GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #14 20th November, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents, Thank you for your ongoing support & hard work supporting your children's revision & exam preparation—only a few more days to go!

pates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Monday 17/11/25- Thursday 27/11/25	• Term 1 exams. Whole school on exam timings 7:15am-12:15pm until end of Term.
Thursday 27/11/25	WSS celebrates UAE National Day. 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. Thank you.
Monday 1/12/25 & Tuesday 2/12/25	School closed for UAE National Day.
Thursday 4th Decem- ber	Last day of T1. Students are expected to attend until last day.
Monday 5/1/26	 First day of Term 2. T2 Fees due, thank you.









WSS celebrated Odd Socks Day on 19/11/25 as part of our Anti-Bullying Week. This celebrates individual differences!





مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 14 20th November, 2025











رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التتفيذي السيدة فاليري تومبسون

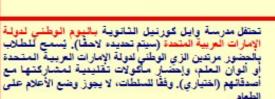
أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس و الشارقة الأعزاء،

نشكركم على دعمكم المستم لمراجعة أطفالكم وإعدادهم للامتحانات - لم يتبق سوى بخ



المواعيد

ı	التقاصيل		التاريخ
	يهم الجوارب الفردية للاحتفال بالاختلافات الفردية والوحدة من خلال التنوع! يجوز لطفك ارتداء جوارب غريبة بألوان زاهية إلى المدرسة (اختياري)		الأربعاء 19/11/25
	امتحانات القصل الدراسي الأول. مواعيد الامتحانات في المدرسة بأكملها من الساعة 7:15 صبلغًا حتى الساعة 12:15 ظهرًا حتى نهاية القصل الدراسي.	•	الاثنين 17/11/25 - الخميس 27/11/25
	تحتفل مدرسة وايل كورنيل الثانوية باليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة (سيتم تحديده الاحقا). يسمح للطلاب بالحضور مرتدين الزي الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة أي الوان العلم، وإحضار ماكولات تقليدية لمساركتها مع أصدقا مع المتعدد على المعانون العلم المعانون المعا	•	الغميس 27/11/25



آخر يوم في الفصل الدراسي الأول. ومن المتوقع أن

تم إغلاق المدرسة بمناسبة اليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية

اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الثاني الاشين 5/1/26

يحضر الطلاب حتى آخر يوم.

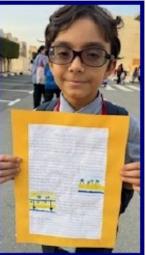








الاشين 1/12/25





رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعى؛ النجاح للجميع"

Contents

Parent Handbook Access QR Code

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

Sunny Varkey



Thank you Nabia for sharing your singing video. We loved the confidence-building performance!



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



Newsletter Contents				
Page				
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	• This Week's Leadership GEMStone (Leading with Gratitude)			
4	• Parent Voice ('You SaidWe Did")			
5	GEMS Safeguarding Awareness Flyer—Energy & Nicotine			
	Pouches			
6	WSS is a Health-Promoting School			
7-9	• Odd Socks Day 19/11/25—Celebrating our Differences as part of			
10	Anti-Bullying Week			
10 11	Environmental & Sustainability Superstar Champions The Alexander Champions			
11	• Storyboard Top Tips, 1) T1 Assessment Preparation, 2) Alex's Journey to Exam Success			
12	Happy Birthdays			
13	Staff CPD			
13	Stall CI D			
	Junior Section News			
14	• Junior Section Superstar Champions (medals for Gymnastics &			
	Class Champions)			
15-16	• 'Read Like a GEM' FF Parent Ambassadors			
17	• FS2 Learning Activities			
17-20	Y1 Learning Activities			
21-23	• Y2 Learning Activities			
24.25	Primary Section News			
24-25	 Primary Section Sporting Superstar Champions (medals for Gymnastics, Swimming & Karate) 			
26	Y5 Anti-Bullying Activities			
27-28	Y6 Anti=Bullying Activities			
27-28	10 And-Bullying Activities			
	Secondary Section News			
29-31	• Secondary Section Superstar Champions; KS3 GEM of the Month			
32-33	KS3 Parent Voice			
34	 KS5 Parent Voice—Parenting Tips 			
35	KS4 Celebrates 100 Days at WSS!			
36	• 'Be a GEM' Routine 4			
37-41	KS5 Leadership & Learning (Mock Exams, Integrity Anti-			
	Cheating Pledge, Career Readiness, Forging Links with Higher			
	Education)			

Whole School News; This Week's Leadership GEMStone!

LEADING WITH GRATITUDE



CITRINE

15 Noticing someone's effort inspires them to keep giving their best. 5

MESSAGE: Saying thank you for someone's hard work shows you care. It makes them feel proud and encourages them to keep going.

REFLECT: How can I show others that their efforts matter? How can I make saying thank you a regular part of my day?



You Said,

Many parents requested increased awareness and more proactive measures to address bullying.



WSS successfully organised Anti-Bullying Week across the school, engaging students through a variety of meaningful activities. These included special assemblies, Odd Socks Day, poster-making sessions, debates, and class discussions.

Together, we are committed to building a safer, more supportive, and inclusive environment for every child.

Whole School News: Parent Voice — "You Said...We Did..."

Whole School News; Safeguarding Awareness Flyer!



ENERGY & NICOTINE POUCHES

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW?



WHAT ARE THESE POUCHES?

Energy and nicotine pouches have become increasingly popular among teenagers. These small white pouches are placed under the lip and absorbed through the gums. Although they may look harmless, many contain high levels of caffeine or nicotine—both unsafe for children and adolescents.

NICOTINE POUCHES

- » Contain nicotine, the same addictive substance found in cigarettes and vapes.
- » Marketed as "tobacco-free" or "smoke-free," which may create a false sense of safety.
- » Can lead to addiction, mood changes, difficulty concentrating, and increased risk of heart and gum issues.



ENERGY OR CAFFEINE POUCHES

- » Contain high amounts of caffeine or stimulants like taurine, guarana, or vitamins.
- » Advertised as "energy boosters" or "focus enhancers."
- » May cause rapid heartbeat, anxiety, restlessness, and sleep disturbances especially in young people.
- » Often sold online with little or no age restriction.

WHY ARE TEENS DRAWN TO THEM?

- » Heavy promotion on social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.
- » Seen as a "trendy" or "safer" alternative to smoking or energy drinks.
- » Offered in appealing flavors like mint, citrus, coffee, and fruit.
- » Peer pressure and curiosity about new stimulant products.

IMPACT ON HEALTH & WELLBEING

Nicotine and high-dose caffeine can affect the developing teen brain, influencing:

- » Focus and attention
- » Sleep patterns
- » Heart rate and blood pressure
- » Mood regulation and stress response





HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- » Start the conversation early. Ask if your child has seen or heard about these products.
- » Share the facts. Explain that these pouches are not safe or approved for teens.
- » Model healthy habits. Encourage sleep, hydration, balanced eating, and exercise for natural energy.
- » Stay aware. Keep up with online trends and speak with school staff if you have concerns.
- » Seek support. School nurses, counselors, and safeguarding staff can offer confidential guidance.

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

We value our partnership with parents in promoting student health, wellbeing, and safety. By staying informed and keeping open conversations at home, we can help students make healthy, responsible decisions. For support or more information, please reach out to the school counselor or Designated Safeguarding Leads.



Whole School News; WSS is a Health-Promoting School!



Whole School News; Odd Socks Day, 19/11/25 Celebrating our Differences as Part of Anti-Bullying Week!

































Whole School News; Odd Socks Day, 19/11/25 Celebrating our Differences as Part of Anti-Bullying Week!



























Whole School News; Odd Socks Day, 19/11/25 Celebrating our Differences as Part of Anti-Bullying Week!



Odd Socks Day was a fun way to reinforce the importance of valuing our differences, & that individual uniqueness should be embraced & celebrated. Often bullying occurs when someone is perceived as 'not fitting in' or 'different', so Odd Socks Day shares an important message of acceptance.













Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



WSS Be a GEM Superstar Champions—Parent Voice!

Dear Teachers,

Good day.

We sincerely appreciate your recognition of Jeshwika's positive behavior in class and the behavior points added in the classroom app. Seeing her efforts acknowledged with such thoughtful comments truly means a lot to us. Your encouragement, patience, and support are helping her grow with confidence and kindness each day.

Thank you for the time and care you dedicate to her progress and for creating such a nurturing environment.

Warm regards,

Parents of Jeshwika

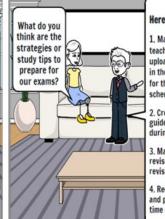
Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



Storyboard on Term 1 Assessment Preparation

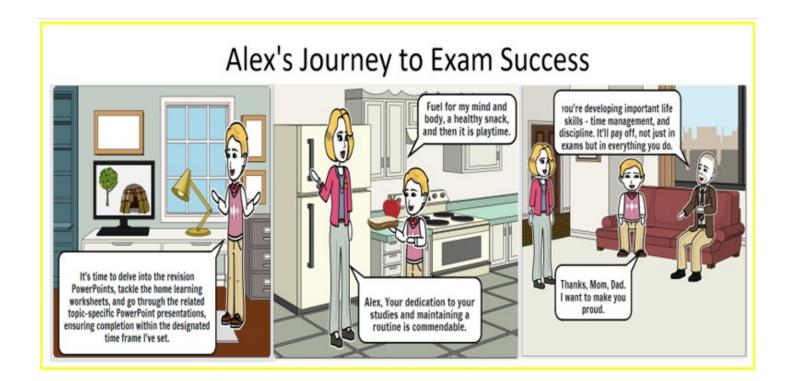






Here are the tips:

- 1. Make sure to check the teacher's email and uploaded study materials in the phoenix classroom for the exam contents and schedules.
- 2. Create your own study guides and ask questions during revisions.
- 3. Make sure not to miss revision lessons and start revising at home.
- Reorganise your notes and prioritise your study time according to schedule













Whole School News; Staff CPD!



Members of the Junior team attended an informative 'Amazing Fun Learning' day at Quest Eyes on Saturday 15/11/25.





The Medical Team attended GEMS Annual Medical Team meeting on 15/11/25 at DAA led by Dr. Mirrah and Mr. Nauman Ali Khan, who appreciated the dedication, care and efforts by medical teams across GEMS schools.



WSS SLT joined other Sharjah schools' SLT for a Strategic Leadership CPD session at the School of Creative Science on 19/11/25.

WSS Junior Section Be a GEM Superstar Champions!



and proudly achieved first place in two competitions and second place in another. We are incredibly proud of her dedication and nastics medals. Ayla participated last Saturday in a gymnastics championship organized under the supervision of the Dubai Sports Council, where she competed alongside various academies from across the GCC region. She delivered an outstanding performance Congratulations to sporting superstar Ayla for her multiple Gymaccomplishments.

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





Family First Junior News; 'Read Like a GEM' Ambassadors!





Many thanks to amazing super-mums of Anaya (FS2S2), Archer (FSD1), Rayan (FS2H1) & Ibrahim (FS2H2), some of our 'Read Like a GEM' Ambassadors. The children are thoroughly enjoying their interactive reading sessions.







Family First Junior News; 'Read Like a GEM' Ambassadors!





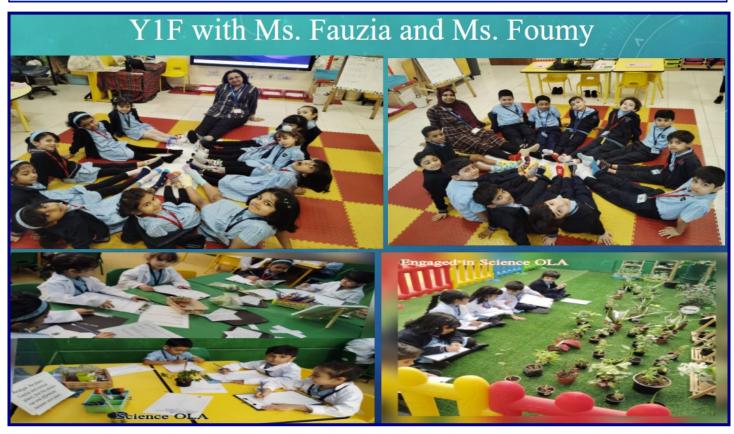
Many thanks to amazing super-mum of Kayan for her enthusiastic participation in Odd Socks Day on 19/11/25 & mum of Balaj (FS2S2) a 'Read Like a GEM' Ambassador. The children are thoroughly enjoying this parent participation!



Junior Section News; FS2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Phase One Teachers & Y1 Leaders attended the Eyes CPD!



Junior Section News; Y2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section: Y2 H2

Ms. Jinitra and Ms. Jameela

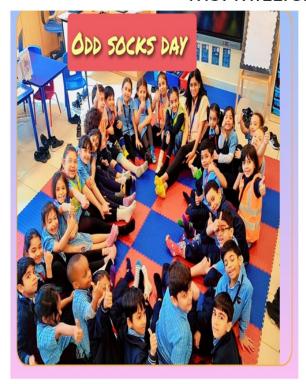




Junior Section News; Y2 Learning Activities!



MS. MILLICENT & MS. TAHIRA





WSS Primary Section Sporting Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to superstar gymnast Karmen (Y5D2), who recently participated in the Dubai Open Gymnastics Academy Competition and achieved First Place in her category!



Congratulations to swimming superstar Mira (Y3D1) who wone multiple medals in a recent swimming competition.

WSS Primary Section Sporting Superstar Champions!







Congratulations to Adam Elsawy (Y6BS), who represented the UAE in an international beach karate championship held in Kalba. He impressively earned second place in the competition! We are super proud of you, Adam!







Primary Section News; Y5 Anti-Bullying Activities!

Year 5 participated in the Anti-Bullying Campaign by creating posters promoting kindness and respect. Students also wore colourful, mismatched socks to support the message of celebrating differences and standing together against bullying.



Primary Section News; Y6 Anti-Bullying Activities!





Primary Section News; Y6 Anti-Bullying Activities!

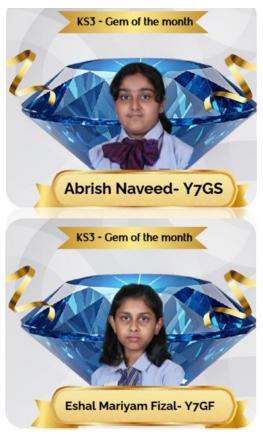


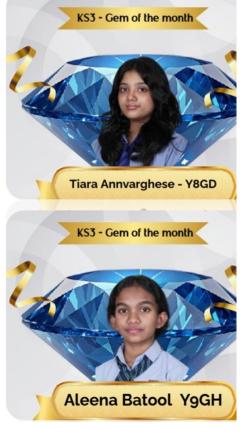


WSS Secondary Section GEM of the Month Superstar Champions!



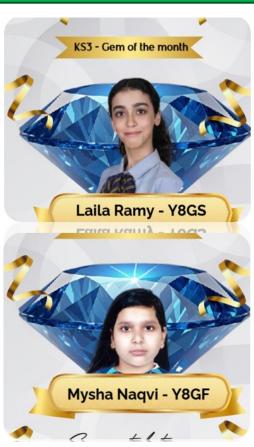






WSS Secondary Section GEM of the Month Superstar Champions!













WSS Secondary Section GEM of the Month Superstar Champions!

GEM of the month @TERM 1 @KS3 Teachers

Month of September



Month of October



Month of November

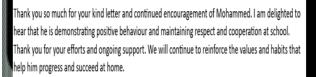




Family First; KS3 Parent Voice!

MOHAMED MAHMOUD MOHAMED ABDALLA ELENANI-Y9BH

Dear Mr. Steaphan,



FAHD ABDELAZIM ELSAYED MOHAMED SHABAN-Y9BS

Dear Ms. Ambika

I sincerely thank you tor your efforts and for always receiving our concerns with such patience and understanding. I truly appreciate the way you handle issues and follow up promptly to support the students.

Your dedication and kind approach make a big difference, and I am very grateful for your continuous support.

Thank you so much for sharing the file. Really appreciate your effort and support — you're always so kind and helpful. 🔮

FAHD ABDELAZIM ELSAYED MOHAMED SHABAN-Y9BS

Dear Ms. Anaswara

Thank you for everything you have done for Fahd. I truly appreciate your dedication and effort. I know you will continue to guide him with care and excellence. You are truly inspiring and make a wonderful difference.

Dear Ms. Anaswara

Thank you very much for your kind response and helpful guidance.

I truly appreciate your continuous support and dedication to Fahd's learning.

Dear Ms. Anaswara

Thank you for everything you have done for Fahd. I truly appreciate your dedication and effort. I know you will continue to guide him with care and excellence. You are truly inspiring and make a wonderful difference.



YOUR SUPPORT
INSPIRES US
EVERY DAY—
THANK YOU, KS3
PARENTS!

KASHAF ALI MUHAMMAD YOUSAF-Y9BH

Dear Teacher @Steaphan Jathanna

Thank you so much for your kind recognition of Kashaf Ali's behavior and attitude.

We will continue to encourage him at home to uphold these values and grow into a responsible and respectful individual. Your support means a great to us.

Have a great day!



IBRAHIM AHMED-Y9BH

Thank you for your kind message.

We're very happy to hear that Ibrahim is doing well and showing good behavior and leadership.
We truly appreciate your support and encouragement

Ibrahim's parent

KASHAF ALI MUHAMMAD YOUSAF-Y9BH

Dear all teachers

I am father of Kashal Ali | Year 9BH | ID 5953,

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible dedication and effort you have put into teaching my child. Your commitment to their education has been truly remarkable, and I have seen significant improvements in both their academic performance and mental capacity.

WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE TRUST AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUR KS3 PARENT COMMUNITY

WARD AYMAN HASAN-Y9BH

Thanks alot Mr. Steaphan. It works..

Appreciate your care and support..

Regards









Family First; KS3 Parent Voice!

Mariam Ammar-Y7GH

Dear Ms. Bincy,



in class are being noticed. We are very happy to see them enjoying their lessons, and we know that your encouragement and engaging teaching style play a big role in keeping them motivated. We deeply value the time, patience, and guidance you give to your students. Your support not only helps them grow in their studies but also builds their confidence

and love for learning. We will continue to encourage our child at home so that they can keep building on the progress they are making in class. We sincerely thank you for your kind words, and we look forward to seeing our child continue to learn and flourish under your guidance.

Hina afzal (parent of mariam ammar y7 gh)

REALLY TOUCHED BY THE APPRECIATION FROM OUR KS3 PARENTS

Vamshika-Y9GH

ply appreciate your guidance, support, and efforts in nurturing her interest and nce in the subject. Your recognition means a lot and motivates her to keep giving her

Sandhya Santhosh

Nouren Mohamed-Y8GH

Dear Ms Bincy

Good morning thanks a lot for this supportive, and motivating words

Thanks for the explanation always to Nouren to clarify her questions that make the subject more easy and enjoyable.

We really appreciate your efforts

Thanks once again and hope that Nouren will achieve the best level

Regards

Radwa Fahmy

FEELING TRULY GRATEFUL FOR THE KIND WORDS AND SUPPORT SHARED BY OUR KS3 PARENTS

Ganatalla Shady-Y9GD

Dear Mrs,Jini,

hanks for your efforts and continuous coope

Geet Kaur-Y9GD

Dear Ms. Ouseph,



Kind regards,

Maninder

TRULY UPLIFTED BY THE APPRECIATION FROM OUR KS3 PARENTS

Hoor Mahmoud Jehad -Y7GH



Dear Teacher.

Thank you so much for your kind message. I truly appreciate your encouragement and the support you give my daughter. It means a lot to us to know that she is progressing well and enjoying her time in class.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We are grateful for everything you do

Regards

Amna Syed-Y8GH

Dear Avsha.

am glad that Amna has already started making her mark in the new academic year.

Thank you to the entire leadership team for teaching such sense of responsibilities to our new generation.

Regards, lahangir Ali THOUGHTFUL AND KIND WORDS FROM OUR KS3 PARENTS.

Sham Khaldoun-Y7GH

Dear Miss Bincy.



Thank you so much for your lovely message. I really appreciate your kindness and support. Sham really enjoys your class, and I hope she will always do her best and keep improving in her studies.

Regards,







KS5 PARENT PARTNERSHIP PARENTING TIPS

We encourage open communication at home by talking openly about our thoughts, ideas and feelings. Everyone gets a chance to speak, and share their opinions. we listen to each other with respect. We try to solve problems calmly and make sure no one feels ignored.

We discuss and encourage our teen to set yearly, monthly, weekly, and daily goals, along with an action plan that includes a balanced daily schedule — covering study time, playtime, and limited screen time. We make sure the plan is realistic and helps them stay focused while also enjoying their day.



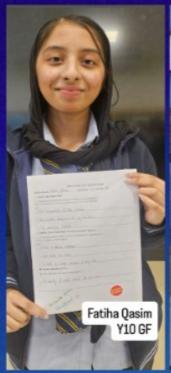
Muhammad Butt & Family

Y12-BH

To keep them motivated, we appreciate their efforts and celebrate their achievements — whether it's by treating them to their favorite food, taking them out for a fun outing, or giving them some extra time to play their favorite sport. This positive reinforcement helps them stay disciplined and excited about reaching their goals.

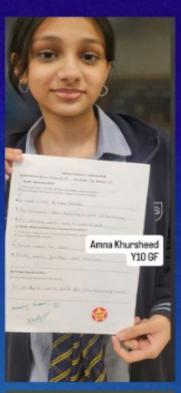
My biggest challenge is that instead of being strict with my children, I tend to stay calm and patient.

KS4 GIRLS 100 DAYS-GLOW & GROW

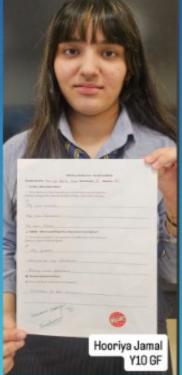




As KS4 newjoiners, reaching the 100-day mark is a moment to appreciate how much they have grownacademically, socially, and personally. These first months have helped them adjust to new routines, build confidence, and connect with classmates. Their 100days reflection form is a chance to look back at the challenges they faced, the achievements they earned, and the goals they now set for themselves as they continue to settle into our school community with positivity and determination



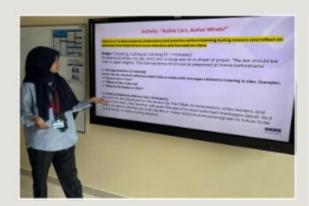






BEAGEM

BEHAVIOUR ROUTINE 4









Be a GEM - Routine 4:

Ready to Learn! Students participated in the 'Active Ears, Active Minds' activity to understand and practise active listening, reflecting on behaviours that help them stay attentive and focused during lessons.









Secondary Section News; KS5 Leadership & Learning!

KS5 Mock Examinations Begin: Step Up, Show Up, Level Up











Our Sixth Form students have officially entered mock exam season — a key milestone on their path to A-Level success. This is their moment to sharpen focus, test their readiness, and prove to themselves just how far they've come.

Courage, commitment, and consistency... that's the KS5 way.

Secondary Section News; KS5 Integrity—Anti-Cheating Pledge!













Anti cheating pledge: KS5 boys

A step toward responsible citizenship—our students proudly recited the Anti-Cheating Pledge to reinforce fairness and academic integrity

KS5 Girls: We Choose Integrity — Anti-Cheating Pledge





Our KS5 girls took the Anti-Cheating Pledge - a clear, confident commitment to honesty, fairness, and personal accountability. No shortcuts, no excuses, no "just this once." They pledged to uphold academic integrity in every assessment and to set the standard for younger students. Proud moment, powerful message.

KS5 shows us what real leadership looks like.

KS5 Leadership & Learning—Career Readiness Sessions!

CAREER READINESS WEEK FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS













Career Readiness Week featured a series of events designed to support students—especially those in **Sixth Form**—as they prepare for university and future career pathways. Sixth Form students led informative sessions under the guidance of Ms. Anisha (Career Counsellor) covering application processes, entry requirements, timelines, visas, scholarships, tips, common mistakes, and post-study opportunities.

KS5 Leadership & Learning—Career Readiness Sessions!

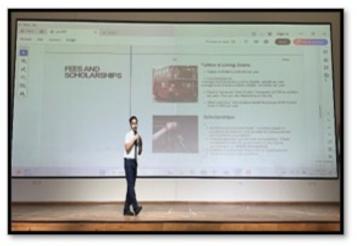












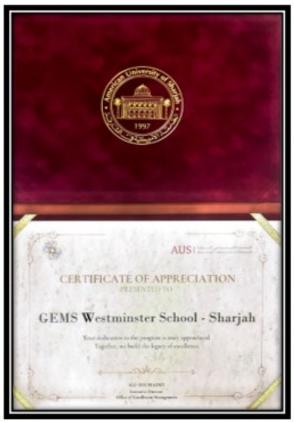
The countries covered included **UAE**, **USA**, **UK**, **Australia**, **Canada**, **Germany**, **and Egypt.** With over 200 students registering for sessions based on their country of interest, the workshops were very well received and helped students gain clarity and confidence about their next steps.

Forging Links with Higher Education!

SHARAKAH PRINCIPALS AND COUNSELORS' APPRECIATION DAY AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH



Our GC, Ms. Anisha, had the opportunity to attend the prestigious event, which featured key presentations on grants, scholarships, and academic support, along with an inspiring address by H.E. Ghanim Al Falasi. Sharakah Scholarship recipients shared their reflections which added meaningful perspectives.





AUS has remained one of our top destinations over the years, and WSS was acknowledged for its valuable partnership with the university through the Sharakah Scholarship.

Ms. Anisha with **Ms. Hala Al-Jundi**, Executive Assistant & Sharakah Program Officer, Office of Executive Director of Enrollment Management at AUS.