#### GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #10 23rd October, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents.

Happy & Blessed Diwali to our families who celebrate. WSS marked the occasion with Diwali dress-up on 20/10/25.

We would like to thank all our dear parents for a smooth start to the new aca-

demic year, your attendance of your child's Assemblies & events & for your amazing cooperation in ensuring that your children come to school dressed in super smart uniform, wearing their ID & carrying all their learning materials. This is supporting a professional & learning-rich environment for the benefit of your child. We love the teamwork!

# pates for Your Diary

Date	Details	
From 6/10/25	• Online registration system open for new enrollment for September 2026. First come-first-served for assessment starting from January, 2026.	
Monday 3/11/25	• UAE Flag Day (TBC). Students may come dressed in UAE national dress or flag colours (optional).	
Thursday 27/11/24	• WSS celebrates <b>UAE</b> National Day (TBC). Students may come dressed in UAE national dress or flag colours & bring traditional food to share with friends (optional).	
Thursday 4th Decem- ber	• Last day of T1 (compulsory T1 exams will run until 4/12/25, from approximately 2 weeks prior)	

#### **The WSS Reception Area**

WSS is your child's second home & we love to welcome you into school. However, we need your help to keep the Reception area calm & quiet. Our Reception area is a key work space, where we serve parents & other guests, hold meetings & organise enrolment. It is not a play space for children to run around, shout or disturb others.

If you have energetic children who find it hard to sit quietly, now that the weather is cooler, we ask

that you bring them into Reception only if you need the help of our administrative team. If you do need to bring a child with you whilst you attend to school business in Reception, please ensure that they are closely supervised at all times. Unsupervised children may fall & get hurt. Many thanks.







## مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 10 2025 أكتوبر











المواعيد		
التفاصيل	التاريخ	
نظام التسجيل الإلكتروني مفتوح للتسجيل الجديد لشهر سبتمبر 2026. سيتم تطبيق مبدأ أسبقية الحضور للتقييم اعتبازا من يناير 2026.	من 6/10/25	
يوم العلم الإماراتي (سيتم تحديده لاحقًا). يُسمح للطلاب بالحضور مرتدين الزي الوطني الإماراتي أو ألوان العلم (اختياري).	الاشين 3/11/25	
تحتفل WSS باليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة (سيتم تحديده لاحقًا). يُسمح للطلاب بالحضور مرتدين الزي الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة أو ألوان العلم، وإحضار مأكولات تقليدية لمشاركتها مع أصدقائهم (اختياري).	القميس 27/11/24	
آخر يوم من امتحانات T1 (ستستمر امتحانات T1 الإلزامية حتى 4/12/25، من حوالي أسبوعين قبل ذلك)	الخميس 4 ديسمبر	

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى اصطحاب طفل معكم أثناء حضوركم أعمال المدرسة في قسم الاستقبال، يُرجى التأكد من مراقبته عن كثب طوال الوقت. قد يسقط الأطفال غير الخاضعين للمراقبة ويتعرضون للأذى شكرًا جزيلًا

رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي السيدة فآليري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمر الشارقة الأعزاء،

عيد ديوالى سعيد ومبارك لعائلاتنا الذين يحتفلون به. احتفلت WSS بهذه المناسبة بارتداء ملابس ديوالي في 20/10/25.

نود أن نشكر جميع أولياء أمورنا الأعزاء على البداية السلسة للعام الدراسي الجديد، وحضوركم اجتماعات وفعاليات أطفالكم وعلى تعاونكم الرائع في ضمان حضور أطفالكم إلى المدرسة مرتدين الزي المدرسي الأنيق للغاية، وارتداء بطاقات الهوية الخاصة بهم وحمل جميع المواد التعليمية الخاصة بهم. هذا يدعم بيئة مهنية غنية بالتعلم لصالح طفلك. نحن نحب العمل الجماعي!

#### منطقة استقبال WSS

مدرسة WSS أهي بيت طفلك الثاني، ويسعنا الترحيب بك في المدرسة. ومع ذلك، نحتاج لمساعدتك في الحفاظ على هدوء وسكينة منطقة الاستقبال منطقة الاستقبال لدينا هي مساحة رئيسية، حيث نخدم أولياء الأمور والصيوف الآخرين، ونعقد الاجتماعات وننظم التسجيل وهي ليست مكانا للعب للأطفال للركض أو الصراح أو إزعاج الآخرين.

إذا كان لديك أطفال نشيطون يجدون صعوبة في الجلوس بهدوء، والآن بعد أن أصبح الطقس أكثر برودة، نطلب منك إحضار هم إلى الاستقبال فقط إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة فريقنا الإداري.







رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح 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.



# Contents Parent Handbook Access QR Code

<b>Newsletter Contents</b>		
Page Includes:		
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary	
,	Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices	
	Contents	
3	Contents Table	
	QR Code to Access our online Parent Handbook	
	Whole School News	
4-11	Arabic Week	
8	• 'You SaidWe Did'	
12	• Staff CPD	
13	This Week's Leadership GEMStone (Leading with Diversity)	
13	Week 6 ECA Report	
14	WSS Superstar Champions	
15	<ul> <li>Storyboard Top Tips, 1) Problem-Solving Together, 2) The Value of Teamwork &amp; a Culture of Excellence at WSS</li> </ul>	
16	Happy Birthdays	
17	Learning Activities (General)	
	Junior Section News	
18-19	Junior Section Superstar Champions	
20	• Assembly Time with Y2S2, 23/10/25 (Respect)	
21	• Assembly Time with Y1H2, 23/10/25 (Respect)	
22	• Assembly Time with FS2S2, 23/10/25 (Be a GEM Expectations—Be	
	Ready to Learn)	
23-25	Arabic Week	
26-27	FS2 Trip Time & Learning Activities	
28-30	Y1 Learning Activities	
&19 31-37	Y2 Learning Activities	
31 37	Primary Section News	
38-40	Primary Section Superstar Champions	
41	• Family First Breakfast with Y4, 21/10/25	
42-43	• Family First Breakfast with Y3, 22/10/25	
44	• Assembly Time with Y5H2, 22/10/25 (Maths is the language of the Uni-	
	verse)	
45	• Assembly Time with Y3D1, 22/10/25 (Being Responsible is everyone's	
	Responsibility)	
46	Learning Activities (Music & Radio Club)	
47	Creativity in Art	
48-51	• Arabic Week with Y3 & Y5	
52	Y3 Learning Activities	
53-56	Y6 Learning Activities	
	Secondary Section News	
57-58	<ul> <li>Secondary Section Superstar Champions; Curtin University Business Challenge Victory for WSS &amp; KS3 Wellbeing Champions</li> </ul>	
59-61	KS3 Girls Family First Flameless Cooking Event, 20/10/25	
62	Assembly Time with Y9BH (Balanced Use of Digital Devices)	
63-64	Food & Nutrition Club—World Food Day	
65	Drama & Literature Club Inauguration	
66-68	<ul> <li>Commerce Club; Literary Shark Tank, BCC Business Competition Winners, Research Colloquium</li> </ul>	
69-73	<ul> <li>KS4 Learning Activities; Pinktober, Be a GEM Behaviour Routines &amp; Ambassador Meeting.</li> </ul>	
74-79	<ul> <li>Learning &amp; Leadership in KS5; Salat al-Istisqā 'Student Council Meeting, Be a GEM Orientation Session, Drugs Prevention Session,</li> </ul>	
	3Time Management Session, & Mandala Art Session.	

























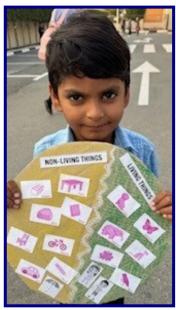






















### Whole School News; Arabic Week Workshop, 21/10/25!























#### Whole School News; Arabic Week Exhibition, 22/10/25!























This was an amazing exhibitic organized by the Arabic Clu Displays included science, a tronomy, exploration, cultur food, calligraphy, poetry, date, games & more. It was great example of teamwork!

#### Whole School News; Arabic Week Exhibition, 22/10/25!









Whole School News; 'You Said...We Did...'!

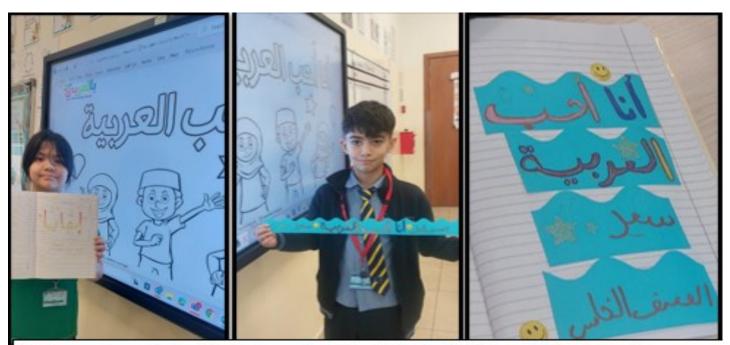




Ms. Miada is celebrating the Arabic week with Arabic Reg. of Y5S2H1D2F1 by writing about the Arabic language and writing the student's name with calligraphy.



Ms. Azza is celebrating the Arabic week with Arabic Reg. of Y4&Y3 by writing the student's name with calligraphy.



Ms. Lamyaa is celebrating the Arabic week with Arabic Reg. of Y5&6 by writing the student's name with calligraphy and writing about Arabic language.



Ms. Shimaa is celebrating the Arabic week with Arabic Reg. of Y3&4 by writing the student's name with calligraphy and writing about Arabic language.



Ms. Heba is celebrating the Arabic week with Arabic Reg. of Y3&4 by writing the student's name with calligraphy and writing about Arabic language.



Ms. Eman is celebrating the Arabic week with Arabic Reg. of Y3&4 by writing the student's name with calligraphy and writing about Arabic language.

#### Whole School News; Staff CPD!



Our SPEA School Improvement Advisor Ms. Lynn continues to promote high impact CPD for her cluster leaders. Ms. Valerie, the Principal, attended a CPD session along with other Sharjah school leaders on 21/10/25 at GCS on Inspection Performance Standard 3, Teaching for Effective Learning.





Many thanks to Mr. Gaber, our Cluster MOE Subjects Lead for delivering important 'Teach Like a GEM' CPD sessions for the MOE team on 23/10/25. We really appreciate him sharing his expertise to support our ongoing journey to excellence.

# Whole School News; This Week's Leadership GEMStone! Leading with Diversity

## OCTOBER – WEEK 43 LEADING WITH DIVERSITY

( FLOURITE

Celebrates unique perspectives and fosters inclusivity.

# Leadership means helping others step up and lead too. 55

MESSAGE: Leading with diversity means helping everyone feel included and valued. When you encourage your friends to lead, you show that their ideas matter. Giving others a chance to lead helps the whole team grow and succeed together.

REFLECT: How can I help my friends feel confident about leading? What can I do to show everyone their ideas are important?

#### Whole School News; Week 6 ECA Report!



#### WSS Be a GEM Superstar Champions!

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the wonderful opportunity you provided our children with the visit to the elderly care home. My children had a truly enriching experience, and I am so happy that they were able to participate in such a meaningful activity

This visit was an invaluable lesson in empathy and understanding for the children. It's so important for them to learn the value of caring for older adults and to appreciate the wisdom and experiences they hold. Seeing the joy on the faces of both the children (Ahmed and Omran) and the residents was truly heartwarming.

I hope that you will consider organizing more of these social trips in the future, as they provide such valuable learning experiences.

Thank you once again for your dedication to providing such thoughtful and impactful learning experiences for our children. We deeply appreciate your commitment to their holistic development.

Sincerely, Fatima Alshamsi Mother of Omran Sultan Almazroua

#### Good evening,

I would like to thank you for the genuine visit to the senior center last week. It was truly a heartfelt experience, that helps enhance the bond between the students and the elders. This experience helped teach  $them \ the importance \ of respecting \ and \ communicating \ with \ them. \ I \ would \ also \ like \ to \ thank \ Miss \ Doaa \ and \ everyone \ that \ contributed \ in this \ truly \ precious \ moment.$ 

Warm regards, Manal Al Suwaidi

Dear Ma'am (Ms. Keerthy),

Greetings! I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to inquire about Mubashir's progress in your class. How is he doing academically? Are there any areas where he needs improvement?

This week, he's preparing for his science exam and is studying independently, which I believe is a testament to your teaching and guidance. He's motivated to do well in your subject, and I'm proud of his enthusiasm.

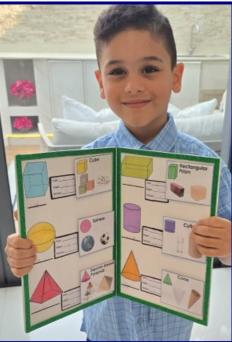
As we've discussed with him, getting good grades and focusing on his studies will surely catch your attention, and who knows, maybe he'll even become the class monitor, which is his dream! 😊

If there's anything specific you'd like him to work on, please let me know, and I'll ensure he addresses it. Thank you for your support and care.

Best regards.

Mahrukh Madni

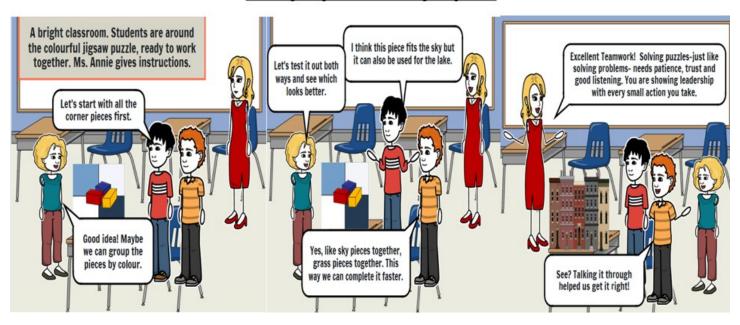


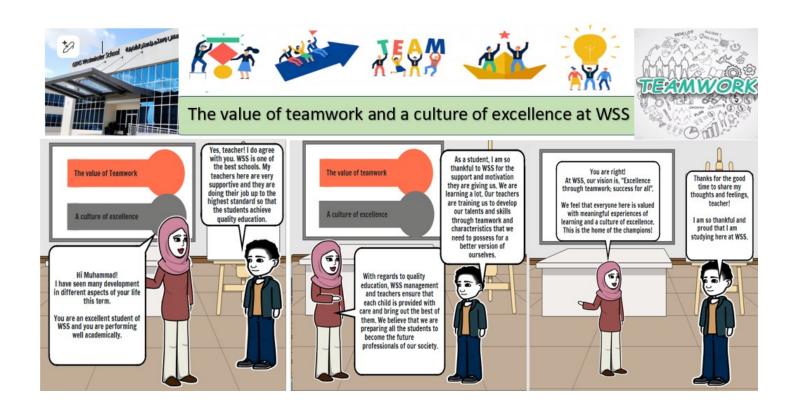




#### Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

#### Solving Together, Leading Together





#### Happy Birthdays!











## Learning Activities (General)!









#### WSS Junior Section Be a GEM Superstar Champions!



**GEM of the Week** 



Wellbeing Champions

#### WSS Junior Section Be a GEM Superstar Champions!



#### Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!



#### Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2S2 (Respect)!













Y2S2's Assembly was truly special. Students retold a story in rhyme, spoke confidently & shared clear strategies for us to show respect in & out of school. They also gave us book recommendations linked to Respect for 'Read Like a GEM'!









## Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y1H2 (Respect)!





















# Junior Section News; Assembly Time with FS2S2 (Be a GEM Expectations—Be Ready to Learn)!













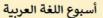
FS2S2 put on a super-cute Assembly detailing behaviour expectations related to 'Be Ready to Learn'. They shared very useful tips, such as being on time to school, being ready with all our learning materials & keeping the learning environment tidy. We really enjoyed the Assembly.



#### Junior Section News; Arabic Week in FS!

#### **Arabic Week**

#### **FS1 & FS2**











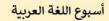






**Arabic Week** 

**FS1 & FS2** 



















#### Junior Section News; Arabic Week!

**Arabic Week** 

**Y1** 

أسبوع اللغة العربية















**Arabic Week** 

**Y1** 

أسبوع اللغة العربية













### Junior Section News; Arabic Week in Y2!

Arabic Week

y2

أسبوع اللغة العربية













**Arabic Week** 

**y2** 

أسبوع اللغة العربية













#### Junior Section News; FS2H2 Trip Time!





## Junior Section News; FS2H2 Trip Time!















#### Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!





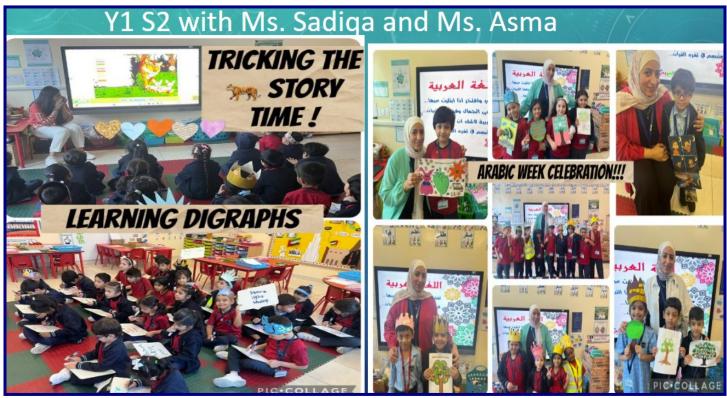
#### Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!





#### Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!





### Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!





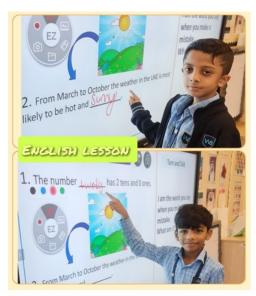
### Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!

#### MS FARAH & MS TAHIRA Y2D2















### Junior Section News; Y2F Learning Activities!



### Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!



### Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!



#### Junior Section: Y2 H2

#### Ms. Jinitra and Ms. Aaditya







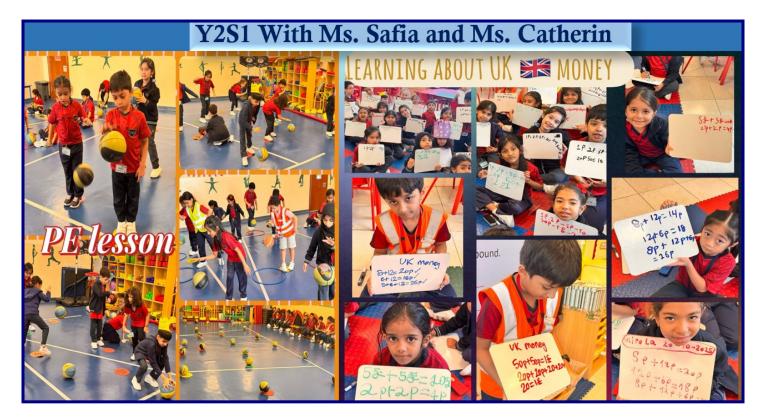


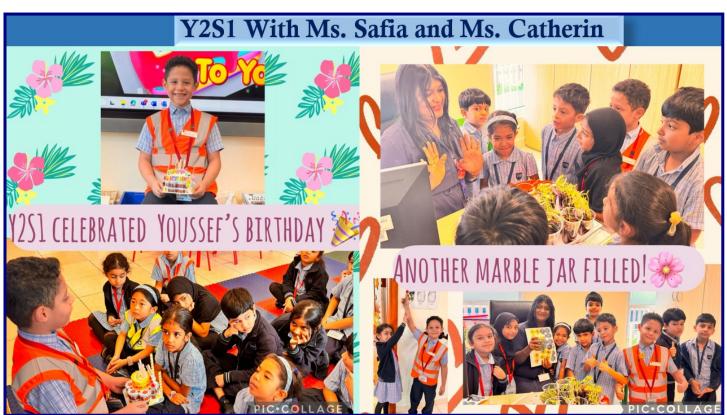






#### Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!





## Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

#### Y2S2-Class activities with Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil



Y2S2-Class activities with Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil



### WSS Primary Section Be a GEM Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms. Susweta,

I just wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your kindness and the love you show to our kids. I truly feel that you support them in every way—not only in their studies but also emotionally and personally.

I'm so happy that Kenza has found someone who understands her personality, encourages her, and helps her grow by focusing on her strengths. She's very lucky to be in your class, and that makes me very happy as well.

May God bless you always.

Warm regards,

Ghada Mrabet





## WSS Primary Section Be a GEM Superstar Champions!





### WSS Primary Section Be a GEM Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to our Year 5 Timetable Competition Winners!





## Whole School News; Family First Breakfast with Y4, 21/10/25!



















## Whole School News; Family First Breakfast with Y3, 22/10/25!

























## Whole School News; Family First Breakfast with Y3, 22/10/25!





## Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y5H2, 22/10/25 "Maths is the Language of the Universe"!















We thoroughly enjoyed Y5H2/s lively, humorous & well-rehearsed Assembly. We learnt how Maths is useful in our daily activities, from shopping, cutting up pizza fairly & sports!







## Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y3D1, 22/10/25 "Being Responsible is Everyone's Responsibility"!

















Y3D1's Assembly was impressive! The children delivered their lines with confidence & enjoyment, sharing very useful strategies how we can demonstrate Responsibility in school. Great job! Thank you to parents for practicing lines at home & arranging the lovely costumes.





## Primary Section News (General)!





The Y5 Assembly Choir, 22/10/25, under the enthusiastic & dynamic leadership of Mr. Benjamin.



## Primary Section News; Creativity in Art!













Y6 Girls: In the style of Karla-M Bardz

LO: By the end of this lesson, you will be able to create artwork inspired by Karla-M Bardz.



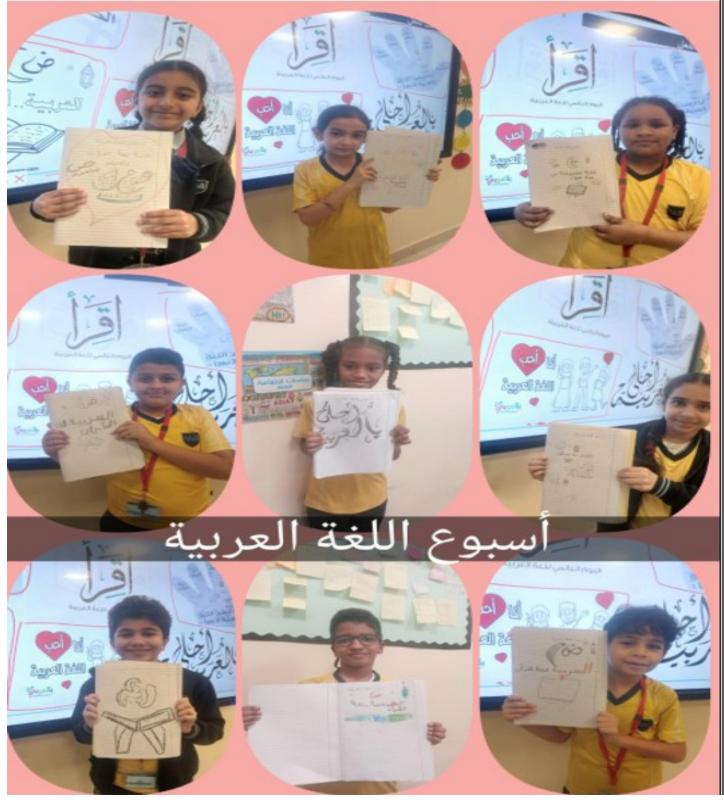




Y6 Boys: In the style of Karla-M Bardz LO: By the end of this lesson, you will be able to create artwork inspired by Karla-M Bardz.

## Primary Section News; Arabic Week with Y3!

#### Students Activities with Ms. Dalal Y3



## Primary Section News; Arabic Week with Y5!

#### Student Activities for Arabic Language Week

فعاليات طلابية لأسبوع اللغة العربية

Primary activities

Arabic SPE

#### Students Activities with Ms. Majedah Y6G&B













#### Students Activities with Ms. Majedah Y5S1&H2











## Primary Section News; Y5 Arabic Week!

























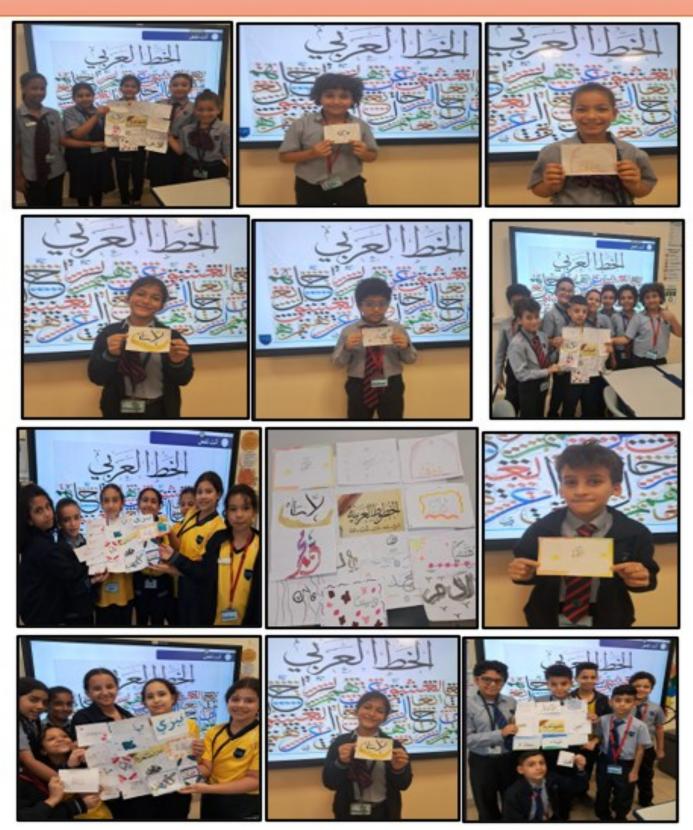






## Primary Section News; Y5 Arabic Week!

#### Students Activities with Ms. ElShaimaa Muhammad Y5S&F&D

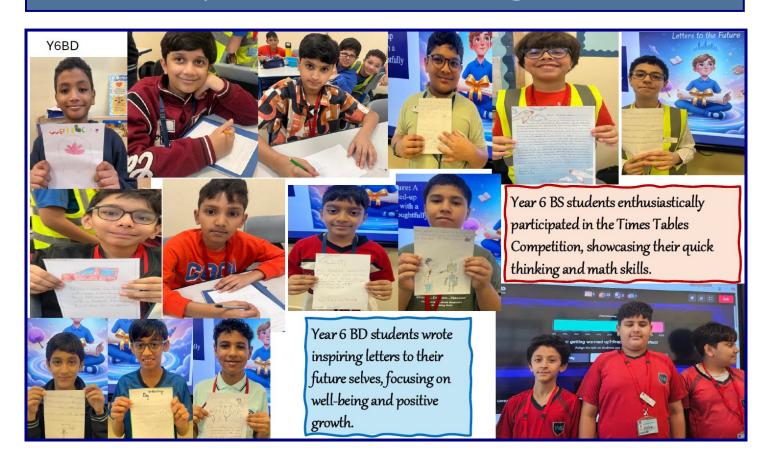


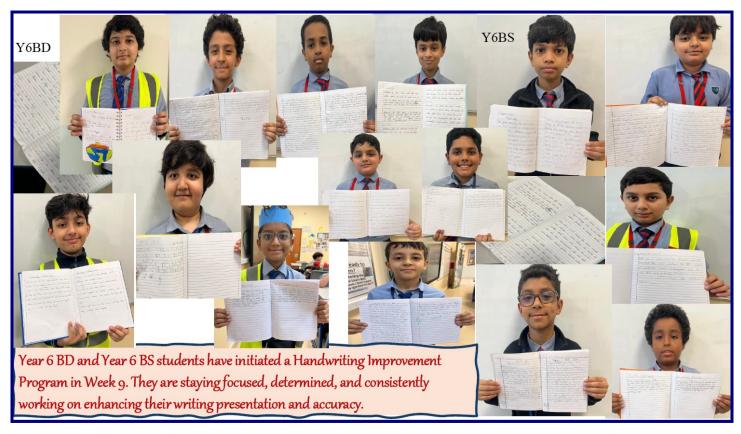
#### Y3D1 Assembly on RESPONSIBILITY: In WSS, we are GEMS to SPARKLE!



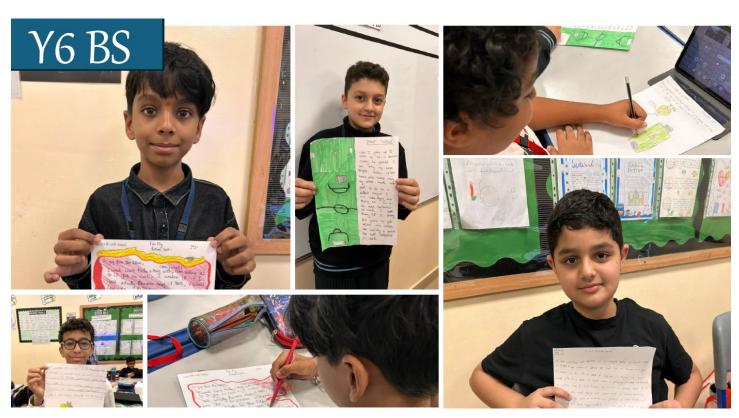
#### **Y3D1 Family First Breakfast**















Year 6 Girls are actively participating in Mental Maths activities to sharpen their calculation speed, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Their enthusiasm and quick responses reflect growing confidence with numbers.



Year 6 GS girls confidently practiced the four operations—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division—showing great focus, accuracy, and teamwork during the activity.



Year 6 GS learnt about and observed different types of leaves as part of their Science lesson, identifying their shapes, colors, and textures.











Research Presentation — Year 6 students explored, researched, and presented their findings with confidence and clarity.

PSHE Lessons — Students engaged in interactive teaching and learning to build confidence and life skills.

## WSS Secondary Section Curtin University Business Cup Challenge Superstar Champions!





Huge congratulations to WSS students who won the Curtin University Business Cup Challenge, out of 277 participating teams on Saturday 18/10/25! Thanks to Ms. Rebecca for her 'Above & Beyond', enthusiastic support.



We are super proud of our students—they 35% scholarship to Curtin University, plus their prototype business plan is being presented to real investors! We wish them every success in their new business venture.



### WSS Secondary Section KS3 Superstar Champions!



## Secondary Section News; KS3 Girls Family First Flameless Cooking Event, 20/10/25

























## Secondary Section News; KS3 Girls Family First Flameless Cooking Event, 20/10/25





## Secondary Section News; KS3 Girls Family First Flameless Cooking Event, 20/10/25















## Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9BH! Balanced Use of Digital Devices!















## Secondary Section News; Food & Nutrition Club World Food Day!









The FNT club, led by Ms Ashia, hosted small sessions in classes from Y10-11, on the importance and need of proper nutrition in students' daily lives. This PPT was presented on the occasion of World Food Day, also highlighting the purpose of the event



## WORLD FOOD DAY







Celebrated every year on October 16th to raise awareness about global hunger, food security, and the importance of sustainable food systems.





## Secondary Section News; Drama & Literature Club Inauguration!





## **AWARD CEREMONY**

The Commerce Club's Literary Shark Tank brought entrepreneurial energy to life as teams pitched bold and creative business ideas to a panel of judges. The award ceremony, held during second break in the IL rooms, celebrated the outstanding winners and runner-ups who impressed with their innovation, teamwork, and business flair!





## Secondary Section News; Commerce Club BCC Business Competition Winners!





### CHAMPIONS AT BCC BUSINESS COMPETITION 2025!

Our Commerce Club team achieved one of the greatest milestones in WSS history by winning 1st place at the BCC Business Competition 2025, hosted by Curtin University UAE - triumphing over 275 teams from schools across the nation!

In this prestigious competition, students were challenged to develop an original business idea, create a full business plan, and pitch their proposal to a panel of industry professionals. Through their creativity, teamwork, and sharp business insight, our team impressed the judges and claimed the top spot.

Their victory earned them university scholarships, professional mentorship, business incubation training, and access to Curtin's residency program to further develop their innovative business plan.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our club coordinator, Ms. Sana Ansari, whose constant guidance and unwavering support were instrumental in preparing the teams for this event. Her encouragement and mentorship greatly contributed to the team's success at BCC.

#### **Our Team Members:**

Huzaifa Billimoria Taha Chohan Qazi Hamza Ali Syed Izaan Ali

Haadia Imran Rameen Moin

## Secondary Section News; Commerce Club BCC Business Competition Winners!

#### • Huzaifa Billimoria:

"Winning this year means so much to me, especially since we competed last year but didn't make it to the top 10. Reaching this milestone has been such an enlightening experience, and I can't wait to see what comes next."

#### • Syed Izaan Ali:

"While our presentations needed work, it is of my opinion that the extreme lengths we went through to get an actual working prototype paid off. Even then the win was quite surprising but BCC was overall an enjoyable experience"



#### • Haadia Imran:

"I joined the Curtin Business Cup Challenge 2025 just hoping to make the top 10 - but it became so much more. Working with an amazing team, we spent weeks building our prototype and refining our idea. In the end, we didn't just win - we got the chance to pitch to real investors and experience entrepreneurship firsthand."

#### • Rameen Moin:

"I participated in the Curtin university business cup challenge, where I developed innovative business solutions and presented them to a panel of judges. It was a great experience that improved my teamwork, leadership, and presentation skills. And we proudly won 1st place in the competition"





#### • Taha Hyder chohan:

"I Taha hyder chohan, had a much eventful and innovative experience at BCC CURTIN 2025. The skills I learned there will truly help me in my future studies and work experiences"

#### • Qazi Hamza Ali:

"Through the Curtin University Business Cup, I gained hands-on experience in business planning and presentation. Collaborating with others and pitching creative solutions played a key role in our success."





## **PINKTOBER**

*Yogα Session*With Ms. Valerie, for Y10-13 students













## Secondary Section News; KS4 Learning Activities - Be a GEM Behaviour Routines!







#### BE A GEM!:

our behaviour routines getting implemented by teachers in ks4 girls classes and our KS4 Be a GEM Ambassadors had a meeting with Ms. Ashia to discuss how the school's behaviour routines are being implemented in the KS4 girls' classes. The ambassadors shared feedback on what's working well and suggested ways to further encourage positive behaviour.









## KS4 BE A GEM AMBASSADOR MEETING



In today's meeting, we discussed ways to promote the Be a GEM values across the school. We shared ideas on how to encourage positive behavior, support our peers, and set an example for younger students. Our next steps include planning small initiatives and activities that reflect these values and make our school environment kinder and more supportive.







## KS4 BE A GEM AMBASSODORS



## Secondary Section News; Commerce Club Research Colloquium!



## RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

GREEN ACCOUNTING

THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMERCE CLUB HELD ITS FIRST EVENT- THE RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM ON THE TOPIC 'GREEN **ACCOUNTING**'. STUDENTS WERE INSTRUCTED TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE METHODS OF ACCOUNTING, AND THE EVENT HIGHLIGHTED A FRESHER, MORE INNOVATIVE PERSPECTIVE ON TRADITIONAL FINANCE. BY EXPLORING HOW INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY CAN MERGE IN ACCOUNTING PRACTICES, STUDENTS GAINED VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE FUTURE OF RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.











Secondary Section News; Learning & Leadership in KS5!

#### **ORIENTATION SESSION ON 'BE A GEM'**



The "Be a Gem" orientation session aimed to inspire students to embody the values and standards of GEMS institutions. During the session, students were guided on the positive behaviors, attitudes, and responsibilities expected from them as ambassadors of the school. The discussion highlighted the importance of respect, integrity, teamwork, and excellence in both academic and personal conduct. Students also learned about the school's expectations and how they can contribute to creating a supportive, respectful, and thriving learning environment.

## صلاة الاستسقاء



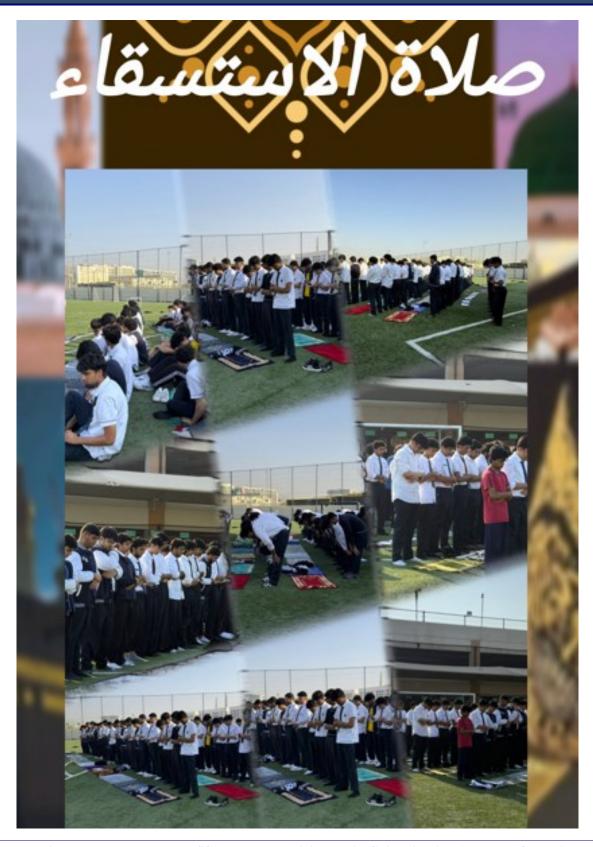
WSS Observes Salat al-Istisqa' with Year 12 & 13 Boys
Islamic Education Department leads a heartfelt prayer for rain and
mercy

In harmony with the UAE's nationwide observance, WSS held Salat al-Istisqa', a special prayer seeking rainfall and Allah's mercy, led by the Islamic Education Department with Year 12 and 13 boys.

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This profound act reminds us of our dependence on Allah (SWT) and the power of collective supplication. Salat al-Istisqa' is not merely a call for rain—it is a spiritual awakening, urging believers to repent, reflect, and renew gratitude for Allah's countless blessings.

Through this humble gathering, students experienced the essence of faith in action turning to Allah with sincerity, unity, and hope.



Following prayers in the local mosques, WSS students participated in  $Salat\ al$ -Istisq $\bar{a}$  (Prayer for Rain), a UAE custom.

### Student Council 2025-26: Leaders Take the Stage













Head Boy Huzsifa and Head Girl Mridini led the first Student Council meeting of the year, setting the tone for excellence and teamwork.

With clear expectations and ambitious plans for 2025–26, the council is ready to make this year one of purpose, progress, and pride.

### KS5 Drug Prevention Talk: Your Choice. Your Future.













KS5 students, guided by Ms Huda, led an empowering Drug Prevention Talk that shed light on the importance of staying informed and making conscious choices. The peer-led approach inspired students to speak up, support one another, and take ownership of their wellbeing.

# Time Management Session with Student Council leadersby Ms. Ghousia Shireen

 The Time Management Session conducted by the Team Leader to the Student Council members focused on helping students develop effective strategies to balance academics, co-curricular activities, and personal goals. The session emphasized the importance of setting priorities, planning ahead, and avoiding procrastination









### KS5 Girls Lead the Way: Being a GEM in Action













Our Sixth Form students continue to exemplify what it means to Be a GEM — showing Gratitude, Empathy, and Mindfulness in every act. From peer mentoring and wellbeing check-ins to supporting younger students, KS5 is setting the standard for kindness-driven leadership across the school.