GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH







Newsletter Issue #10 2nd November, 2023





Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

UAE Flag & National Day
As we are coming up to the
UAE National Day, please be
reminded that, as per the Authorities, the only flag that may

be displayed in school is the UAE Flag. Please ensure that your children only wear/bring the UAE flag to school. Thank you.



pates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Term 1 Ex- ams	 FS1-Y6 T1 exams from Monday 4th to Thursday 14th December. Y9 Exams from Monday 27th November to Thursday 14th December.
Mon. 13th Nov.	GEMS Parent Survey scheduled for release. Parents are kindly requested to take a few minutes to complete it positively to support ongoing school development. Please see the document on p5-6 for guidance. Thank you.
Thurs. 30th Nov.	WSS will be celebrating UAE National Day. Staff & students may come dressed in the UAE flag colours & bring traditional food to share with classmates (optional)
Sat.30th Dec. 2023	Online fee payment of T2 fees recommended to avoid queues. However, the Cashier will be open for parent convenience, 8am-2pm
Mon. 18th Dec—Mon. 1st Jan. 2024	 School closed for Winter Break (2 weeks). School opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. T2 Fees due by 2/1/24. Thank you.

Happy UAE Flag Day, 3/11/23!









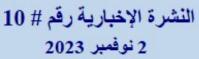
Our Vision; 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All'

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة













رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي السيدة فأليري تومبسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويس الشارقة الأعزاء،

> علم الإمارات العربية المتحدة واليوم الوطنى

بما أننا نقترب من اليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، يرجى التذكير بأنه، وفقًا للسلطات، فإن العلم

الوحيد الذي يجوز عرضه في المدرسة هو علم الإمارات العربية

يرجى التأكد من أن أطفالك يرتدون/يحضرون علم الإمارات العربية المتحدة فقط إلى

المدرسة. شكرًا لك.

المواعيد التاريخ اختبارات FS1-Y6 T1من الاثنين 4 إلى الخميس 14 الأول اختبارات Y9من الاثنين 27 نوفمبر إلى الخميس 14 من المقرر إصدار استبيان أولياء أمور .GEMSويرجي الاثنين. 13 من أولياء الأمور تخصيص بضع دقائق لإكماله بشكل إيجابي لدعم التطوير المستمر للمدرسة. برجاء الإطلاع على الوثيقة ص5-6 للحصول على إرشادات. شكرًا لك. سوف تحتفل WSS باليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة. يمكن للموظفين والطلاب الحضور مرتدين ألوان علم دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة وإحضار الأطعمة التقليدية لمشاركتها مع زملاء الدراسة (اختياري) يوصى بدفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لرسوم T2لتجنب قوائم الانتظار. ومع ذلك، سيكون أمين الصندوق مفتوحًا لراحة الوالدين، من الساعة 8 صباحًا حتى 2 ظهرًا 2023 الاثنين. 18 المدرسة مغلقة لعطلة الشتاء (أسبوعين). يسمبر - الاثنين. تفتح المدرسة يوم الثلاثاء 2 يناير 2024. رسوم T2مستحقة بحلول 2/1/24. شكرًا لك. 1 يناير 2024



يوم علم الإمارات العربية المتحدة سعيد، 11/3/23!









رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ نجاح للجميع"

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; WSS Charity Drive, Tarahum for Gaza



Monday 30th October

Dear WSS Parents,

Subject: 'Tarahum - for Gaza'

The United Arab Emirates has launched a charity campaign to provide relief aid to the Palestinian people impacted by the war in the Gaza Strip, under the name 'Tarahum for Gaza'.

The campaign has established centers to collect and mobilize humanitarian relief packages in partnership with humanitarian and charitable institutions, volunteer centers, the private sector, media, and all segments of society. As part of the humanitarian efforts undertaken by the UAE to provide urgent assistance to the Palestinian people, the relief campaign is in cooperation with the World Food Programme, and in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Community Development.

WSS is inviting parents & students to participate in this charity drive. <u>If you wish to donate, contributions will be</u> collected in school from Tuesday 31st October 2023 to Thursday 9th November, 2023

<u>Suggested recommended items to be donated by year group</u> (this is optional & you may donate whichever items you wish, in whichever quantity):

Year	Items	
FS1 & FS2/Y1	2 kg sugar, 2 tins canned foods (chickpeas, corn, beans, noodles)	
Year 2	2 kg milk powder, 2 kg lentils (chickpeas, red and green whole lentils), 1 kg macaroni	
Year 3	5 kg rice, 1 kg salt, tinned food (chickpeas, corn, beans, noodles)	
Year 4	2 kg sugar, 2 packets tomato paste (500g each)	
Year 5	5 kg all-purpose flour, 2 litters cooking oil, tin milk powder.	
Year 6	6 tin tuna (100g each), 1 packet tea bags (100 nos.), 1 sleeping bag.	
Year 7	2 kg lentils (chickpeas, red and green whole lentils), 2kg dates	
Year 8	1 set blanket/comforter, 1 kg packet macaroni	
Year 9	1 tins canned food (chickpeas, red and green whole lentils), 1 sleeping bag	
Year 10	2.5 kg milk powder, baby food (packet of 5)	
Year 11	5 kg rice / flour, baby food (5 packets), sanitary pads, 2 packets pampers	
Year 12	2 kg lentils, 1 set blanket/comforter, baby food (packet of 5)	
Year 13	5 kg rice, 2 kg flour, 1 packet tea bags (100 nos.), sleeping bag	

Thank you.

WSS Management

Whole School News; GEMS Annual Parent Survey Guidelines!



Date: November, 2023

Dear Parents,

GEMS Parent Survey is scheduled for release. Parents are kindly requested to take a few minutes to complete it positively to support ongoing school development. Please see the following guidance. Thank you.

Subject: GEMS Parent Survey

At WSS, we are committed to engaging with our parents to achieve our vision, 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for All'. We aim to provide the very best possible learning experience and outcomes for your child, so value your balanced, regular feedback on what is working well, and what can be improved further. In order to gain further parent feedback, GEMS will shortly issue a Parent Survey link to your registered email. We would highly appreciate you taking some of your valuable time to complete this to share your valuable insights on matters within the school's control (please do not consider areas such as fees, Books with fees & buses that are outside school control. Thank you).

في WSS ، نحن ملتزمون بالتواصل مع أولياء الأمور لتحقيق رؤيتنا، "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع. نحن نهدف إلى تقديم أفضل تجربة تعليمية ونتائج ممكنة لطفلك، لذا نقدر ملاحظاتك المتوازنة والمنتظمة حول ما يعمل بشكل جيد، وما الذي يمكن تحسينه أكثر. " من أجل الحصول على المزيد من ملاحظات الوالدين، ستصدر GEMS قريبًا رابط استطلاع رأي أولياء إلى بريدك الإلكتروني المسجل. سنكون ممتنين للغاية لتخصيص بعض من وقتك الثمين لإكمال هذا لمشاركة أفكارك القيمة حول الأمور التي تقع ضمن سيطرة المدرسة. (يُرجى عدم الأخذ في الاعتبار مجالات مثل الرسوم والكتب ذات الرسوم والحافلات التي تقع خارج نطاق سيطرة المدرسة .)شكرًا لك

FYI, please note:

Score	What this means	Some examples for scoring
10	Top score!	Very happy & satisfied with school & management in all areas
	Parent is a Promotor &	that are within school's control. Any queries/issues have been
	would highly recommend	responded to promptly & solved. Child is making very good
	WSS to family & friends	progress & is very happy with Teacher & to attend lessons.
	أعلى نتيجة!	Parent feels that school is fully committed to improvement & high
	الأباء هم المروجون ويوصون	standards.
	WSSللعائلة والأصدقاء بشدة.	سعيد جدًا وراضٍ عن المدرسة والإدارة في جميع المجالات التي تقع تحت
		سيطرة المدرسةً. تم الرد على أي استفسارات / مشكلات على الفور وحلها.
		يحرز الطفل تقدِمًا جيدًا للغاية وهو سعيد جدًا بالمعلم وحضور الدروس.
		يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ملتزمة تمامًا بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.
		•
9	Good score!	Generally happy & satisfied with school & management in most
	Parent is a Promotor .	areas that are within school's control. Any queries/issues have
	Parent would recommend	been responded to & solved where possible. Child is making good
	WSS to family & friends	progress & is happy with Teacher & to attend lessons. Parent feels
	لتيجة جيدةا	that school is generally committed to improvement & high
	الأباء هم المروجون ويوصون	standards.
	WSSللعائلة والأصدقاء بشدة.	بشكّل علم سميد وراض عن المدرسة والإدارة في معظم المناطق التي تقع تحت
		سيطرة المدرسة. تم الَّرد على أي استفسارات / مشكلات وحلها حيَّثما أمكن
		ذلك. الطفل يحرز تقدمًا جيدًا ويسعد بالمدرس وحضور الدروس. يشعر ولي
		الأمر أن المدرسة ملتزمة عموما بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.

Whole School News; GEMS Annual Parent Survey Guidelines!

7-8	Average score. Parent is 'Passive' متوسط درجة. الوالد "غير فعال"	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Child's generally likes school & learning, but individual needs are only partially met for reasons within the school's control. Parent unsure whether they wish to continue at WSS due to aspects of the learning environment that are within the school's control.
		لا راض ولا غير راض. يحب الطفل عمومًا المدرسة والتعلم، ولكن يتم تلبية الاحتياجات الفردية جزئيًا فقط لأسباب تخضع لسيطرة المدرسة. الوالد غير متأكد مما إذا كانوا يرغبون في الاستمرار في WSS بسبب جوانب بيئة التعلم التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة.
0-6	Parent is a 'Detractor' Parent would not recommend WSS to family/friends.	Parent/child not comfortable with the WSS learning environment/management/Teachers for reasons within the school's control. School does not respond to queries/issues or solve them where possible. Parent feels that school is not fully committed to improvement & high standards.
	الوالد هو "منتقد" لن يوصي الوالدان بـ WSS للعائلة / الأصدقاء.	الوالد / الطفل غير مرتاح لبيئة التعلم / الإدارة / المعلمين الخاصة بـ WSS لأسباب تحت سيطرة المدرسة. لا تستجيب المدرسة للاستفسارات / المشكلات أو تحلها حيثما أمكن ذلك. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ليست ملتزمة تمامًا بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.

We look forward to your feedback to support achievement of our vision, 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for All!'

Thank you, dear parents.

Regards,

Ms. Valerie Thompson WSS Principal/CEO

نتطلع إلى تلقى ملاحظاتك لدعم تحقيق رؤيتنا، "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع!

شكرا لك الأباء الأعزاء.

مع تحياتي،

السيدة فاليري طومسون مدير / WSS الرئيس التنفيذي

Whole School News; Respecting UAE Flag Day!

































Whole School News; Respecting UAE Flag Day!

































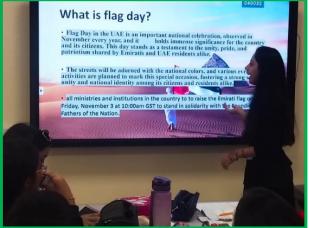
Whole School News; Respecting UAE Flag Day!











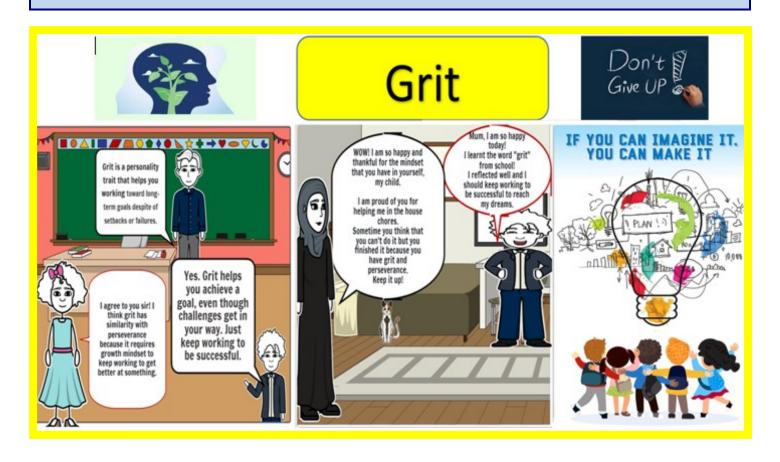


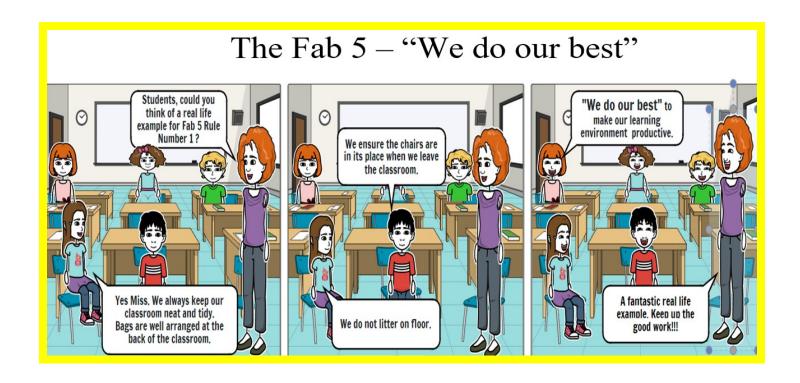


Flag day Activities

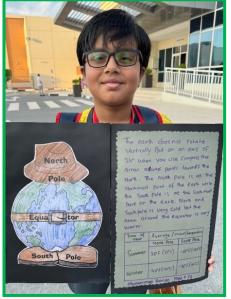
Some students brought creatively designed, flag-coloured edible treats to share with classmates and UAE flags that There were also numerous events like Flag Day awareness sessions led by Sixth Formers, creating UAE flag using materials from home, or creating a flag poster.

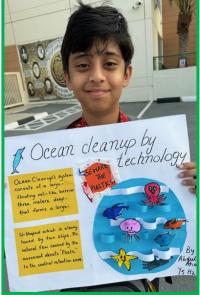
Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

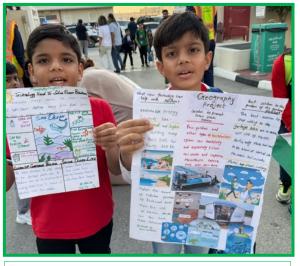




Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!







Climate Change Projects; How can we harness Technology to improve Sustainability?













WSS Superstar Champions; TEDEX Participation!

Good evening

I'm AbdulRahman's Mother he is in Y3F2.

Sorry for disturbing but really I want to appreciate one of the teachers who make a big difference in My son's Arabic language.

AbdulRahman speaking English fluently but he is not proficient in Arabic because of that he was scared from Arabic classes .

This year a big difference happened. He is writing his tasks every day in the class, known he can read Arabic easily even he do the dictation with rare mistake. In the end I want to thank MS. Dalal the Arabic teacher of My son and I appreciate her great effort and support. She is really professional And I want to thank all the management for choosing professional teachers like Ms Dalal.

I attached with email photos from his notebook

Thank you





Mariam Shams (Y12GS) had the honor of being one of the nine speakers at the TEDxYouth@OOW event. The event centered around the profound theme of 'A Bottled Letter', delving into the immense power that unspoken words and thoughts hold. Aligned with this theme, her talk, titled 'Childhood Dreams: The Forgotten Blueprints of Our Lives,' explored the significance of our early aspirations and how reconnecting with them can profoundly shape our adult lives.

Addressing a diverse audience of both adults and teenagers, Mariam shared insights on bridging the gap between our long-forgotten childhood dreams and the paths we tread as adults, emphasizing how this connection could profoundly influence our personal growth. Mariam said, "Being part of TEDxYouth@OOW and having the opportunity to contribute to this transformative dialogue was not just an honor but a deeply enriching experience." Grateful to the TEDxYouth@OOW team for this remarkable opportunity, she is now proud to bear the title of a TEDx speaker. Well done, Mariam, we are proud of you!

Whole School News; Staff CPD!



Team CPD; Junior & Primary Section SLT attended a SPEA SIAoranised training session on 1/11/23 on 'The Strategic use of Data to Inform School Evaluation & Improvement.' Thank you to our SPEA SIA Ms. Lynn for organizing this important session.



WSS Teachers meeting with Professor Mahmoud Albatal, the representative of the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education, to discuss and coordinate the plan for developing the Arabic language curriculum, for both native and non-native students. We are proud & grateful to the Authorities for including school teams in this review.



A part of Ms. Lynn's CPD strategy to support the ongoing school development of Sharjah's British Curriculum schools, is to pair up & share expertise between Beacon & other schools. WSS is one of the Beacon schools & we are leading on 'Stretch & Challenge Maths'.

Above we see Ms. Vandana, who attended a Stretch & Challenge—English session at Sharjah English School on 2/11/23.

Whole School News; Colin the Character Camel!

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



















Happy Birthday Mousa! Thank you so much for brining healthy fruit treats for your classmates to support

our 'Healthy Lifestyle' policy.











WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!













Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2F2, 2/11/23!











Y2F2's fabulous Assembly was about 'The qualities of a good friend'. We learnt about being kind & caring to make & keep our friends.



Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y1S2, 2/11/23!













Y1S2's important Assembly was about UAE Flag Day, on 3/11/23.. We learnt what each colour of the flag means.



Junior Section News; Assembly Time with FS2D2, 2/11/23!





FS2D2's super cute Assembly was about 'Family'. We learnt about the different roles in the family & how each helps the family to be strong. We also learnt about the UAE Flag Day.













Junior Section News; Parental Engagement Open Days, 30/10/23 & 31/10/23!



Junior Section News

































Junior Section News









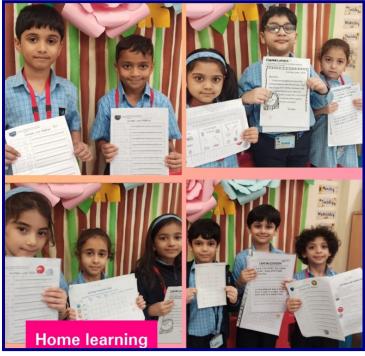




























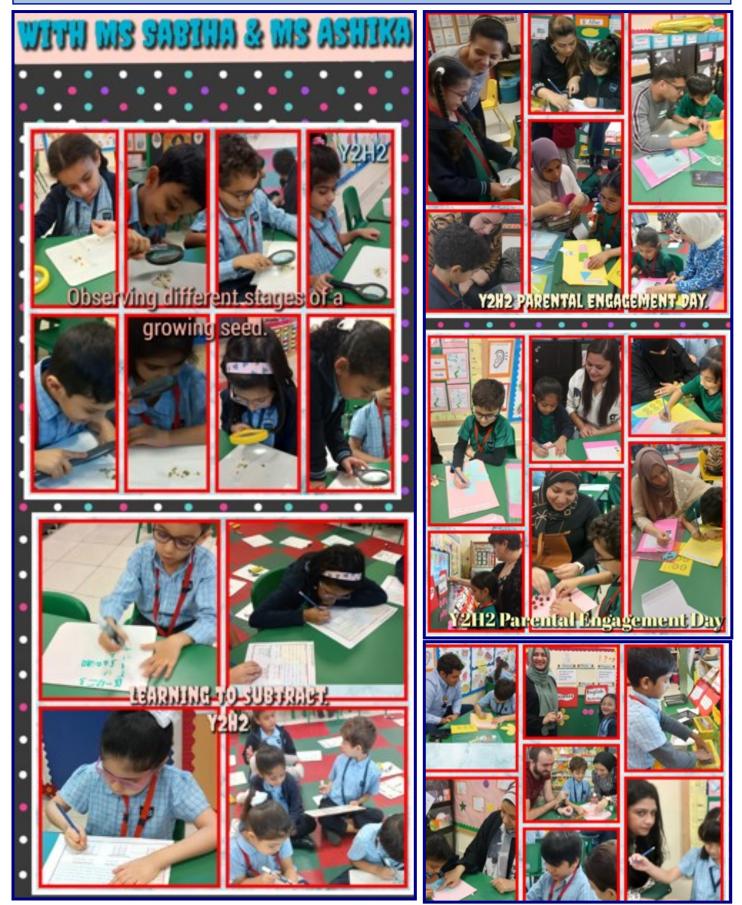




















WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Century Tech. Champions for September



Parent Engagement (Reading during Literacy Week) Certificates for participating parents

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Y4 Class Champions



Class Dojo Champions

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Century Tech. Champions



Parent Engagement (Reading during Literacy Week) Certificates for participating parents

Primary Section News; assembly Time with Y4F2, 1/11/23!













Primary Section News; assembly Time with Y5D2, 1/11/23!

















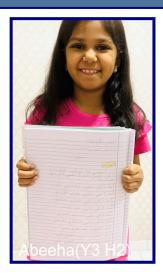




Y5D2 led an important Assembly on 'Healthy Lifestyle; Healthy Diet'. They sung a really beautiful song with a fabulous sols!

Primary Section News









Year 4's Radio broadcast on 2/11/23 was about UAE Flag Day, current news & about Tsunamis. Thank you Y4, that was very interesting!

Well-organized & relaxed Y4 Break time on 31/10/24. Students are enjoying our new shaded zone on the sports field.





Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y3!



Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y3!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to this week's KS3 Girls Class Superstars & Wellbeing Champions. Below, Boys' Wellbeing Champions.



















Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9GS, 30/9/23!







Y9GS led a really well-designed Assembly on the important theme of 'Learning from our Mistakes'





Secondary Section News; MUN Participation!



Our Secondary students participated in various MUNs in Dubai and Sharjah, gaining valuable exposure and insights into global issues and diplomacy. They have learned how to research, debate, negotiate, and collaborate with other delegates from different backgrounds and



perspectives. They have also developed their skills in public speaking, critical thinking, problemsolving, and leadership.

I, Nirmal Josephine (MUN Coordinator), take immense pride in being part of this journey, helping students navigate their path to success.







38th K.S. Varkey English Elocution Contest



Congratulations to Manaal Roman (Y11GH) for showcasing her exceptional oratory skills at 38th K.S Varkey English Elocution Contest, held on 1st November 2023 at GEMS Our Own English High School, Dubai.

Secondary Section News; Breast Cancer Awareness!































Event details:

Title: Breast cancer awareness session for Y13 girls.

Day: 26th October 2023

Dr. Leena R David (MIT), MBA (HCS), Ph.D. (Medical Imaging), FHEA, Faculty, Department of Medical Diagnostic Imaging Speaker:

College of Health Sciences, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

October has been designated as the Pink Month, when efforts are made to educate those concerned about the disease, including early Agenda:

identification and signs and symptoms associated with breast cancer.

Led by: Sixth form Sociology club

Feedback on the session: The positive feedback from fellow students and teachers, along with the valuable discussions that arose during the session, highlighted the importance of the awareness we as WSS Community successfully generated.

Secondary Section News; Creativity with Ms. Maha!





Recent art work by Y7 and Y8. They have been practicing pen shading, mixed media & creating art work for Flag Day.

Secondary Section News; Teaching & Learning Strategies!















Teaching & learning:
New teaching methods incorporate IT skills through educational platforms like Century Tech. Students enthusiastically complete nuggets in Century Tech. Students demonstrate independent skills and take responsibility for their own learning as well as helping others with their studies.

Students invest time to express themselves in the safe space inside the class "happiness corner."

Secondary Section News; Chess Championships!









Here we have the ongoing Inter-House Chess tournaments (Girls) organized by the Secondary Girls Sports Club. The Finals are being conducted this week.



Ms. Valerie & Ms. Christine enjoyed an interesting Lesson Observation on 1/11/23 with Ms. Saritha & Y12G about adaptation. Ms. Valerie was very impressed with the depth of the girls' answers & their engagement level. Thank you Ms. Saritha for an interestinglesson.

Secondary Section News; Trip Time!











Y7-Y9 Boys went on a trip to 'Green Planet' on 31.10.23.