# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH







Newsletter Issue #8 12th October, 2023





Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Top in the UAE Cambridge
Board Exam Results
Congratulations to two super-

star Cambridge Board students, Nameer Omar Taha Al-Hayali for achieving 'Top in UAE' for IGCSE Art & Design, & Humayra Tasnim Nooha for achieving 'Top in UAE' in A/S Level Computer Science. Well done to both students, their parents & Teachers for this fantastic achievement! We are so proud of you!

#### **SPE Parent Trust Survey**

SPEA have requested parents to complete a Parent Trust survey. Please see p4 for the links (Arabic, English & QR code). Many thanks for taking some valuable time to complete this.

#### **Online Payments for Trips & Activities**

To ensure proper financial practices & avoiding lost money, Teachers will no longer be accepting cash for student trips & activities. Parents are requested to make payments online through their Parent Portal. Links will also be shared in the Trip/Activity letter. Please note p4 –6 of this NL#8 for the Parent Guide FYI. Thank you.

# pates for Your Diary

Date	<b>Details</b>
Mon. 9th Oct.	• Registration for September 2024 now open (Enrollment Assessments will start from January 2024 for the September). Places are limited, so if you want new admission sibling seats, we recommend that you Register early.
Wed. 18th- Thurs. 19th Oct	<ul> <li>Mid-Term Break. School closed for students.</li> <li>School opens on Monday 23rd October</li> </ul>
Thurs. 26/10/23	Pink Day for Breast Cancer Awareness. Students may come dressed in pink (optional)
Term 1 Ex- ams	<ul> <li>FS1-Y6 T1 exams from Monday 4th to Thursday 14th December.</li> <li>Y9 Exams from Monday 27th November to Thursday 14th December.</li> </ul>
Mon. 18th Dec— Monday 1st January	<ul> <li>School closed for Winter Break.</li> <li>School opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.</li> <li>T2 Fees due by 2/1/24. Thank you.</li> </ul>













# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



## النشرة الإخبارية رقم #8 12أكتوبر 2023







رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي السيدة فاليرى تومبسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمين الشارقة الأعزاء،

# أعلي نتائج امتحانات بورد كامبريدج في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

تهانينا لاثنين من طلاب مجلس إدارة كامبريدج المتميزين، نمير عمر طه الحيالي لحصولهم على "الأفضل في الإمارات العربية المتحدة" في

IGCSÉ للفنون والتصميم، وحميرة تمنيم نوح لحصولهم على "الأفضل في الإمارات العربية المتحدة" في المستوى A/Sفي علوم الكمبيوتر. كل التوفيق للطلاب وأولياء الأمور والمعلمين على هذا الإنجاز الرائع! نحن فخورين جدا بك!



طلبت SPEAمن الآباء إكمال استبيان .SPEAمن الآباء الاطلاع على الصفحة 4 للحصول على الروابط (العربية والإنجليزية ورمز الاستجابة السريعة). شكرا جزيلا لأخذ بعض الوقت الثمين لإكمال هذا.

#### المدفوعات عبر الانترنت للرحلات والأنشطة













#### المواعيد التاريخ الاثنين. 9 أكتوبر جيل لشهر سبتمبر 2024 مفتوح الآن (ستبدأ تقي التسجيل اعتبارًا من يناير 2024 لشهر سبتمبر). الأماكن محدودة، لذا إذاً كنت ترغب في ال استراحة منتصف المدة. المدرسة مغلقة أمام الطلاب. الأربعاء 18-الخميس. 19 تفتح المدرسة يوم الاثنين 23 أكتوبر أكتوير الخميس. اليوم الوردي للتوعية بسرطان الثدي. يمكن للطلاب الحضور بالملابس الوردية (اختيارى) 26/10/23 امتحانات الفصل اختبارات FS1-Y6 T1من الاثنين 4 إلى الخميس 14 ديسمبر. ختبارات و٧٩من الاثنين 27 نوفمبر إلى الخميس 14 ديسمبر. الأول الاثنين. 18 المدرسة مغلقة لعطلة الشتاء تفتح المدرسة يوم الثلاثاء 2 يناير 2024. يسمبر - الاثنين رسوم T2مستحقة بحلول 2/1/24. شكرًا لك.



The most important gifts you can give your child are a quality education and the values that will guide them through life

Sunny Varkey

Find our updated Parent Handbook through this QR code. Check-out school policies & procedures to be familiar & comfortable with our system.



#### Whole School News

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## Whole School News; SPEA Parent Trust Survey



SPEA have requested us to share a survey with parents relating to Parent Trust in SPEA. Please would you take a few minutes of your valuable time to complete the survey. Many thanks.

Please see use the following links and QR Code if needed:

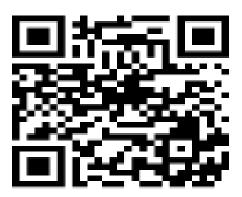
**Arabic**:

https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/UfRvYK?lang=ar

**English**:

https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/UfRvYK

**QR** Code:



#### Whole School News; Online Leave Application Guide

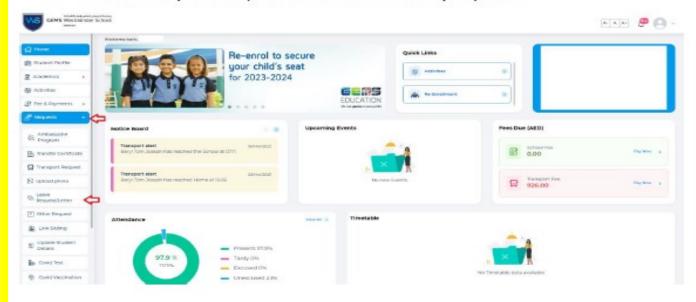


- STEPS FOR PARENTS TO APPLY FOR STUDENT LEAVE:
  - Go to URL: <u>Login (gemseducation.com)</u>

- Please note that, as per SPEA, it is not allowed to take more than 30 days Leave in any one year, & this may affect the child's being promoted.
- Parents decide what is the 'urgency/emergency' that requires midterm leave from school, & school respects parents' decision. However, on the system, leave would be 'Approved' for 4 reasons only; 1) the Medical Leave of the child, 2) Bereavement in the family, 3), Religious leave such as for Haj/Umrah & 4) Authority Appointment (such as for a Passport).
- All the above must be supported by evidence.
- Leave that is approved for the above 4 reasons would mean that Term Report grades would be based on Continuous Assessment in the case of missed exams
- Student can take other leave, but it would be counted against the annual allocation of 30 days & 50% of Term Report grades would be lost for missed Term exams.
- 2. Log in to the parent portal using your username and password (not students).



Click on the "Requests" drop down and choose "Leave Request/Letter".



## Whole School News; Online Leave Application Guide

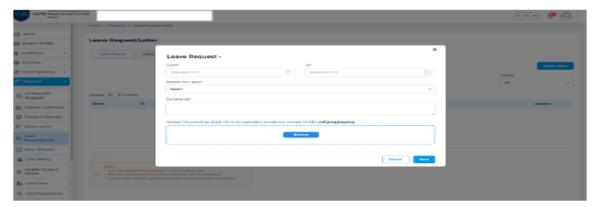


#### مدرسة جيمس وستمينستر الشارقة GEMS Westminster School sharjah

4. Click on "Apply Leave".



Provide the leave details: duration of leave, reason for leave with a comment. Also, it is mandatory to upload a supporting document.



- 6. Click on "Save".
- Now the request can be visible with status "Applied".
- Once the respective teacher approves/reject the leave request, status will be changed to "Approved" or "Rejected".

2



#### مدرسة جيمس وستمينستر الشارقة GEMS Westminster School sharjah

NB: Any leave application of more than 4 days (1 week), must be processed through the PRE and all
forms must be completed.

# Whole School News; WSS Participated in the Second International Forum for Arabic Teachers





We are very proud to have been represented by our HOD MOE Subjects leader Mr. Osama at the Second International Forum for Arabic Teachers under the title 'Roots and Innovation' as an important international event. It was in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al Qasims, Ruler of Sharjah - may God protect him. Under the care and supervision of the Sharjah Education Academy and in the presence of Dr. Muhadditha Al Hashimi, Mr. Ali Al Husaini, Ms. Rana Nazzal and Mr. Ziad Shatat (as well as educational experts and academics from various countries (Dr. Hanad Taha, Dr. Hedaya Ali, International Tests Consultant...etc.). We had the honor of participating in the presentation a workshop entitled 'Learning Creatively'.

Also, for the first time, the 'Arabic Covenant' was launched, which is a section for preserving the Arabic language. It was presented before His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi (where it will be circulated to all Sharjah schools), so we had the honor of preparing and participating with the 'Teacher and Proud' group.



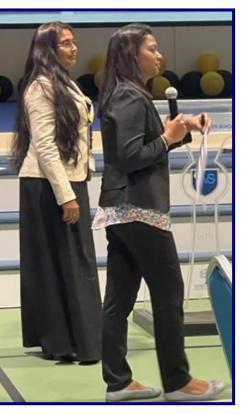




# Whole School News; Stretch & Challenge—Maths SPEA SIA Ms. Lynn's Beacon Schools Project Workshop, 12/10/23!



On 12/10/23, WSS hosted & led a Stretch & Challenge—Maths Workshop for 37 Sharjah British Schools Maths leaders as part of SPEA SIA Ms. Lynn's Beacon Schools initiative. The session was led by WSS Maths leaders Ms. Sherin & Ms. Sasi. The workshop focused on the effective use of assessment data & building a culture of high expectations. There will be a follow-on session in November. We thank Ms. Lynn for her attendance & support of school development.





# Whole School News; Staff CPD!

WSS Middle Leaders joined other Cluster MLT at a GEMS Leadership Conference on Saturday 7/10/23., where WSS VP Mr. Suj presented about 'Reflection & Growth'.





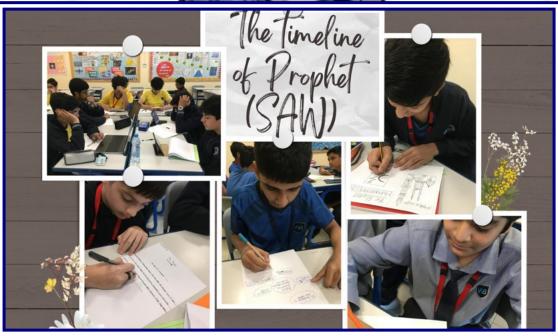




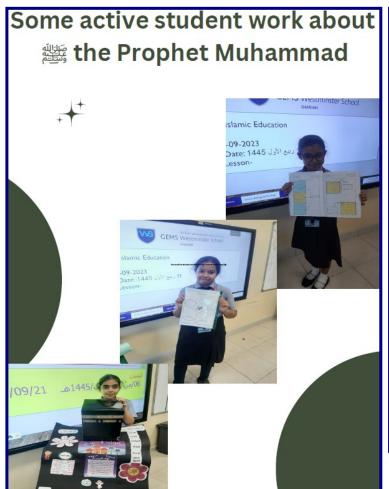


#### Whole School News; Islamic Learning at WSS!

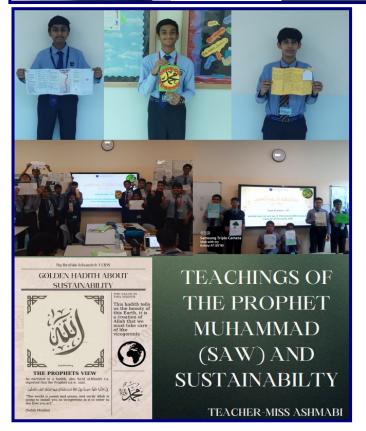


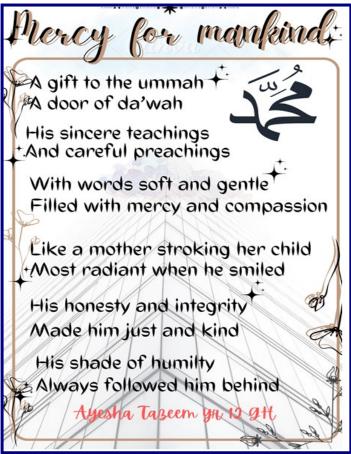


#### Whole School News; Islamic Learning at WSS!

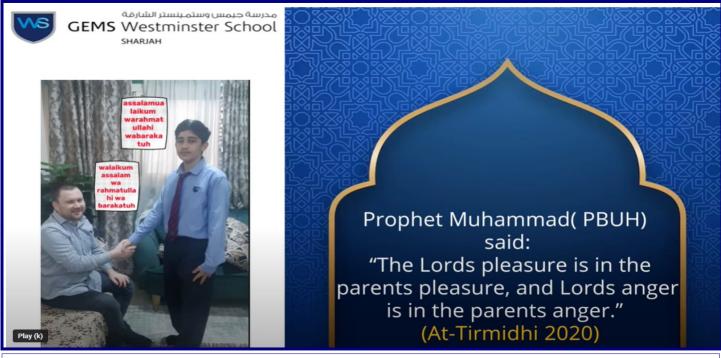








#### Whole School News; Islamic Activities at WSS!



The Islamic calendar's third month is known as Rabi ul Awwal, a special month dedicated to honoring Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Our students engaged with various activities to commemorate this significant month. One notable project created by a Secondary student is a beautiful video that highlights the profound teachings and sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). To watch the video, check out the link: <a href="https://youtu.be/pd7xDY7Nz3A">https://youtu.be/pd7xDY7Nz3A</a>

Thanks, Ms. Ashmabi for your guidance and preparation.

## WSS Superstar Champions!





Congratulations to Justin and Amy for their excellence & success in the swimming championship!

#### Whole School News



AY 2024-2025 ADMISSIONS OPEN



**REGISTER NOW** 

Three Teachers from our sister school in Dubai, TWS, visited WSS on 10/10/23 to look into our much admired & unique initiative for the personalisation of learning 'Learning Menus'. They have been working closely with Ms. Sreeja to be trained in this area.





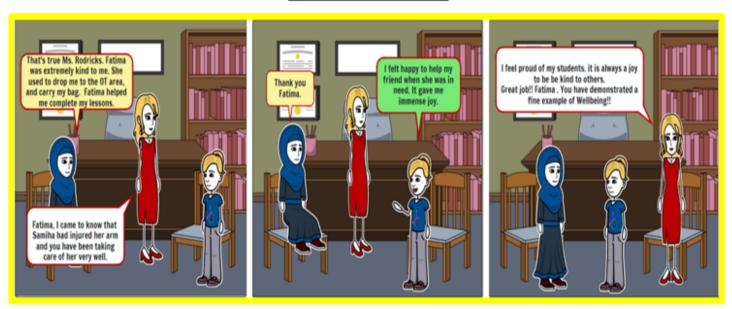


The English subject team Ms. Ayesha Aslam, Ms. Syeda Rizvi and Ms. Lavita Fernandes attended a Networking MLL (Multilingual Language Leaners Team meeting with Ms. Niamh Allen – Corporate Head of EAL. last week. This is very relevant to WSS as we have almost all our students fall in this category & we will be working on updating our policies & procedures.

#### Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



#### ACT OF KINDNESS



Dear Mrs. Valerie

Hello

Happy Teacher's Day, full of beautiful wishes. All words of thanks and appreciation are not enough. There is happiness and gratitude in my heart. I think the most appropriate statement is that while my children are at school, they are happy and feel that they are at home and among their family. We are very grateful to you for your wise and skilled management of all the affairs of the school and students. We are proud of every success achieved by the school and every development we see in our children under your management. We wish you continued success

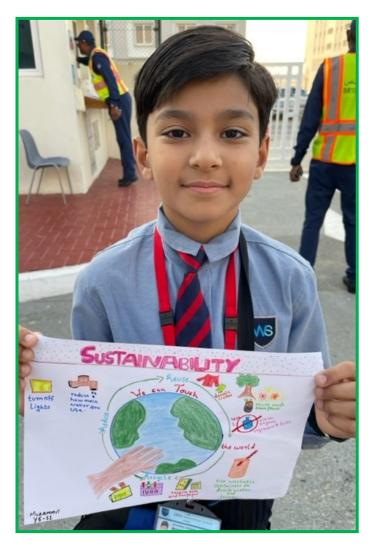
Thank you Ramy Magdy Father of Karim and Malek

# Environment & Recycling Superstar Champions!



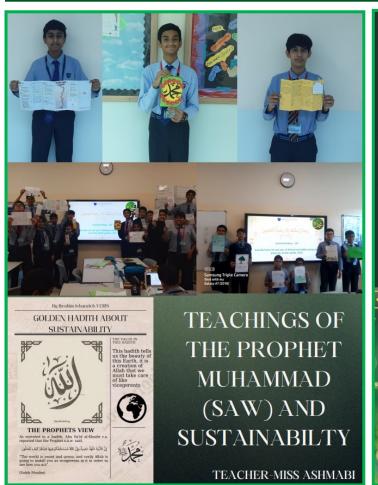




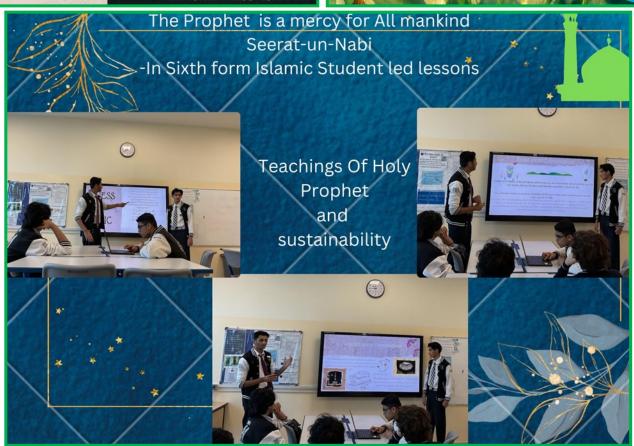




## Environment & Recycling Superstar Champions!







## Whole School News; Colin the Kindness & Respect Camel!

Awarded for demonstrating Good Character (Respect, Kindness & Community Spirit)











#### Happy Birthdays!









#### WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Mrs Jinitra,

Good morning,

I don't have enough sweet words to express my gratitude for your efforts and support to our kids. We are grateful for all what you give wishing you all the best.

Thanks

Regards

Joudi's mother

.both my daughter and I, that she has teachers like these

,Honestly, my daughter considers you her second family

.with whom she spends most of her day

,On the first day my daughter entered school

,I was praying to God that her teachers would be affectionate toward her

,care for her, and be her assistant, guide, and leader in a way that would make her love being in this place .and thank God that God answered my prayer

Thank you ms. Alezey Fatima

Thank you ms. Fauzia

Thank you ms. Sheema

Thank you mr. Jowie

Thank you ms. Eman

Thank you ms. Raghi Shaji

.And the biggest thanks to mrs. Shamail Irtiza, who chose a team like this to be in the schoo



I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional teaching. Your passion, dedication, and commitment to our son's growth have left a lasting impression on me.

On this Teachers' Day, I want to extend my thanks for your unwavering support and guidance.

Thank you for being a teacher who goes above and beyond to ensure her children's success. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I am truly thankful for the impact you've had on his education.

Happy Teacher's Day

"Our children are a gift from God, and we are responsible for every aspect of their lives. We strive to create a bright future for them and also cultivate a generation that excels beyond the future. Since our children are our top priority, and their future is our ultimate goal, there is no path to a bright future except through education. That's why I was careful and diligent in choosing the school that will shape my children's future, and I have a great confidence in GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL and its teachers. Indeed, the noticeable improvement in my son's skills in all aspects encouraged me to continue with them for another year and to submit his sibling's application to the same school, GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL due to my complete trust in the school administrators and teachers. I want to express my gratitude, especially to Mrs. Uzma, the Y2 F1 class teacher, for the support she has provided, and to Mrs, class teacher assistant Happy teacher day."

Best regards!

Fathi Shehata







We are always thankful to Ms Aysha and Gems. As soon he go Ms Aysha as his class teacher he admired by her Kindness and fairness. This is the genuine statement of my 5 year old son about his class teacher. The love and care of Ms Aysha, made him to come to the without fail even he is happy to stay whole day and weekends too.

Ms Aysha fairness & kindness with the kids motivated my son to feel home at school and she is actually being another mother to kids out of my experience. As a parent what else we can expect from the school and Teacher.





# WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!















# Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y1S1, 11/10/23!



















The Assembly theme w 'Feelings'

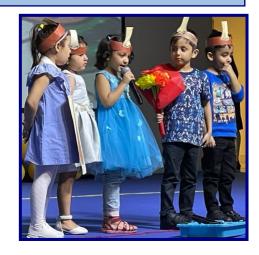
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# Junior Section News; Assembly Time with FS2H2, 11/10/23!











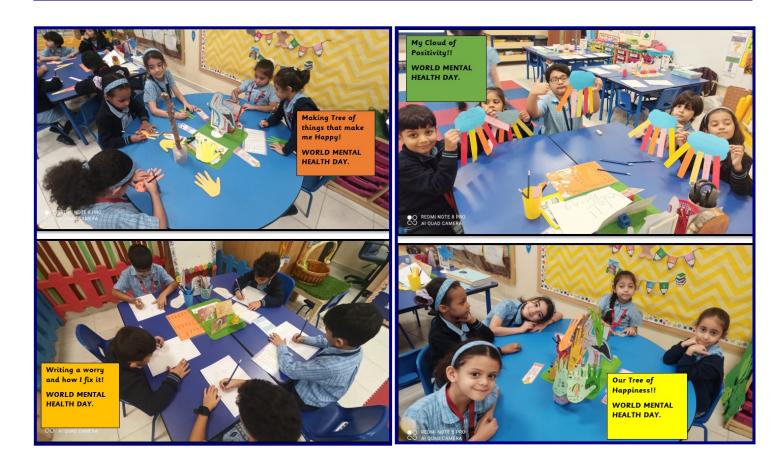


The Assembly theme was on the 'Five Senses'. The children spoke very confidently & were super-cute!

Thank you to all the dear parents who attended this week's assemblies.



## Junior Section News; World Mental Health Day, 10/10/23!



















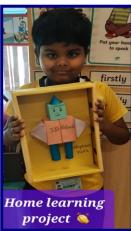






























































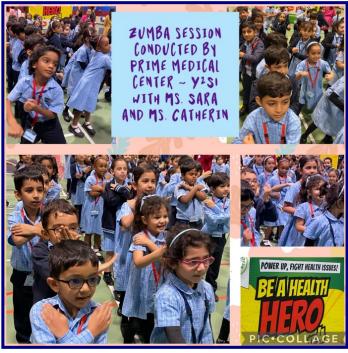




























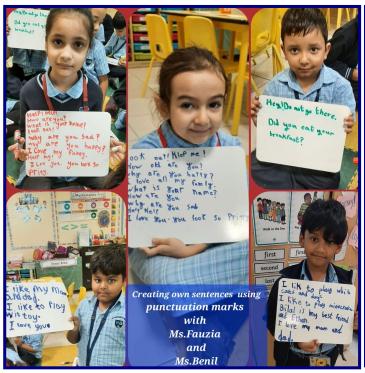














#### Y2D1 Class activity Picture

TR: Jinitra Rajesh

TA: Asma Mohamed















We hosted a school programme for Y2 sponsored by Lancor in collaboration with Health Is My Wealth, Dubai Academic Health Corporation, Prime Medical, and Yes Full Circle. The session encouraged students to choose healthier foods, stay active, and champion the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, for a greener UAE! Let's all take a step towards a healthier future, starting with small, consistent actions. Together, we can make a big difference!

#### WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Ms. Vandana met our SPEA School Improvement Advisor (SIA) Ms. Lynn at the Sharjah English School Stretch & Challenge—English training session on 5/10/23. The session focus was on raising expectations & using assessment data to meet students' individual needs.



Congratulations to swimming superstar Nabil Ehab (Y5F2) who achieved multiple champion's trophies (2 Gold +1 Silver) in a swimming competition at Hamdan Sports Complex on 8/10/23.





# Primary Section News; Student Leader Investiture, 10/10/23!



















# Primary Section News; Student Leader Investiture, 10/10/23!







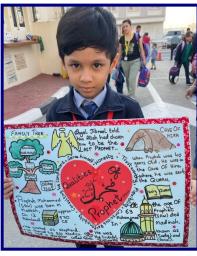
Congratulations to all our new student leaders! We wish them every continuing success as they explore this new leadership experience of service to their community & peers.





## Primary Section News









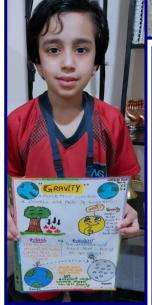
Fire-free sustainable, healthy cooking challenge with Syed Taha (Y5S2) and Syed Talha (Y3S1)















## Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y3!





## Primary Section News; A Sustainable Diet in Y3!







include sustainable diet in daily life?





## Primary Section News; Literacy Week in Y3!

WALT: How do I celebrate literacy week?









### Primary Section News; Mental Health & Wellbeing Week in Y3!



WALT: How do I create a logo on wellbeing?









### Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y5!



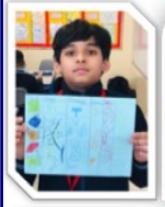




## Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y5!

#### Y5F2 STEAM activity in the classroom.

with Mr. Arvie





















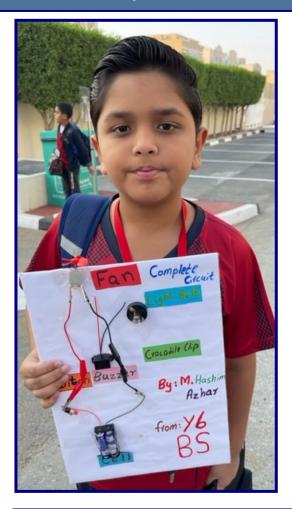








# Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y6!









#### WSS Secondary Section Sporting Superstar Champions!







Congratulations to <u>Mukarram Sewak (Y12BF)</u> who plays in the UAE U17 national cricket team!

We are super proud of his fantastic sporting achievement & wish him every future success!

## WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!







Class & section	Name of student
Year 10GH	Jannat Akbar Miran Akbar
Year 10GS	Sara Osama Abdul Hamid
Year 10GF	Hidaya Imran
Year 10GD	Takomborewa Muwani
Year 11GH	Javeria Kareem Noor
Year 11GS	Meerab Naeem Muhammed
	Naeem
Year 11GF	Areeba Ahsan Habib



#### WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

On the occasion of the Teacher Day, on behalf of my family and my son, Hisham, I would like to express our appreciation to you all for your support, encouraging and caring about my son, Hisham, throughout his education journey at GEMS Westminster, Sharjah, until he reached Y13 G12. We do hope that he will continue successfully until the end of this final year 23/24 and achieving good performance and excellent result.

Thank you very much, wishing you joy, happiness, good health, prosperity and success.

Kindest regards,

Hassan A. Abdellatif

Parent of Hisham Hassan A. Abdellatif - G12 Y13 BS



Ms. Ayesha Aslam met our SPEA School Improvement Advisor (SIA) Ms. Lynn at the Sharjah English School Stretch & Challenge—English training session on 5/10/23. The session focus was on raising expectations & using assessment data to meet students' individual needs.











### WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!





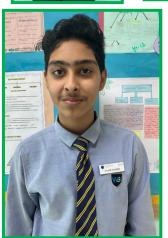
































Class Leaders: our proud class leaders received their Class Leader badges.

STAR STUDENTS: KS3 STAR STUDENTS who have demonstrated good characteristic traits during their school hours received special certificates.

#### Secondary Section News; World Mental Health Day, 10/10/23!

#### WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY, 10/10/23

As part of World Mental Health Day, Secondary students spread awareness by discussing different mental health concerns, had discussions on the theme for this year 'Mental health is a universal human right' and poster-making on tips leading to a healthy lifestyle. The objective of the day was to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to unite and join our efforts in support of



mental health. These activities encouraged our students to raise awareness and promote mental well-being within the school, addressing a concern that affects countless individuals in their lives.

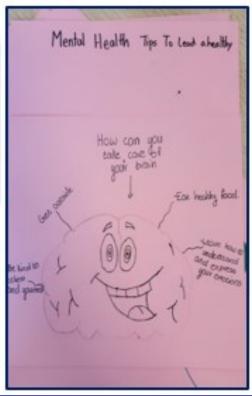












#### Secondary Section News: Student Leadership on Teachers' Day, 5/10/23!













### Secondary Section News: Student Leadership on Teachers' Day, 5/10/23!

















### Secondary Section News: Home-School Partnership (PTM)!







Many thanks to all parents who prioritized precious time to attend our Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTM) last week. This partnership is so important for supporting your children on their learning journey & ensuring success.



World Smile Day!





## Secondary Section News; F&N Practical!











Students with Ms. Ashia made Fatless Sponge Cakes (Whisking Method) with their personalized decorative inputs.









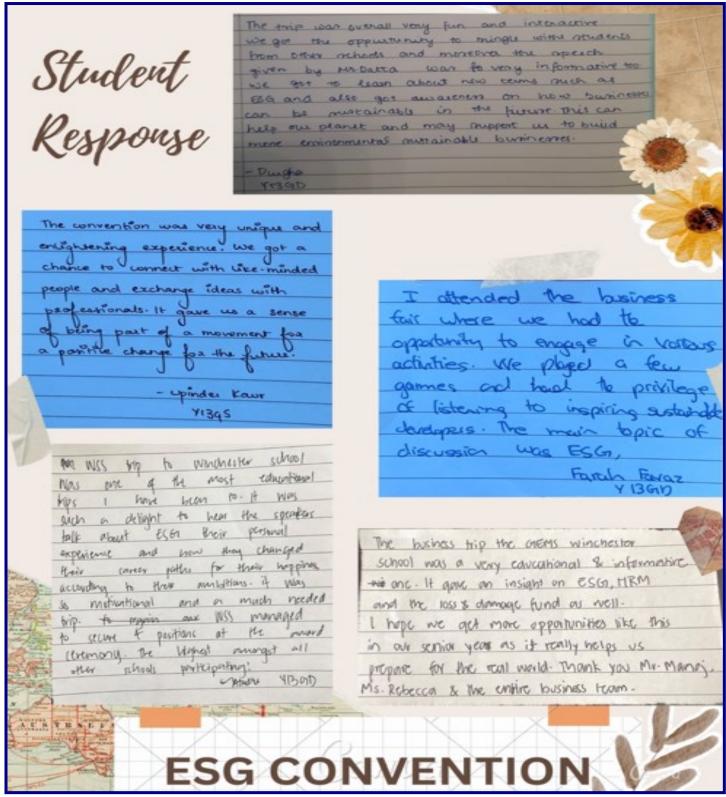
### Secondary Section News; ESG & Investing Convention!



Our V13 (A Level) Business students visited GEMS Winchester School Dubai on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to participate in the ESG & Investing Convention specifically designed for business students. During the convention, our students had the chance to interact with students from other GEMS schools as well as business professionals. This experience allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of the practical aspects of business prospects and the environmental and social factors that should be taken into consideration by businesses.

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### Secondary Section News



<u>Power Club:</u> There was a session held at WSS by a US-based company, Power Club, for our students. It was attended by more than 150 parents and students. The workshop by Power Club was held by a celebrity Ben Earl, a content writer for Marvel.

<u>Teachers' Day Celebration:</u> Interactive and collaborative sessions held in KS3 classes by Sixth Form students on the occasion of World Teachers Day

















### Secondary Section News; International Smile Day!











Sixth Form students celebrated Internal Smile Day with WSS support staff to bring a smile on their face. The program was led by Ms. Ghousia, Sociology club in charge.

Students distributed 'Thank you' cards and a cookie box, to appreciate their hard work and dedication.

## Secondary Section News; International Smile Day!

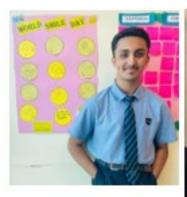


KS4 boys contributing their 'Smile Day' quotes to the 'Happiness Corner' in their form class."



"Year 10 students showcasing their comedic talents in connection to Smile Week festivities through stand-up comedy."







SMILE OF THE WEEK FROM Y10 AND Y11 BOYS

### Secondary Section News; Artistic Expression in Sociology!











The Secondary Sociology Club had conducted an Artistic Expression competition in the month of October to highlight the important & real-life topics of Climate Change, Women's Empowerment, Global Pandemics, Cyber bullying, and Online safety. Students expressed their ideas with the help of posters, paintings, and digital artwork. Ms. Valerie Thompson and Ms. Walaa appreciated the participants by judging the artistic pieces. Ms. Valerie said, "I was very impressed with the thoughtful contend & beautifully illustrated work."

The WINNERS are....

First prize- SONADIE (Y12) Second Prize- FATHIMA ZAHRA (Y12) Third Prize- INNAYA SIDDIQUI (Y12)





World Mental Health Day celebration: Students showed presentations and created awareness on the occasion of World Mental Health

