# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #11 30th October, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

**Dear WSS Parents.** 

We have had another busy week at WSS! We enjoyed Family First parental engagement Breakfasts & Junior Section Cross-Curricular Literacy activi-

ties, PIKTOBER guest speakers, active Clubs, wellattended ECAs & more. Thank you dear parents for attending & supporting your child along their learning journey.

We also hosted a GEMS internal inspection Review team on Tuesday, who visited lessons, met with our leadership team (student leaders, FOW parents & staff) & will feedback on strengths & next steps. Huge thanks to all our students, parents & staff who contributed towards a very positive Review outcome. We will share key strengths & next steps with parents once we receive the Report.

# pates for Your Diary

Date	<b>Details</b>
From 6/10/25	• Online registration system open for new enrollment for September 2026. First come-first-served for assessment starting from January, 2026.
<b>Monday</b> 3/11/25	• UAE Flag Day (TBC). Students may come dressed in UAE national dress or fl g col urs (optional). As per the Authorities, no flags to be represented on food, or worn as clothes
Monday 17/11/25	• Term 1 exams start. Whole school moves to exam timings 7:15am-12:15pm.
Thursday 27/11/24	WSS celebrates UAE National Day (TBC). Students may come dressed in UAE national dress or fl g col urs & bring traditional food to share with friends (optional). As per the Authorities, no flags to be represented on food, or worn as clothes
Thursday 4th Decem- ber	• Last day of T1









# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 11 30 أكتوبر 2025













رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي السيدة فاليري تومبسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة الأعراء،



لقد قضينا أسبوغا مزدحما آخر في !WSS اسَّتمتعنا بمشاركة الوالدين في وجبات الإفطار وأنشطة القراءة المنهجية في القسم الصغير، الضيوف، والأندية النشطة، والأنشطة التعليمية التفاعلية التي حضرها عدد كبير من

الطلاب وأكثر من ذلك نشكركم أيها الآباء الأعزاء على حضوركم ودعمكم لأبنائكم خلال رحلة التعلم الخاصة بهم.

استضفنا أيضاً فريق مراجعة التفتيش الداخلي لشركة GEMSيوم الثلاثاء، والذي زار الدروس، واجتمع مع فريق القيادة لُدينا (قادة الطلاب وأولياء أمور وموظَّفي ۖ (FOW) وسوف يقدمون ملاحظات حول نقاط القوة والخطوات التالية. شكرًا جزيلاً لجميع طَّلابنا وأولياء أمورهم وموظفينا الذين ساهموا في تحقيق نتيجة المراجعة الإيجابية

سوف نشارك نقاط القوة الرئيسية والخطوات التالية مع أولياء الأمور بمجرد أن نتلقى التقرير.



3		
التفاصيل		التاريخ
نظام التسجيل الإلكتروني مفتوح للتسجيل الجديد لشهر سبتمبر 2026. سيتم تطبيق مبدأ أسبقية الحضور للتقييم اعتبارًا من يناير 2026.	•	من 6/10/25
يوم الطم الإماراتي (سيتم تحديده لاحقًا). يُسمح للطلاب بالحضور مرتدين الزي الوطني الإماراتي أو ألوان الطم (اختياري). وفقًا للسلطات، لا يجوز وضع الأعلام على الطعام أو ارتداؤها كملابس.	•	الاثنين 3/11/25
تبدأ امتحانات الفصل الدراسي الأول. تنتقل المدرسة بأكملها إلى توقيت الامتحانات من الساعة 7:15 صباحًا حتى 12:15 ظهرًا.	•	الائتين 17/11/25
تحتفل WSSباليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة (سيتم تحديده لاحقا). يُسمح للطلاب بالحضور مرتدين الزي الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة أو ألوان العلم، وإحضار مأكولات تقليدية لمشاركتها مع أصدقائهم (اختياري).	•	الخميس 27/11/24
آخر يوم من امتحانات T1	•	الغميس 4 ديسمبر









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.

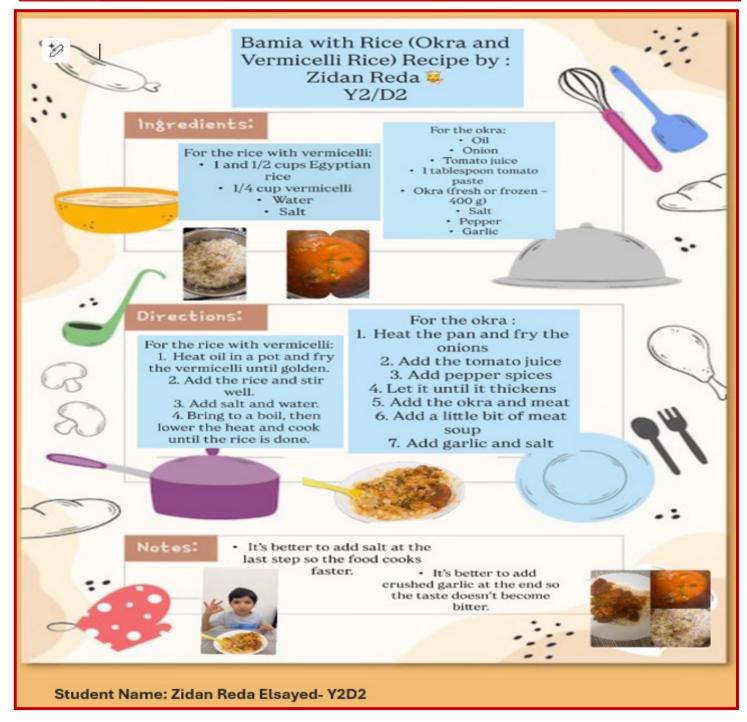


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### Whole School News; Family First Recipe-Sharing!



Student Farida Nour El-Din, Y 13, participated in the letter-writing competition titled "Family First, showing creativity and awareness of the importance of family bonds.



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

# NOVEMBER – WEEK 44 **LEADING WITH GRATITUDE**

CITRINE

Promotes recognising and appreciating contributions.

# Saying thank you connects you to others. 55

MESSAGE: Taking a moment to say thank you shows people you notice and appreciate their efforts. Gratitude helps build friendships and teamwork.

REFLECT: Are there things others do that I forget to say thank you for? How can I make saying thank you a habit?

### Whole School News; ECA Week 7 Report!



### WSS Be a GEM Superstar Champions!

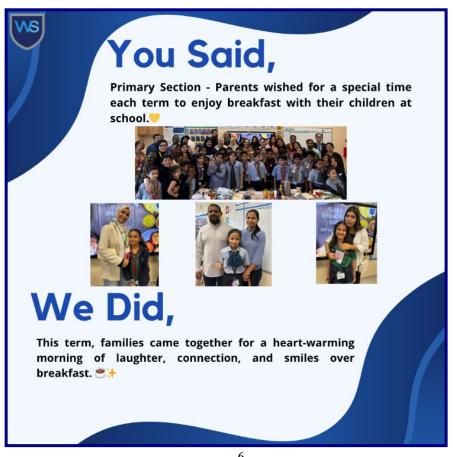


#### A Proud Moment for WWS!

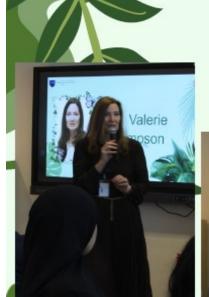
Congratulations to KenKen Superstar Rishaan Bhatt (Y5 H1), for securing an impressive 12th rank in the UAE National Level KenKen Championship (Category 1)! He is the only student from WWS to be among the Top 20 in the country and shall proudly represent GEMS Westminster School, Sharjah and the UAE at the International KenKen Championship on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

KenKen is a global maths and logic puzzle competition that enhances critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Rishaan's achievement reflects his dedication, focus, and strong analytical ability. We are truly proud of his accomplishment and wish him continued success in the international round!

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



### Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions ECO Club Inauguration, 27/10/25!





THE **PROUDLY** CELEBRATED ITS LAUNCH DAY WITH AN INSPIRING CEREMONY DEDICATED TO PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL **AWARENESS** AND ACTION. THE EVENT FEATURED MOTIVATING SPEECHES, CREATIVE STUDENT PERFORMANCES, AND THE UNVEILING OF THE CLUB'S INITIATIVES FOR A GREENER SCHOOL. MEMBERS AND GUESTS LEFT ENERGIZED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY AND MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR PLANET.















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# Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions ECO Club Inauguration, 27/10/25!









'Plant a legacy, plant a memory!' Thank you Kinda for your green fingers!

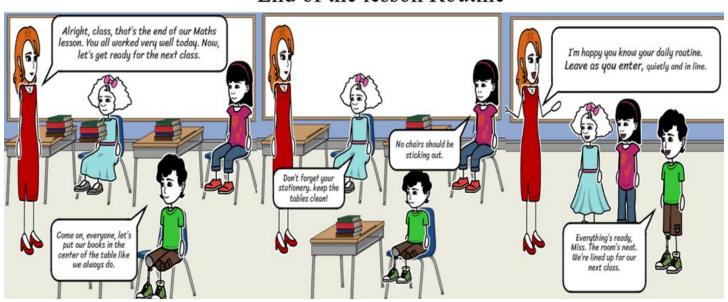


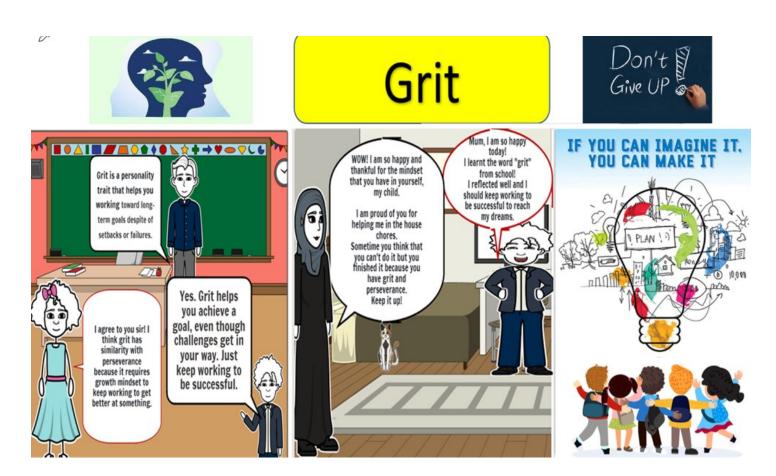
A thought-provoking Social Studies environment project!



### Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

### End of the lesson Routine





### Happy Birthdays!











### Happy Birthdays!





## Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!















Hello miss (Ms. Nikhat)

Thank u so much for this kindly day

You are the best teacher for me and my daughter she love too much

U make her happy at school

Thank u for every thing

Fayrouz has alot of progress with u

I wish for u more and more sucsses

Thanks alot 😘



I hope this email finds you well.

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the wonderful assembly you organized. It was truly an inspiring and well-coordinated event that left a lasting impression on everyone who attended.

Thank you once again for your dedication. We truly appreciate the opportunity to be part of it.

Best regards Haya's Mother

Y2/H2









I had a great time with my son as he worked on these amazing activities!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for these wonderful efforts and for giving us the opportunity to see our children learn with joy and love. Special thanks to the amazing teacher, Sadiqah, 🌷 for her outstanding efforts with our children and for creating an engaging and enjoyable learning environment for them.



#### Dear GEMS Team,

I just wanted to express my deepest appreciation for the truly wonderful Parent Engagement event today. It was such a joy to spend time in the classroom, take part in the activities, and witness the enthusiasm creativity, and confidence the children are developing under your care.

The warmth with which you welcome us parents every single time is something I genuinely treasure. It reflects not only your professionalism but also the genuine love and dedication you put into shaping these young hearts and minds.

A special thank you to Ms. Farah and Ms. Tahira for their constant kindness, patience, and support. The positive energy they bring to the classroom makes such a difference, and I can personally see how much it's helping Mousa grow—academically, emotionally, and socially.

Seeing how happy and confident he feels about school says so much about the beautiful environment you've built.

 $We're truly proud and \textit{grateful}\ to \ be\ part\ of\ the\ GEMS\ family, where\ children\ are\ not\ just\ taught-but\ inspired,\ understood,\ and\ loved.$ 

With heartfelt thanks and warm regards,

Nadia Farouk.

Mother of Mousa – Year 2 D2.



# Whole School News; Family First Parental Engagement Events, 27/10/25!



























# Whole School News; Family First Parental Engagement & Literacy Event, 27/10/25!





















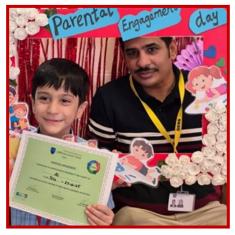








# Whole School News; Family First Parental Engagement & Literacy Event, 27/10/25!





























# Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2H2 'Be a GEM Ready to Learn' & Vision (UAE & WSS), 30/10/25!











Y2H2 put on an absolutely stunning Assembly. They taught us about having our own vision (dream for teh future) & planning for it, linked to UAE's vision 2031 & the WSS vision **Excellence** Through Teamwork; Success for All'. The song was choreosuperbly graphed - well done!





# Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y1H1 'Practicing Gratitude', 30/10/25!







Y1H1's super cute Assembly was about 'Practicing Gratitude'. We learnt that appreciating the good things we have, gives us a positive mindset that will help us to manage challenges & see them as a useful learning experience.









# Junior Section News; Assembly Time Choirs, 30/10/25!





# Junior Section News; Learning Activities (General)!















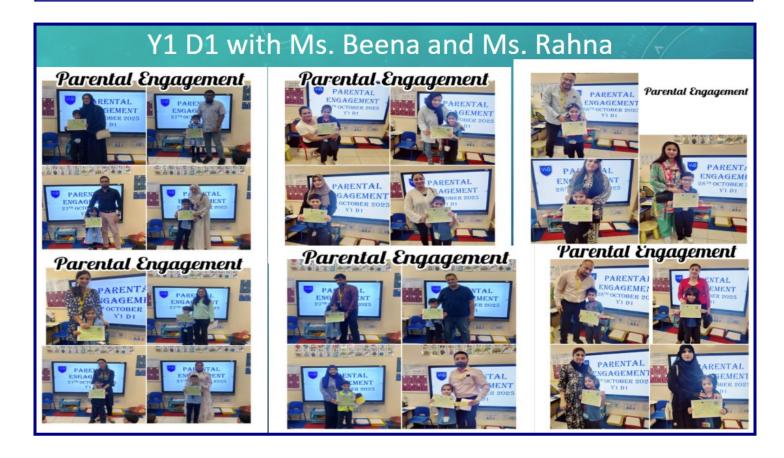


## Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!





### Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!





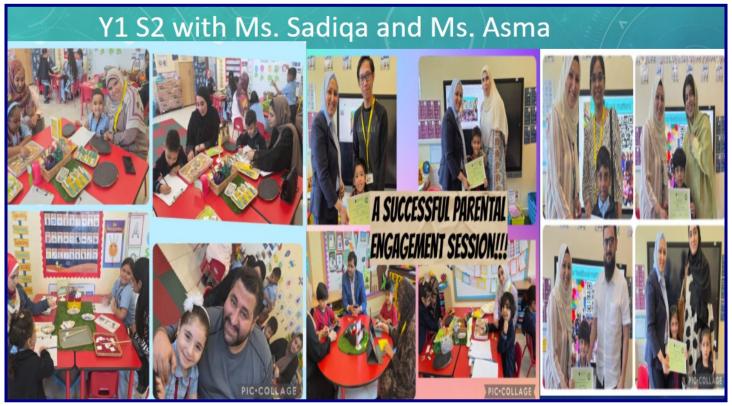
### Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!





### Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!





## Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!





## Junior Section News; Y2F Learning Activities!



# Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!



## Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H2

Ms. Jinitra and Ms. Aaditya



















### Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!

### Y2S1 with Ms. Safia and Ms. Catherin





### Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

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



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











# Family First Breakfast for Y5 Students-Primary Section















#### Whole School News; Family First Y4 Breakfast!



Primary Section News; Y4 Radio Station, 30/10/25!





## Whole School News; Family First Y5 Breakfast!





#### Primary Section News



Hafsah (Y6GH) recently went on a trip to Europe and shared pictures of the mosses she observed, relating them to her lesson on the Classification of Plants. It is wonderful to see her applying classroom learning to real-life experiences.







Y5 FF Breakfast

Dear Ms. Mrudhula,

Greetings,

It was our pleasure having breakfast with you and all the kids today.

Many thanks for your efforts and your time really appreciated.

#### Primary Section News; Islamic Assembly, 29/10/25!











Thank you to Ms. Mukhsana's Islamic team & all the students & parents involved in organizing & presenting the special Primary Assembly on 'Cultural Harmony in Islam – My Tradition, My Pride' told through costume & Nasheed. Thank you to the many parents for attending.



# Primary Section News; Assembly Time With Y4F2, 29/10/25 The Power of Kindness!









Y4F2 presented a wonderful Assembly on 'The Power of Kindness'. They clearly demonstrated many ways to show kindness in daily life through mini-dramas. Well done Ms. Tincy & Y4F2!













#### Primary Section News; Primary Arabic Activities!

An activity that demonstrates group work, in which they learn to distinguish between sentences and structures in the Arabic language subject.

Ms. Assmaa Ahmed/ Arabic Teacher - Year 3 & Year 4

























#### Primary Section News; Primary Arabic Activities!

Students Activities with Ms. Majedah Y6G&B/ & Y5 students carried out a Kagan strategy activity, choosing answers by standing left or right, then discussing their reasoning and switching sides if convinced by the other team.











Y6G Students' Competition – Arabic Language Week



#### Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities!



### Primary Section News; Y5 Family First Breakfast & Learning Activities!



### Primary Section News; Y5F2 Family First Breakfast & Learning Activities!

Y5F2 Parents and students enjoyed a warm breakfast together while connecting over meaningful conversations. It was a wonderful reminder that family moments create lasting memories and stronger learners.















### Primary Section News; Y5 Family First Breakfast & Learning Activities!





Y5S1 and Y5D2- Parents and children enjoyed a <u>cosy</u> morning of breakfast and bonding. The event reminded everyone that the best way to begin the day is with family and friendship.



#### Primary Section News; Y6BD FF Breakfast!





Y6 BD Family First Breakfast: When families share a meal, they share memories.

#### Primary Section News; Y6GD Learning Activities!



Year 6 GD joyfully celebrated Family First Breakfast, sharing a warm morning of togetherness and gratitude. Families and students enjoyed meaningful moments that strengthened their bond and community spirit.



Y6 GD & Y6 BS RLAG: GEMS don't just sparkle; they read and grow!

Year 6 GD reads with curiosity and confidence! Each page they turn opens new worlds of imagination and wisdom. They truly 'Read Like GEMS'— shining brighter with every story they explore and every idea they discover."









#### Primary Section News; Y6GF FF Breakfast!





#### Primary Section News; Y6BF Learning Activities!











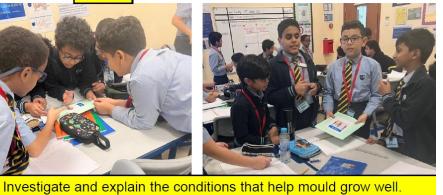












#### Primary Section News; Y6G Learning Activities!



Year 6 GF and Year 6 GD explored the fascinating world of microorganisms in their Science lesson. Students learned about useful and harmful microbes, their roles in daily life, and how they can impact health and the environment. Through engaging discussions and visuals, they discovered that even the tiniest organisms play a big part in our world!



Be a GEM: Ready to Learn!

Year 6 GF showed great enthusiasm and positivity, coming prepared, focused, and eager to learn — truly shining like GEMS!





















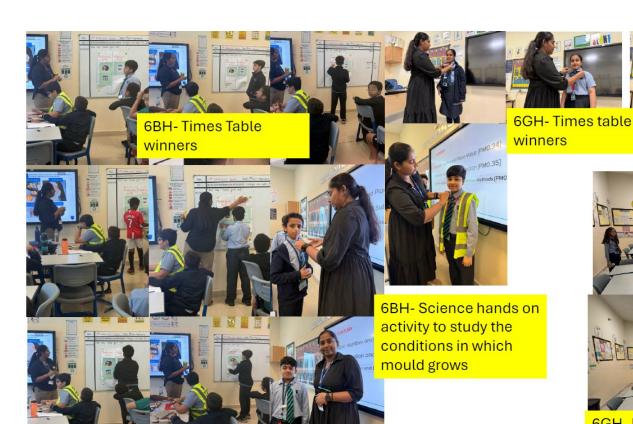








#### Primary Section News; Y6B Learning Activities!





6GH- Leave as you enter















Y6BF and Y6GS- Times Table winners

#### Primary Section News; Y6GS Learning Activities!





#### Primary Section News; Y6BS Learning Activities!

















### Students Showcase Oratory Talent

at the 40th K. S. Varkey Elocution Event



Julia Mohamed



Nida Gazzali



Huda Iqbal

Our students participated in the 40th K. S. Varkey Inter-School English Elocution Contest for Girls, organised by GEMS Our Own English High School, Dubai, to provide them with valuable exposure to a competitive public-speaking platform. The event celebrated eloquence and confidence, bringing together talented speakers from over 20 schools across the UAE. Through their participation, Nida Gazzali (Y12 GF), Huda Iqbal (Y11 GH), and Julia Mohamed (Y8 GH) enhanced their articulation, expression, and stage confidence, gaining a meaningful learning experience that fostered growth, poise, and communication skills beyond the classroom.

# Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9BS Anti-Bullying, 28/10/25!

















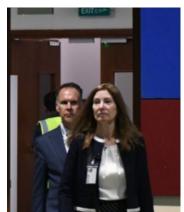
We learnt that Bullying leaves scars. Jokes should make people laugh, not upset them. Words have an impact on others & can hurt. We need to use our words carefully!







# Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9BS, 28/10/25 Anti-Bullying!









#### KS3 BOYS Assembly -9BS

Raise your voice, not your fists stand up, speak out, stop bullying



























### Secondary Section News; WSS Students Attended the GCS Wholebeing Conference, 29/10/25!

#### WSS STUDENT LEADERS ATTEND GCS WHOLE BEING CONFERENCE





Our Student leaders accompanied by Ms. Anisha and Ms. Maitha, attended the GCS Whole being Conference on 29th October 2025. The event centered on promoting whole being through interactive discussions and student-led sessions. Topics such as "The Power of Doing Nothing," "Balancing Social Media and Mental Health," and "The Whole being Tree" encouraged participants to reflect on emotional, physical, and intellectual well-being. They also had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Funke Baffour – Awuah, Corporate Head of Wellbeing at GEMS Education.









The conference offered valuable insights into mindfulness, self-reflection, and resilience, empowering our student leaders to bring forward new wellbeing ideas to our school community.



# Secondary Section News; WSS Students Attended the GCS Wholebeing Conference, 29/10/25!







A group of WSS students attended the GCS Wholebeing Conference on 29/10/25. The Event was attended by GEMS Wellbeing lead Ms. Funke Baffour-Awuah, SPEA's Wellbeing leader Dr. Mokhtar Bourchek, SPEA School Improvement Advisor Ms. Lynn Stanbridge, & other stakeholders. The event included a panel discussion & activities to highlight 'Wholebeing' priorities. Thank you to M. Ranju, our GEMS SVP, & her team for hosting this important event.

#### Secondary Section News; KS3 Girls PINKTOBER Breast Cancer Awareness Assembly, 27/10/25!





#### Secondary Section News; KS3 PINKTOBER Breast Cancer Awareness Assembly, 27/10/25!





Many thanks to **Breast** Cancer survivors Geena George & Ms. Sonu for hosting an informative question-&-answer session the KS3 Assembly on 27/10/25. The message was clear—all ladies over the age of 30 should self-check & get annual breast checks!





### Secondary Section News; KS4 & KS5 PINKTOBER Breast Cancer Awareness Art Exhibition!





# Secondary Section News; KS4 Video 'Be GEM-Another Day to Sparkle!'

### **Be A GEM**

**KS4 GIRLS - BEHAVIOR ROUTINE** 

#### **ANOTHER DAY TO SPARKLE**





Thank you KS4 girls & teach ers for your super 'Be a GEM Behaviour Routines vide Loved it!



Another day to sparkle 🌟







#### Secondary Section News; KS4 Video 'Be GEM -Another Day to Sparkle!'









#### KS4-BEAGEM

Another Day to Shine - A Positive Start to Every Morning!

Our KS4 Form Tutors have fully embraced the "Another Day to Sparkle" routine, turning each morning into a moment of warmth and positivity. As students enter their classrooms, they're welcomed with cheerful smiles and genuine "Good Mornings," setting a bright tone for the day.

This small but meaningful practice has helped build a caring, connected atmosphere where students feel encouraged, valued, and ready to make the most of their day.

### Another day to sparkle!



The KS4 Be a GEM Representatives gathered for another meaningful meeting to reflect on how positive behaviour routines are being practiced across KS4 girls' classes. They discussed ways to strengthen consistency in classrooms and ensure that every student feels supported in following the Be a

During the session, representatives shared examples of how these values are already being displayed by students and identified areas where further encouragement could make a difference. They also brainstormed creative ideas for upcoming activities and peer-led initiatives aimed at promoting kindness, respect, and responsibility within the school community.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with all representatives motivated to continue being role models and spreading the Be a GEM spirit throughout KS4.













#### Secondary Section News; KS4 - 100 Days!

### 100 days in WSS Year 10BH1 New joiners

# Balance Academic & Personal Goals

Academic: Improve grades, stay organised. Personal growth: Build confidence, manage time. Well-being: Sleep well, exercise, relax

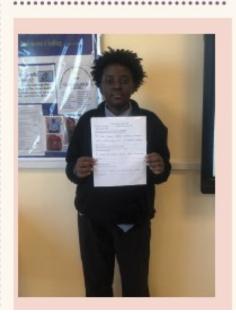






### Establish a Routine

Stick to a regular schedule, including consistent start and end times. This helps you stay disciplined and signals to your brain when it's time to work and when to relax.



### **3** Minimise Distractions

Identify and eliminate distractions in your environment.

Use apps to block distracting websites, set boundaries with family members, and keep your learning space tidy.





#### Secondary Section News; KS5 Leads By Example—Be a GEM!

#### KS5 Leads by Example - Be A GEM session with Year 6!













Our Sixth Form girls spent a heartwarming session with Year 6 students, guiding them through the values of Be A GEM — respect, responsibility, and excellence. From laughter-filled discussions to inspiring reflections, it was a beautiful exchange of leadership, kindness, and sisterhood.

#### Secondary Section News; KS5 Leads By Example—Be a GEM!

#### KS5 Boys as Be a GEM Ambassadors in Y3 classes



















With the upcoming Term 1 exams, the KS5 Boys held an important peer session on Exam preparation and time management

### Secondary Section News; KS5 Leads By Example Wellbeing Wednesday—Healthy Eating!





Healthy eating habits shown by the KS5 Boys as a key to maintaining proper wellbeing.







#### Secondary Section News; Creativity in Art!



