



EMIRATES
HILLS

Secondary School Newsletter



19th April 2024



Head of Secondary Message



Hello all,

I wanted to say a huge heartfelt gratitude for your tremendous support during the recent challenges we faced due to the storms, particularly as we transitioned to online learning. Your understanding, flexibility, and partnership have been pivotal during these challenging times.

In addition to expressing my gratitude to you, I want to extend a special thank you to the unsung heroes who played a critical role in restoring our school to its full functionality: our dedicated support staff. In the aftermath of the storm, they worked tirelessly to clean and restore the school facilities, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for our students and staff. We plan to say a huge thank you this Friday to them and you are welcome to contribute (see later page).

I write this page, sat in school. The building is looking amazing and ready for the students to arrive back on Monday.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Michelle

Key Information

Monday 22nd April

Innoventures Robotics Competition - PE Hall

Year 5-12 STEM competition, celebrating the hard work and dedication of our wonderful students

Monday 22nd April

Earth Day

Wear green, brown or blue to show your support. Other activities will take place.

Tuesday & Wednesday 24th April

Year 12 Financial Literacy Workshop

Select group of Year 12 students will take part in a two day workshop on preparing for independent life at university.

Wednesday 24th April

DP Examinations Begin

Year 13 exams start - we wish all students the very best for this challenging period - you will be great!

Friday 26th April

Innoventures U14 Basketball - PE Hall

Our sports stars will battle it out to see who will be crowned champions!

Friday 26th April

Autism Awareness Day

Join us as we celebrate Autism awareness day and wear blue.



RE-ENROLMENT NOW OPEN

Re-enrolment for academic year 2024-2025:

We request parents to submit through the online link:

<https://apps.innoventureseducation.com/diaeh/re-enrolment/>



**Deadline:
29 April,
2024**



SUPPORT TEAM

Kindness



MANY PARENTS IN THE COMMUNITY ASKED IF THEY CAN BE A PART OF THANKING OUR SUPPORT TEAM

In light of the recent storm and the incredible effort put forth by our dedicated support staff to prepare the school for our children's return, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

As a token of appreciation, we would like to invite parents, along with the school, to contribute to a collective thank you gesture by providing a lunch for our hardworking support team.

Additionally, if parents wish to bring any small gifts, letters, cards to express their gratitude individually, they are more than welcome to do so. Together, let's show our appreciation for their unwavering commitment and dedication.

Please liaise through year reps



MONDAY, 22 APRIL, 2024



EARTH DAY

WEAR GREEN, BLUE OR BROWN TO SUPPORT



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



TAITEN ARCHARY - 9G

WON 2ND PLACE IN THE U15 JAVELIN EVENT AT THE
HIGHLY REGARDED ULTIMATE RACENIGHT COMPETITION

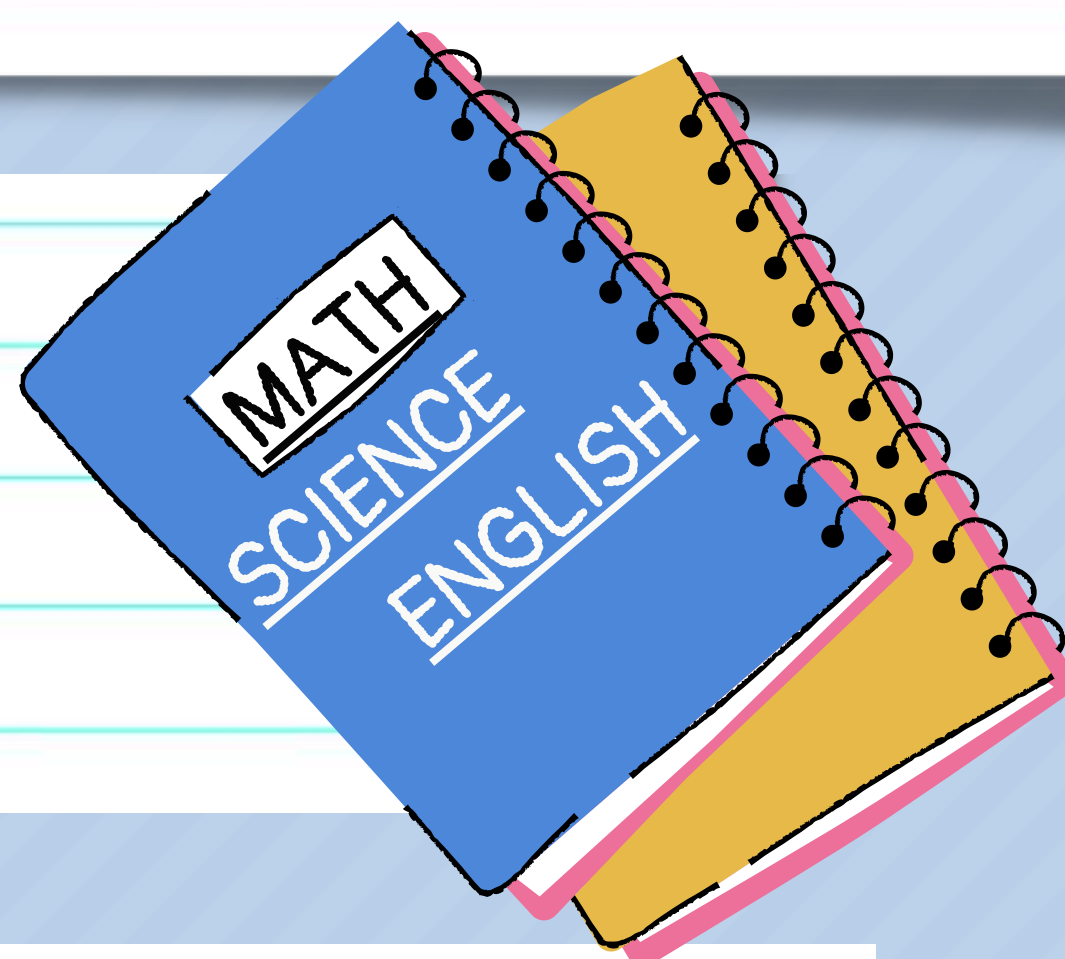


Congratulations to Taiten Archary, (9G) who is our featured student for this edition's 'Student Spotlight'. Taiten performed admirably in his javelin pursuits recently and we look forward to great achievements ahead!

Interdisciplinary learning in MYP

What is Interdisciplinary

In the MYP, interdisciplinary learning supports students to understand bodies of knowledge from two or more disciplines or subject groups, in order to integrate them and create new understanding



Structuring interdisciplinary teaching

In each year of the programme (Year 7 to 10), students are engaged in at least one collaboratively planned interdisciplinary unit that involves at least two subject groups. In the last year of MYP (Year 11) the eAssessment is designed to evaluate students' understanding and application of concepts across different subject areas through the use of multimedia resources, particularly digital media such as videos, animations, and interactive simulations. In this assessment students demonstrate their ability to integrate knowledge and skills from various disciplines to analyze complex problems, explore real-world issues, and propose innovative solutions.



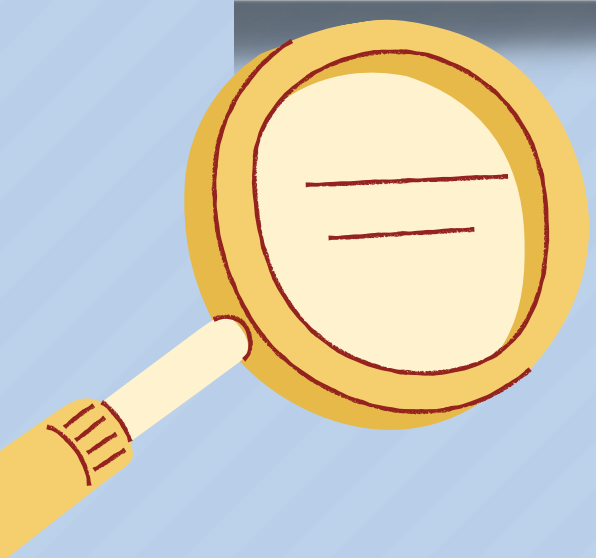
Assessing Interdisciplinary learning

Three criteria are assessed

Evaluating Students will evaluate how more than one discipline contributes to the interdisciplinary understanding of real-world issues and ideas.

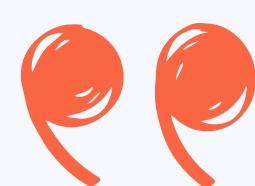
Synthesizing Students will integrate knowledge from more than one discipline in ways that inform inquiry into real-world issues and ideas in order to explain phenomena or create a product.

Reflecting Students will reflect on the development of their interdisciplinary understanding of real-world issues and ideas





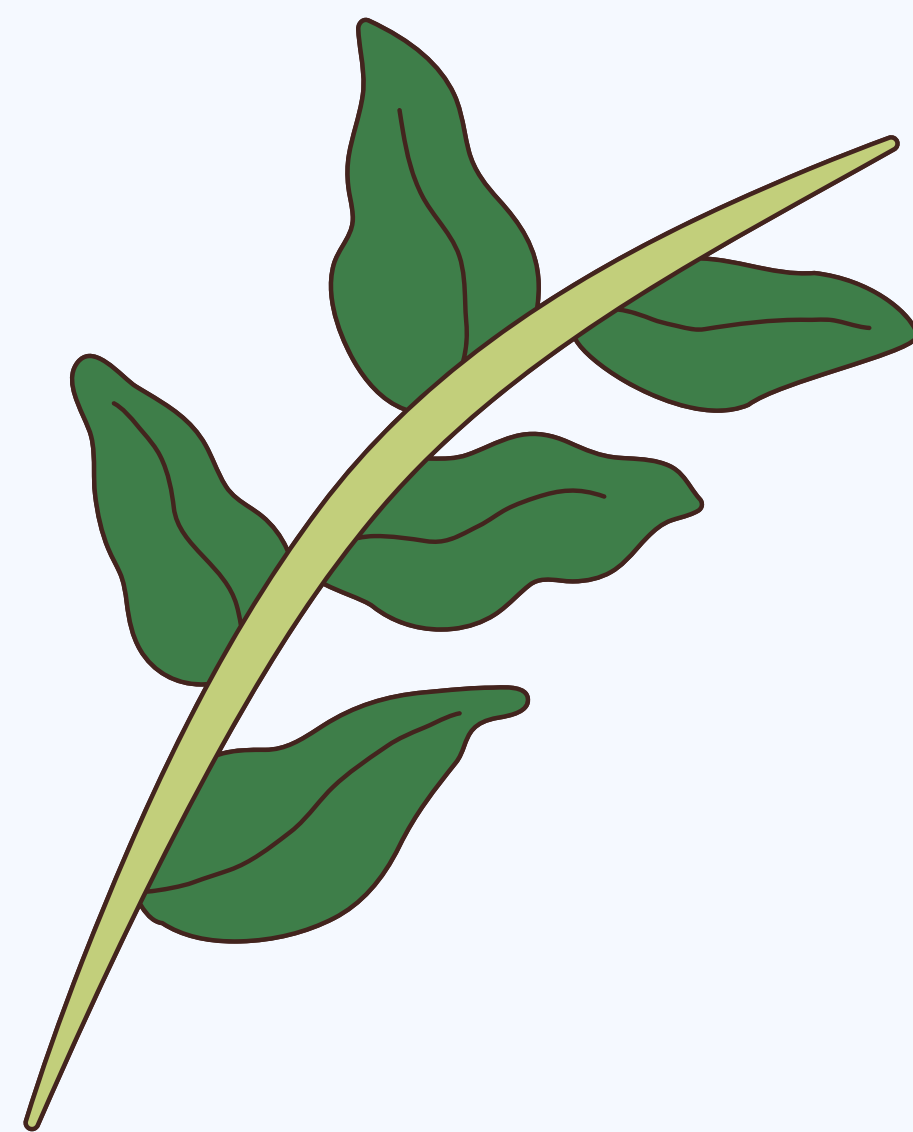
DIA Celebrates Autism Acceptance



*Friday
26th
April
2024*



Dress in Blue





IB DP & CP

Examination Readiness



- Have you created a studying schedule and solved past papers?
- Stay organized: keep all your study materials tidy around you to reduce stress
- Stay healthy: your physical wellbeing is important for your performance in the exams
- Practice time management: practice answering questions within allocated time frame.
- Stay Positive: positive mindset reduces anxiety and helps you focus
- Ask if you need help. DIA community is always ready for you.
- Keep an eye on all communications on TEAMS and emails for schedules, seating plans and any other related information.



Internship Programme

DIA students at Danube Home for Spring Break Internship Programme

DANUBE HOME
Making Your Home, So Easy Now



With Mr. Habib Sayed, Director- Danube Home

Objective of Internship: To introduce the interns to the most important aspect of Danube Home Business - Customers - and how they impact the shaping of the company's various Marketing Strategies.



Students participated in a transformative week-long internship at Danube Home's marketing department, where they were warmly welcomed by the General Manager Retail and Head of Loyalty for an insightful Greet & Meet session. Engaging directly with the Assistant General Manager of Marketing, they delved into strategic discussions and gained valuable insights into market dynamics. A highlight of their experience was an enriching session led by Mr. Sayed, Director of Danube Home. During the internship, students explored customer survey data, conducted meticulous marketing analysis, and discussed the intricacies of consumer behavior.



With AGM Marketing, Danube Home

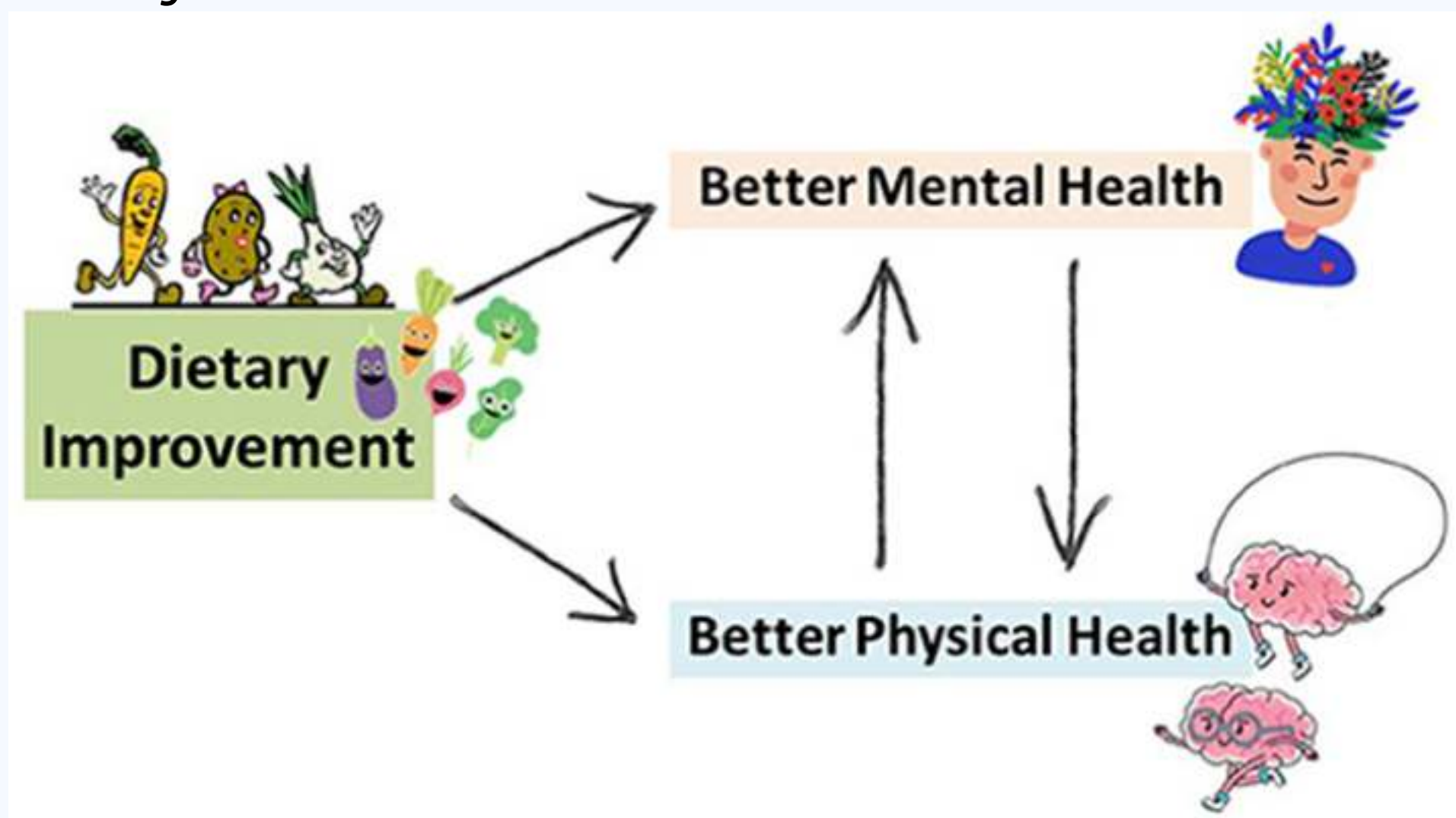
"During my internship at Danube, I acquired valuable insights into the company's innovative marketing strategies aimed at capturing new market segments. Additionally, I gained knowledge regarding Danube's approach on cultivating and leveraging customer relationships, including the strategic storage and management of customer data to tailor product offerings to individual interests. Moreover, I gained a profound understanding of Danube's commitment to fostering a positive work environment, as evidenced by its consistently high employee satisfaction levels, culminating in prestigious recognition such as the Best Place to Work award." (Karttikeya Mohlah Year 12)

"This experience has opened my eyes to the world of marketing and what it takes to become a good marketer, and the steps that the marketers at Danube have taken to end up in the position they are in." (Lucia Villalonga Year 12)

At the Danube Internship, I was able to grasp a better understanding of how consumers think by interacting with them first-hand as well as how the marketing decisions taken by a company can help to retain customers in a subtle yet highly effective manner (Noor Merad Year 11)

As **World Health Day**, which was during Spring Break on 7th of April, we would like to give you some insightful and simple things you can do to help improve your physical and mental health going into Term 3.

We all know that healthy eating and movement makes us feel and look like our best physical self. But did you know that both healthy eating and movement significantly affect our mental health too?



Being physically active boosts our energy levels, mood, concentration skills, and self-esteem. Exercise also releases endorphins, which make us feel happier by activating the reward system in our brains that gives us pleasure and lessens pain. Exercising regularly can increase a person's self-esteem by making them feel more in control of their own lives and what they do with them.

Moreover, an active and healthy lifestyle can help a person sleep better. This is because physical activity affects our bodies' circadian rhythm. When we are tired, our body will produce more melatonin to make us sleepy.

Our guts and brains are intimately connected, so diet matters a great deal when it comes to mood and mental wellbeing. Eating a well-balanced diet helps encourage self-discipline, a strong work ethic, and good decision-making skills. Studies show that when people eat healthy foods – like fruits and vegetables, they have better concentration, motivation, memory recall, and mental clarity.

A healthy diet can also lead to increased energy levels which will result in greater productivity at home or work. It is important to note that eating healthy foods does not only mean avoiding junk food. It means eating a well-balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, proteins, and whole grains.



The Future of AI in Education



The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into education promises to revolutionise learning in profound ways. AI's impact will be felt across various aspects of education, from personalised learning experiences to enhanced administrative efficiency.

One of the most significant applications of AI in education is personalised learning. Traditional education often adopts a one-size-fits-all approach, but AI can tailor learning experiences to individual students by analysing their learning patterns and adapting content accordingly. This personalised approach leads to better engagement and improved academic performance.

AI also empowers educators by providing data-driven insights into effective teaching strategies. By analysing educational data, AI can identify optimal instructional methods for specific subjects and student demographics, helping teachers refine their techniques and optimise learning outcomes.

Automation is another key benefit of AI in education. AI-powered systems can automate administrative tasks like grading assignments, scheduling classes, and managing resources, freeing up educators to focus more on teaching and student interaction. This efficiency enhances overall institutional productivity.

Furthermore, AI can make education more accessible and inclusive. Students with disabilities or in remote areas can benefit from AI-driven solutions such as transcription services for hearing impairments or virtual classrooms that bring expert teachers to underserved regions.

In the future, AI may revolutionise assessment methods by offering more comprehensive evaluations. Rather than relying solely on standardised tests, AI can analyse student projects and problem-solving processes to provide a holistic assessment of skills and competencies.

However, integrating AI in education requires addressing ethical and societal challenges. Privacy concerns, algorithmic biases, and the digital divide must be carefully managed to ensure equitable access and protect students' rights.

In conclusion, AI's potential to personalise learning, optimise teaching strategies, automate administrative tasks, and enhance accessibility makes it a transformative force in education. Collaboration among policymakers, educators, and technology developers is crucial to harnessing AI's benefits responsibly and shaping an educational system that is inclusive and effective for all students.

Jonathon Dunn
Deputy Head Academics MYP





Learning in the Rain...

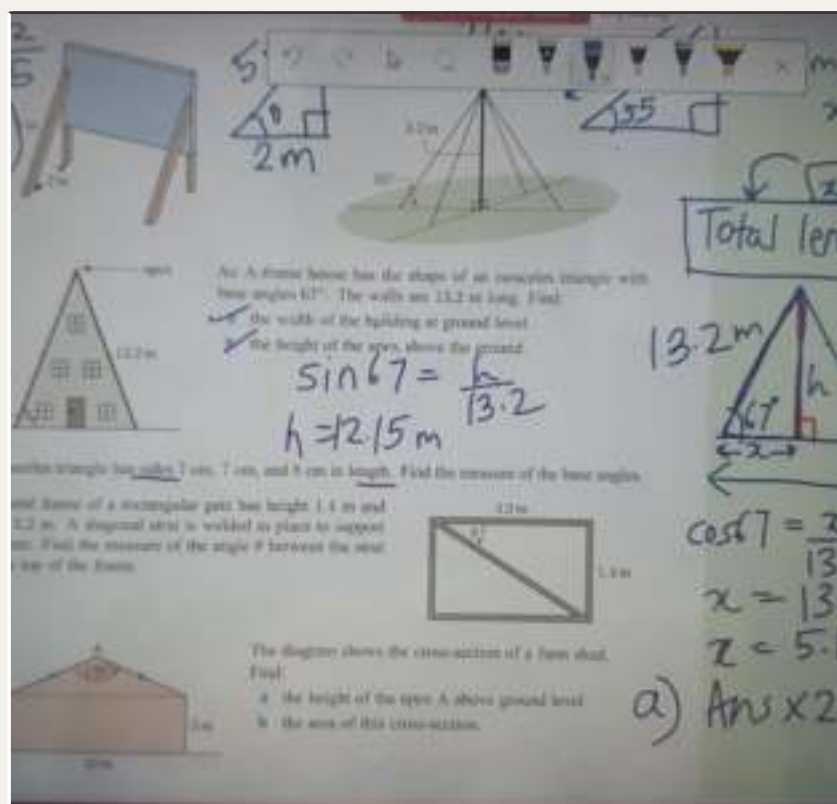
DIA Quickly Adapts to Digital Learning



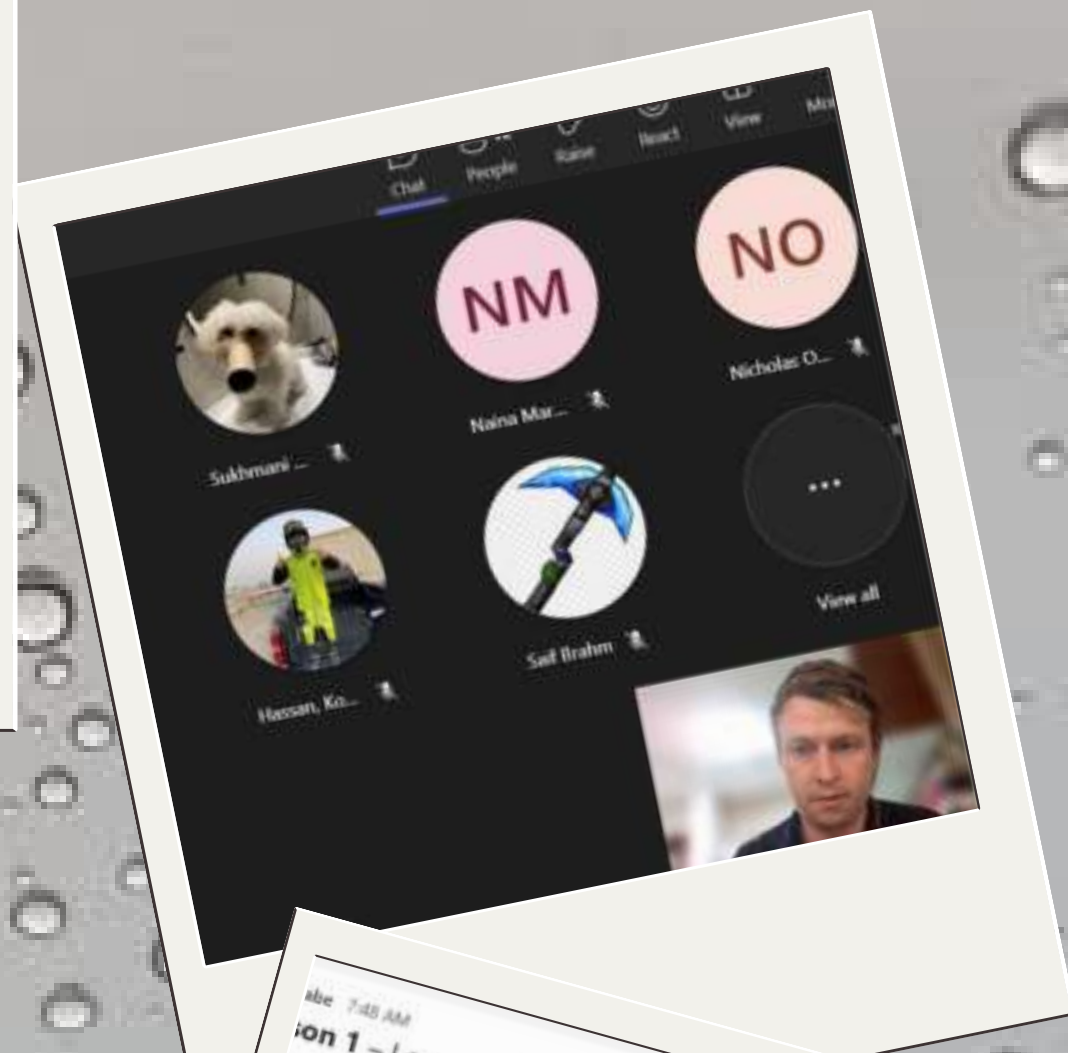
Discussion & Critical Thinking



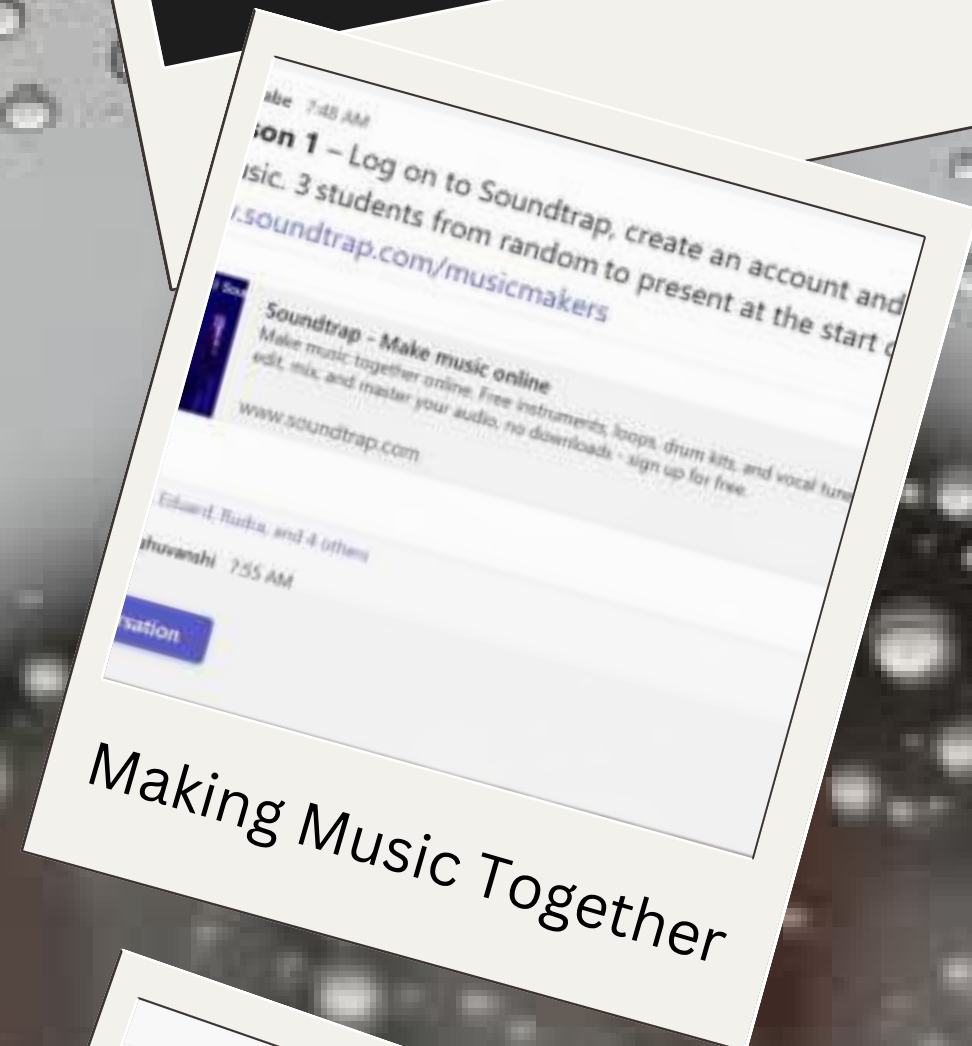
Differentiation & Break-out groups



Modeling and Solving



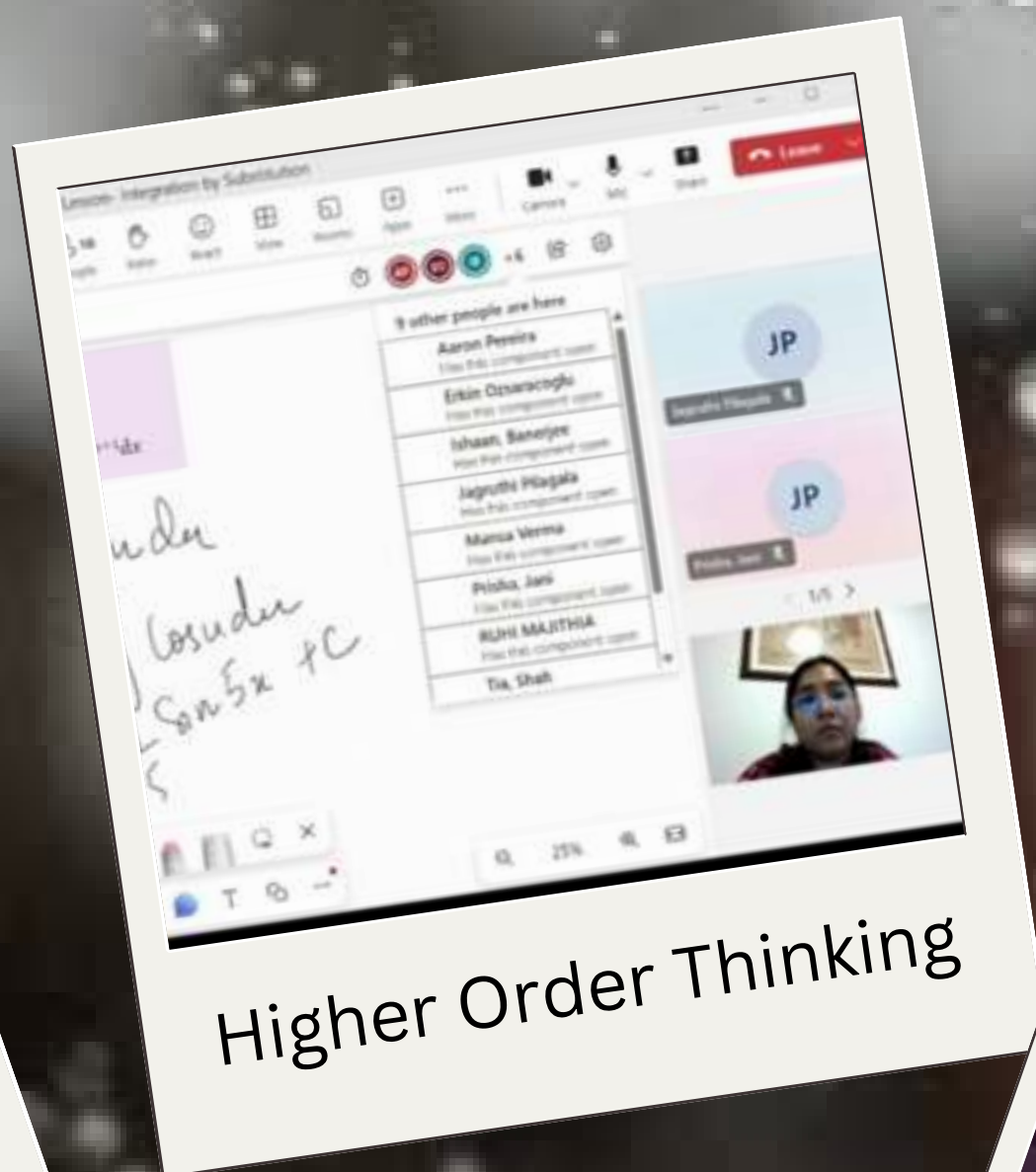
Student Participation in PE



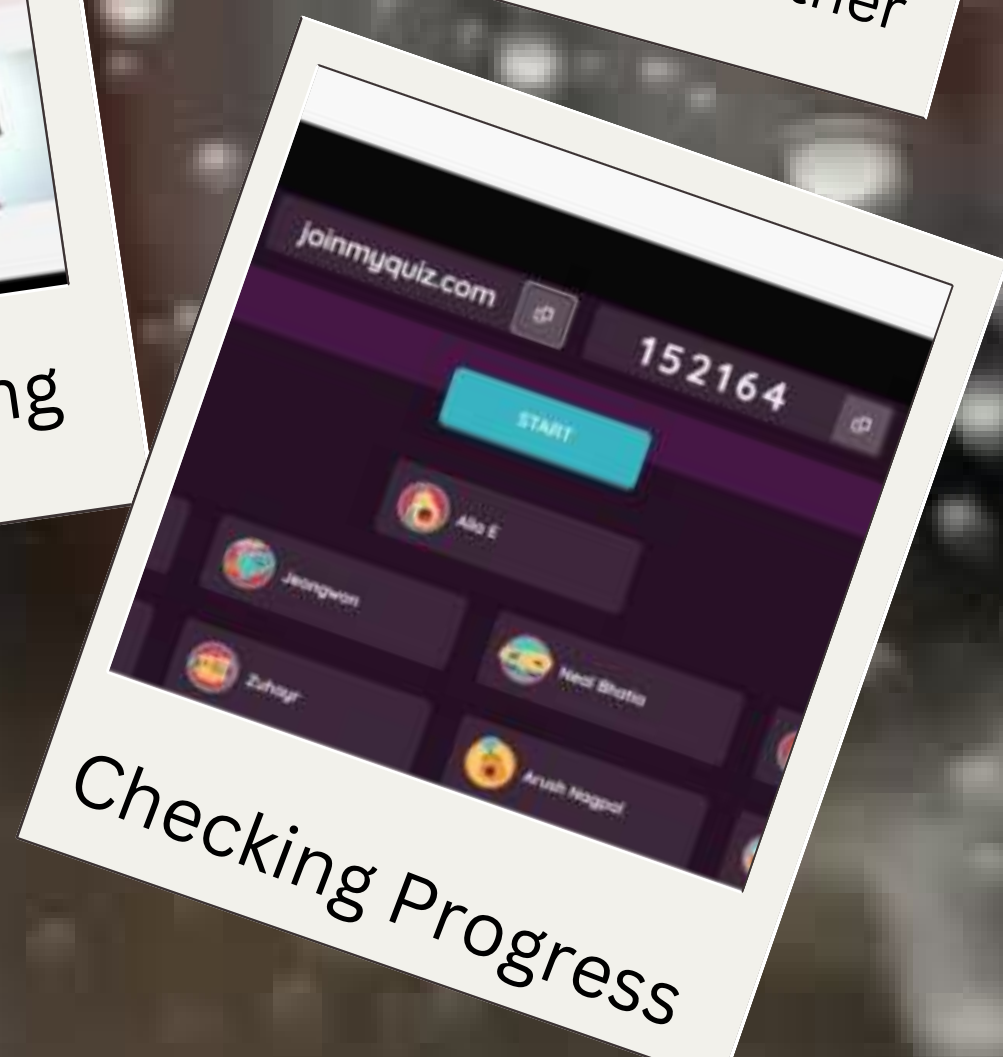
Making Music Together



Education Perfect



Higher Order Thinking



Checking Progress



**THANK YOU DUBAI
ISLAMIC BANK AND KFI
GLOBAL FOR THE
UPCOMING SESSIONS**



Financial Literacy

**Selected Year 12 students
22 - 23 April**

ESS Field trip

A huge thank you to ICBA, International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture and Ms. Ryma Affani Emirates Soil Museum Curator and Cecilia Braidy Freelance Education & Partnership Consultant



Princess Diana Award

Netra is a passionate young entrepreneur who is on a relentless mission to educate and empower girls from multiple countries in Asia and Africa.

Netra set up her organisation SpunkGo in July 2020, which brings together over 5,000 young girls from over 20 countries and from all walks of life to one community platform with the objective of using social media for good.

There were times when her dream of setting up a global organisation at age 14 was seen as a school project and people did not take her seriously. However, Netra was determined to fulfil her dream. To do this, she enlisted Student Ambassadors across various countries from Kazakhstan to Canada and Uganda to Congo. Through SpunkGo, she organises free life skills webinars featuring inspiring women speakers, to impart knowledge to girls around the world. These members mostly come from underprivileged backgrounds, who now have enormous opportunities of personal growth through all the chances to learn and network globally.



Young Achiever Award



Pratyusha Jain

Year 7

I was thrilled to share that I had been selected for the UAE Women Achievers Award 2024 Season 2! The expat community team organizing the event came across my achievements and decided to nominate me for the Young Achiever Awards section. They were impressed by my Guinness World Record, as well as my Olympiad gold and silver medals, and chess trophies. Out of 900 nominees, they chose me to be a part of this prestigious event. It was an honour to be recognized for my hard work and accomplishments, and I was excited to be a part of the UAE Women Achievers Award 2024 Season 2. This opportunity meant a lot to me, and I was looking forward to celebrating and connecting with other inspiring women at the event. The UAE Women Achievers Award 2024 celebrates the accomplishments of women in the United Arab Emirates, honouring their significant contributions in various fields. It aims to promote gender equality and empower women by showcasing their achievements and providing them with a platform for acknowledgement and appreciation, ultimately inspiring others to strive for excellence. The event day at Radisson Blu Hotel was truly a sight to behold, with its beautifully organized and well-decorated venue. The stunning chandelier added an extra touch of elegance to the occasion. The event kicked off with the presence of Bollywood celebrity and international model Aditi Govitrikar, along with the chief guest Isabela Ududec, COO of Magnati. Together, we honoured the remarkable achievements of female entrepreneurs at the UAE Women Achievers Award 2024 Season 2. The awards were divided into three categories: premium, young achievers, and regular, showcasing the talent and diversity of the recipients. Each category had its own set of titles, recognizing outstanding women in entrepreneurship, sports, innovation, and leadership. The premium category featured well-known individuals, while the young achiever category showcased talented young kids receiving special recognition. In the regular category, titles such as Lifetime Achievement Award, Best Innovator/Entrepreneur, Business Leader of the Year, Sports Achiever of the Year, best HR Consultant, and more were awarded. The highlight of the event was the short yet heartfelt speeches given by us awardees as we received our Clear Crystal Oval Plaque Awards with a hint of pink on the bottom half on stage. It was truly an exhilarating and inspiring event, celebrating our outstanding accomplishments in various fields of expertise as women.

— Message from the Head Team —

Hello Everyone,

My name is Neeraj Shah and I am proud to serve as your Head Boy for the 2024 to 2025 academic year. My journey with this wonderful school began in KG1 and since then I have enjoyed every moment of my academic and personal growth here at DIA. The multitude of opportunities provided by this school have helped me become the individual I am today with a deep sense of gratitude and a strong desire to give back.

As Head Boy, my foremost aim is to enhance student engagement within our school community. Initiatives like the Student Spotlight program have already been launched to showcase and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students, inspiring admiration and motivation within our community. Moreover, I firmly believe that actively involving students in various academic, inclusive and extracurricular activities enriches the educational and social environment at our school.

This year we aim to increase the involvement of younger students in school related activities that nurture their leadership, communication and thinking skills from an early age. We believe that providing opportunities to the younger students will contribute to our student body.

We are all incredibly excited to collaborate with all of the parents, students and teachers to create a meaningful impact. Please do not hesitate to approach me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thank you,
Neeraj Shah

Neeraj Shah
Head Boy



— Message from the Head Team —

Hi!

My name is Anoushka Rose and I will be serving as Head Girl for the 2024-2025 academic year. Throughout my time at DIA since Year 7, I've been inspired and driven by the rigour and passion of our school community. I hope to channel the spirit and raw talents offered up by my peers into fostering an environment where we can continue to thrive.

Our ultimate goal is to bring our diverse cohort together and put forth the best in what all has to offer. The students are what make our school so vibrant and rich in success, both academic and non. I hope to hear the demands of these students and best understand how we can alter the structures within school to give them the most beneficial and gratifying opportunities so that they may flourish.

Furthermore, I want to highlight the cruciality of the high school experience in a young mind's lifetime. These years are where we are fortunate enough to explore our interests in the name of discovering ourselves and who we hope to be. We stress an importance on being able to provide ventures that allow students to achieve this and to expand what they are capable of. Above all else, we hope to engage the students in a manner that grants them happiness and fulfilment, creating unforgettable and valuable memories.

I look forward to carrying over my experiences and bringing forward new ideas to work with our wonderful team this year and bring about tangible change.

Thank you,
Anoushka Rose

Anoushka Rose
Head Girl



Leadership Team 2024 - 2025



Head Team



Neeraj Shah
Head Boy



Neal Bhatia
Deputy Head Boy



Anoushka Rose
Head Girl



Maya Atanasova
Deputy Head Girl

Happiness Team



Aekam Pal



Alia Abdelhamid



Daniele Stella



Zaina Faisal

Student Opportunity



Aryan Bahl



Ruhaan Malhotra

Academic Excellence



Melis Yilmaz

Inclusion & Diversity



Thuwaiba Kazim



Chiara Roest
Year 7



Chanhong Min
Year 8



Apsara Kapur
Year 9



Atharv Bansal
Year 10



Trisha Vora
Year 11

Year Group Leaders

FUTURE SKILLS: SPOTLIGHT ON...

In the 'Young Chefs' Future Skills course, the lab is transformed into a kitchen, allowing Year 7 and 8 students to get creative with cookery. The course also builds their entrepreneurial skills through a bake sale, with contributions to GIVE. One group describes their experience.

On February 23rd, 'Scrumptious Cookies' were definitely the highlight of the bake sale! Having researched amazing recipes, the Young Chefs were able to create a wide range of cookie shapes and sizes, including cookies in the traditional form, as well as cookie balls and bars. We did this by using the traditional chocolate chip recipe. Despite some difficulties with baking, we managed to churn out more than 50 delicious cookies - which literally sold like 'hot-cookies'!



YOUNG CHEFS



Alongside cookies, our FSP group also created a refreshing mint lemonade, white and milk chocolate coated strawberries as well as very healthy avocado and boiled egg breakfast wraps. It was a fantastic experience cooking together and selling these items to our peers at school.





Year 7 Mid Year Awards





Year 8 Mid Year Awards





Year 9 Mid Year Awards





Year 10 Mid Year Awards





Year 12 Mid Year Awards





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

Best International Baccalaureate Curriculum School in the UAE 2023 - 2024

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
EMIRATES HILLS

WINNER

Best

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



Johnathan Westley
Managing Editor

James Mullen
Co-Founder

David Westley
Co-Founder

Awarded by the Editorial Board of **SchoolsCompared** and the **Top Schools Awards** Independent Judging Panel for consistently outstanding feedback from parents and teachers, school-wide innovation, whole child development and outstanding contribution to the quality and standards of education for children in the UAE 2023.

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Hitesh Bhagat
hiteshb@diadubai.com

Secondary Communications

Secondary School Senior Leadership

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Deputy Head Pastoral Colin Leacy colinl@diadubai.com	Assistant Head Pastoral Daniel Murphy danielm@diadubai.com	Assistant Head Years 7 - 9 Susan McMechan susanm@diadubai.com	Assistant Head Years 10 - 13 Gerhard Van Der Wal gerhardv@diadubai.com

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Heads of Year

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HoY 11 Naveen Tyagi naveent@diadubai.com	Assistant HoY 11 Jennifer Agacy jennifers@diadubai.com	HoY 12 John Aboaja johna@diadubai.com	HoY 13 Dollour Toma dollourt@diadubai.com	

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EMIRATES
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Dream - Inspire - Achieve