



EMIRATES
HILLS

Secondary School Newsletter



14th June 2024



Head of Secondary Message



Hello all,

This week has been an intense but rewarding period as our students have engaged wholeheartedly in their end-of-year assessments. I am incredibly proud of the dedication and perseverance they have shown throughout this challenging time.

Looking ahead, I am excited to introduce our upcoming Anti-Bullying Week (24th - 28th June), themed "Speak Up." This important initiative aims to foster a culture of kindness and respect within our school community. Through a series of workshops, discussions, and activities, we will empower our students to stand against bullying and support one another. We believe that every student has the right to feel safe and valued, and "Speak Up" will provide them with the tools and confidence to advocate for themselves and others. There will also be presentations for parents on important issues such as cyber safety and support during our Speak-up Week.

This week, our Year 6 transition taster days were a resounding success. The students had the opportunity to explore a variety of lessons, giving them a glimpse of the exciting curriculum awaiting them in Year 7. They also had meaningful interactions with current Year 7 students, who shared their experiences and provided valuable insights into life at our school.

Have a wonderful Eid break,

Michelle

Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th June

Eid Al Adha

School resumes on Wednesday 19th June

Wednesday 19th June

Secondary Sports Awards - 4pm - SS PE Hall

Celebrating our fantastic sporting achievements as a community - we look forward to seeing you all there.

Thursday 20th June

TedX Youth: 6-8pm - PS PE Hall

Our students have been working hard on their presentations - prepare for insightful and informative talks

Monday 24th - Friday 28th June

Year 11 into 12: DP Taster Sessions

Discover your future subjects, meet your teachers and prepare yourselves to step into DP

Tuesday 25th June

DI@TECH: PE Hall and Canteen Extension

An interactive day of innovative competition, discussion and presentations! A highlight in our school calendar - we look forward to seeing you there.

Wednesday 26th June

Cyberbullying - Parent Session - 7.45 - 9am - Cafeteria

An opportunity to discuss the latest initiatives in this incredibly fast-paced, yet important area

Thursday 27th June

Secondary School End of Year Awards: 5-7pm - PE Hall

A celebration of our wonderful students



WORLD'S BEST
SCHOOL PRIZES



Dubai International Academy
Emirates Hills, UAE

VOTE FOR US!



WORLD'S BEST
SCHOOL PRIZES
Community Choice Award

<https://vote.worldsbestschool.org/public-vote-2024/entry/1314>



Wellbeing Corner

Dear students,

As the Summer Break is almost upon us, we are mindful that it's not always a relaxing or enjoyable time for everyone. So, this week's Wellbeing Corner will describe the benefits of journalling for maintaining wellbeing and improving mental health.

Journalling is the act of simply writing down your thoughts and feelings to understand them more clearly. This process can help you gain a better understanding of your thoughts and emotions and can help relieve the distress caused by pent-up emotions.

Below you will see just some of the benefits of journalling:

- Writing down our thoughts and getting them out of our head can make more space in your mind and create a feeling of calm. Similarly, writing about your feelings can reduce the intensity of the emotions.
- By regularly journalling, you may begin to see patterns in your thoughts, emotions, behaviours, or relationships that may be causing you distress. By better understanding these patterns and links, you can begin to make positive changes.
- Seeing your problems written out can help you to prioritise problems, fears, and concerns and work on resolving these issues.
- By tracking your day-to-day ups and downs you can recognise triggers for anxiety, stress, low mood, or poor self-esteem and learn ways to better manage them.

There are many benefits to journalling regularly and many ways in which you can engage in this practice.

- You can write in a regular notepad, in a journal with specific prompts, or on your phone or laptop. Just be sure that your journal is secure for your own privacy and is close-by to make it more likely that you will engage in the process.
- You can write freely about your thoughts, emotions, about your day, your hopes, your plans. You can use online journal prompts. You can describe your day in terms of victories, challenges, things to work on, and things you're grateful for – this might give you a new perspective on your day and your life.
- You can journal daily or every few days, in the morning or at night. Maybe you do weekly round-up. The trick is to find a process that works for you and that you will engage with regularly.

Journalling can be a powerful tool in maintaining wellbeing and for preventing distress. However, sometimes journalling and other wellbeing practices may not be enough, so don't be afraid to reach out for help!





Against Bullying

SPEAK UP



In Classes

During Speak Up Anti-Bullying Week, anti-bullying themes are seamlessly integrated into every subject. In English, students explore literature addressing kindness and empathy, discussing ways to create an inclusive environment. Math lessons use statistics on bullying to teach the real-world impact of standing up for peers.

History highlights figures who fought against injustice, drawing parallels to combating bullying today. Science covers the psychological effects of bullying, fostering empathy through understanding. Art and music encourage expression of feelings about bullying, promoting emotional literacy. Physical education emphasizes teamwork and respect.



Guest Speakers

During Speak Up Anti-Bullying Week, guest speakers inspire students by sharing their own stories of resilience, grit, and determination. These experts, who have overcome significant challenges, teach valuable skills for facing adversity. Their personal experiences motivate students to develop inner strength and perseverance, equipping them with the tools to handle life's obstacles. Through these powerful narratives, students learn the importance of resilience and the impact of a determined mindset.



This July, three adventurers from the UAE will embark on an unprecedented 1,500km rowing expedition across the Arctic Ocean, making history with 'The Arctic Challenge'.

Parent support groups

During Speak Up Anti-Bullying Week, daily themed parent coffee mornings offer valuable opportunities for discussion and support. Each session focuses on different strategies for fostering resilience and promoting positive behavior at home. These provide a platform for parents to share experiences and build a supportive community, enhancing their ability to contribute to a nurturing and safe environment both at school and home.



VIVAMUS

Bullying -

PARENT EMPOWERMENT

We are excited to welcome Jackie Greenwood to DIA for Anti-Bullying Week - SpeakUp@DIA! Jackie is Director of Education and leads Organizational Wellbeing and Clinical Governance at Vivamus. During this session, she will provide insights into the theme of bullying, and give invaluable guidance to parents on managing situations where their child is being bullied or has bullied others. Join us on Monday 24th from 8am - 9am to learn effective strategies and support tools.



**MONDAY 24TH
JUNE**



8AM- 9AM



TBC



Speak up

Parent Support Groups

Monday 24th June - Thursday 27th June
Main Canteen 8:45 am - 9:45 am

Join us for a relaxed coffee chat with fellow parents as we delve into important topics like bullying and cyberbullying. This is a great opportunity to share experiences, gain insights, and discuss strategies to educate and support our children in navigating the challenges of growing up. Let's come together to create a safe and supportive community for our kids.

See you there!



Speak up



Cultivating Empathy and Building Resilience in your Teens



**Practical tools for guiding your teenager to avoid
being a victim or a bully.**

DELIVERED BY ASHA KARAM
HEAD OF INCLUSION, SECONDARY
DATE: THURSDAY, 27TH JUNE
TIME: 7:45AM
VENUE: PRESENTATION HALL

Speak up



KEEPING UP WITH YOUR KIDS ONLINE

Join Tom, Head of Primary for a Parent Session on contextualizing the digital landscape and explore some of the challenges we all face.

CANTEEN
EXTENSION
7:45 AM

Wednesday 26th June



WANTED!

YOUR OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

REWARD: a treasure trove of priceless reads



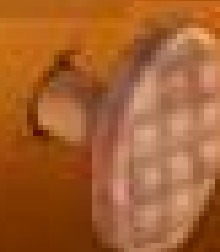
CALLING ALL PUPILS, STAFF AND PARENTS!

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS LANGUISHING IN
YOUR LOCKER? GATHERING DUST UNDER YOUR BED? SITTING
AIMLESSLY ON YOUR SHELVES?**

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

BOOK AMNESTY – BRING YOUR OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS BACK...

**...no questions to be asked, no judgments to be made:
just a chance for your books to come out of hiding
and reclaim their spot on the shelf!**



A World Re-Imagined: DIA Shines at the WSC Regional Round



World Scholars Cup!
7 Teams
3 Trophies
86 Medals
40 Gold
46 Silver



Twenty-four students from DIA attended the WSC regional round in Dubai, embracing this year's theme, "A World Re-Imagined," and delivering stellar performances!

A special mention goes to Richard Koval for his incredible achievements. Richard emerged as the top scholar in the Junior Section, winning the prestigious Jac Khor award for academic excellence. He secured 12 Gold medals and 10 Silver medals. Richard's team, including Sara Johnson and Yuvraj Dewan, claimed 3rd place overall in the Junior Section.

Can Khan and Vihaan Shukla also excelled. Can achieved the second-highest score among the youngest seniors, while Vihaan finished 9th overall in the Seniors.

DIA introduced six new teams to the tournament. A Year 9 team, featuring Shanessa Dsouza, Toshani Seth, and Sumin Im, performed brilliantly, qualifying 26th for the global round. Additionally, three Year 7 teams qualified for the Global Round and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. Looking ahead, the WSC CCA will resume in September, focusing on training our current teams for the Global Rounds and the Tournament of Champions. In Term 2 of the next academic year, the DIA WSC CCA will welcome new teams of three for the 2025 season. Your child is more than welcome to join! For more information, please contact Andrewh@diadubai.com or Kanchid@diadubai.com.

E PORTFOLIO SUBJECTS IN THE MYP



Eportfolio subjects

Students in the **IB Middle year program** has to choose from a range of subjects to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The MYP is a broad and balanced curriculum which organizes teaching and learning through eight subject groups. In the last year of MYP students have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through ePortfolios. These ePortfolios are external assessments that showcase their coursework across various subject groups.

Music

**Media
Arts**

PHE

Visual Art

Design:

Theater

Year 7 Summer Showcase

Congratulations to all Year 7 and a special THANK YOU to Mr. O'Sullivan for directing!

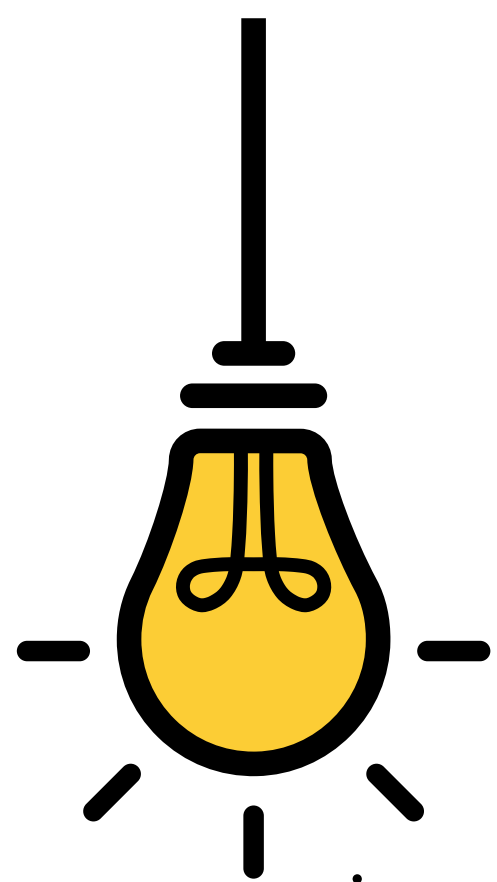


Last week, our Performing Arts department led the entire cohort of Year 7s in a fun celebration of drama, music and dance. Each morning, different Year 7 homerooms showcased their talents collectively, with a class production of scenes from Roald Dahl's 'Matilda', followed by individual or small group performances of students' own creations.



What a wonderful way to get us ready for summer!





DP 1 End of Year Reflection

It is now an important time in the year to reflect upon your experience:
How did your Mocks go?

Remember: You need to learn from this round of examination sessions to prepare for the next academic year. Here are some questions and tips!

Communicate Effectively

Write it down or you will forget- Keep a journal!
Observe the trend and track your progress

I am proud of...

List your success criteria

What learning strategy worked for you?

Which resources were beneficial?

How did I manage my time and plan?

I learned...

-How to prepare for my next round of examinations?

How to apply my knowledge and practice exam style questions?
Which subjects need more focus and which subjects I need to maintain?

I look forward to...

Develop my skills and answers.

Which Topics/ Subjects I need to revise thoroughly?

How to improve my studying habits?

What learning strategies I can use in future?

JOB SHADOWING MAY/JUNE 2024 YEAR 11

The job shadowing program was a resounding success, fostering invaluable connections between aspiring professionals and seasoned experts. Students gained firsthand insight into daily operations, allowing them to apply their theoretical knowledge in a real world context. This immersive experience not only honed their skills but also clarified career aspirations.

Mentors offered guidance, shared industry secrets, and provided constructive feedback, cultivating a supportive learning environment. The program's structured approach, combined with real-world exposure, significantly boosted confidence and competence among participants. As a result, both mentors and students felt enriched, fostering a sense of community and mutual growth that promises to yield long-term professional benefits.

If you are interested in offering a similar opportunity to future students, please scan the QR code below to provide your details.



JOB SHADOWING SPOTLIGHT



We are pleased to welcome Mohammed Husain as an intern to the Customer Relationship Management - Marketing team. He joins us from Dubai International Academy and is excited about 6thStreet for its position as one of the largest and fastest-growing fashion e-commerce platforms in the GCC region. With passions in public speaking, karate, and reading, he brings a well-rounded and dynamic energy to our team. Welcome aboard, Mohammed!

Year 6 into 7 Transition

Orientation and Settling In

Our transition event helped you navigate your new school, meet your Head of Year, and learn about the school's rules and routines. You had the chance to explore the campus, understand where your classes would be, and feel more comfortable and confident in your new environment.

Academic and Curriculum Changes

You discovered the new subjects you would be studying in Year 7 and got a comprehensive understanding of your timetable. We provided tips and strategies for managing academic challenges, staying on top of homework, and ensuring you were prepared for the increased academic expectations that came with starting secondary school.

Social and Emotional Support

You joined sessions designed to help you build friendships and meet peer mentors who could guide you through your first year. You also learned about the pastoral care system, which offered support for your emotional wellbeing, ensuring you felt secure and supported as you transition to secondary school.

Extracurricular and School Culture

You explored the variety of extracurricular activities available to you, from sports to clubs and arts. You understood the break and lunch routines and immersed yourself in the positive school culture. Participation in these activities will help you make friends, develop new skills, and enrich your school experience.

Independence and Responsibility

We discussed the expectation of independence and responsibility. This session focused on developing essential time management and organisational skills, helping you to become more independent and responsible, which are key traits for succeeding in secondary school.

Members of Staff to Remember:

Mrs Susan McMechan - Assistant Head Y7-9

Mrs Nemanja Dordevic - Assistant Head Y7-9
(24/25)

Mrs Katy Dolan - Head of Y7 (24/25)





**U19 Basketball DASSA
Champions**



**Innoventures Education
Champions**



DASSA Badminton Champions



DASSA Badminton Champions



DASSA Badminton Champions



**Innoventures Education
U15 Cricket Champions**



**Innoventures
Education
U13 Cricket
Champions**



**Innoventures
Education
U13 Cricket
Champions**

DIA FILM FESTIVAL

Winners

Best Cinematographer - Robin Paardenkooper

Best Screenwriter - Jonathan Petrellese

Best Editor - Rohit Ganesh

Best Overall Film - Zain Malik





Speak up

24 - 28 June





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**



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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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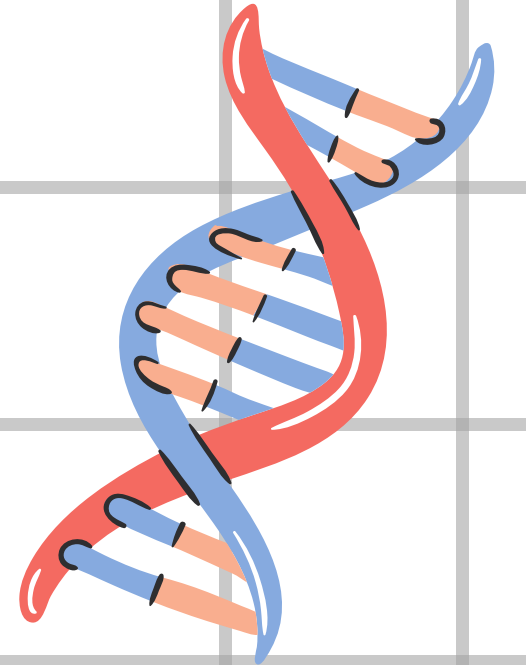
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EMIRATES
HILLS



Dream - Inspire - Achieve



YR 11>12 TASTERS

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 Students who will be transitioning to Year 12 next year. Please see the schedule, based on Groups 1>6. Individual timetables, rooming and teachers will be shared via email before the Taster Week begins.

June	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th
Lesson	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
1	G4/ New Students School Tour	G3	G3	G1	G4
2	G1	G1	G2	G2	G4
3	New Students Orientation*	G6	G5	Assembly Academic Research EE/RP; MLA 9	G5
4	Assembly Expectations & Aspirations	Introduction to TOK/PP/LD	G1		G5
5		G2	G6		HR CAS/SL
6	G6	G4	G4	G5	HR CAS/SL
7	Students will go home after lesson 6				

