 5	Parent Teacher Consultations Year 11 – 13 (No school for SS students)
FEB 8	Ramadan begins*
MAR 8–12	Eid Al Fitr* (No school for students and staff)
MAR 25	Innoventures Education PD Day (Early dismissal for all students)
MAR 31	Parent Teacher Consultations KG1 – Year 6 (No school for PS students)
APR 5–9	Spring Break
APR 22	Parent Teacher Consultations Year 7 – 10 (No school for SS students)
MAY 15–18	Eid Al Adha* (No school for students and staff)
MAY 24	Parent Teacher Consultations KG1 – Year 6 (No school for PS students)
JUN 6	Hijri New Year* (No school for students and staff)
JUL 2	End of Year for Students and Teachers

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please note that all dates are correct at the time of writing and could be subject to change owing to the lunar calendar and government announcements for public holidays.

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 7 communication.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	evelynp@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Jayya Mainni	csr.diaeh@arabfalcondubai.ae
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev Edgar Hambly	mihailk@diadubai.com edgarh@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Jasmin Thomas	jasmint@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Renda Kayali	rendak@diadubai.com
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Jasmin Thomas	jasmint@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Faridah Merchant	faridahm@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including standardized tests.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Shahrina Faiz	shahrinaf@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Jasmin Thomas	jasmint@diadubai.com
Transition from Year 7 - Year 8	Jasmin Thomas	jasmint@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	PADIA Team	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 8 communication.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	evelynp@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Jayya Mainni	csr.diaeh@arabfalcondubai.ae
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev Edgar Hambly	mihailk@diadubai.com edgarh@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Katy Dolan	katyd@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Renda Kayali	rendak@diadubai.com
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Alicen Inker	aliceni@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Faridah Merchant	faridahm@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including standardized tests.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Shahrina Faiz	Shahrinaf@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Alicen Inker	aliceni@diadubai.com
Transition from Year 7 - Year 8	Alicen Inker	aliceni@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	PADIA Team	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 9 communication.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	evelynp@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Jayya Mainni	csr.diaeh@arabfalcondubai.ae
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev Edgar Hambly	mihailk@diadubai.com edgarh@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Katy Dolan	katyd@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
Year 10 Subject Options	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Faridah Merchant	faridahm@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including standardized tests.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Shahrina Faiz	Shahrinaf@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Katy Dolan	paulc@diadubai.com
Future transition into Year 10	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	PADIA Team	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 10 communication.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	evelynp@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Jayya Mainni	csr.diaeh@arabfalcondubai.ae
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev Edgar Hambly	mihailk@diadubai.com edgarh@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Paul McCabe	paulc@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Renda Kayali	Rendak@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Shahrina Faiz	Shahrinaf@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Faridah Merchant	faridahm@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including eAssessment	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Paul McCabe	paulc@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Paul McCabe	paulc@diadubai.com
Future transition into Year 11	Paul McCabe	paulc@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	PADIA Team	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 11 communication.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	evelynp@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Jayya Mainni	csr.diaeh@arabfalcondubai.ae
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev Edgar Hambly	mihailk@diadubai.com edgarh@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Donna Campbell	donnac@diadubai.com
The Diploma Programme.	Nemanja Dordevic	nemanja@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC.	John Aboaja	johna@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha.	Faridah Merchant	faridahm@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including eAssessment.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Shahrina Faiz	Shahrinaf@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Donna Campbell	donnac@diadubai.com
Subject Options.	Jonathon Dunn	jonathond@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	PADIA Team	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 12 communication.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	evelynp@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals or facilities.	Jayya Mainni	csr.diaeh@arabfalcondubai.ae
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev Edgar Hambly	mihailk@diadubai.com edgarh@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Jamie O'Sullivan	jamieo@diadubai.com
The Diploma Programme.	Mahua Paul	mahuap@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC.	John Aboaja	johna@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Faridah Merchant	faridahm@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, either internal or IB.	Mona Khreis	monak@diadubai.com
University Counselling.	Rachana Sippy	rachanas@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Jamie O'Sullivan	jamieo@diadubai.com
Aim High Programme	Clare Boyes	clareb@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	PADIA Team	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 13 communication.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	evelynp@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Jayya Mainni	csr.diaeh@arabfalcondubai.ae
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev Edgar Hambly	mihailk@diadubai.com edgarh@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Andrew Hanlon	andrewh@diadubai.com
The Diploma Programme.	Mahua Paul	mahuap@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC	John Aboaja	johna@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Faridah Merchant	faridahm@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, either internal or IB.	Mona Khreis	monak@diadubai.com
University Counselling.	Rachana Sippy	rachanas@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Andrew Hanlon	andrewh@diadubai.com
Aim High Programme	Clare Boyes	clareb@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	PADIA Team	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com