GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #15 28th November, 2024



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

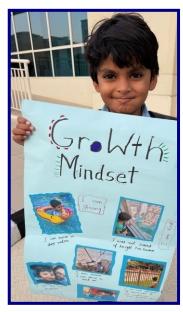
Dear WSS Parents,

We would like to wish the rulers & people of the UAE a very happy & blessed Eid Al Etihad 53 UAE National Day.



pates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Open January 2025	 The online registration system for new seats for the next Academic Year 2025-2026 has opened. Enrollment assessment will start from January 2025, on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. Since seats are very limited, please register early to avoid disappointment if you want new seats.
Mon.2/12/2 4 & Tues. 3/12/24	• School closed for Eid Al Etihad (National Day) holiday. Exams resume on Wed. 4/12/24.
From Wed. 27/11/24 to Thurs. 12/12/24	 T1 Exams 7:15am-12:30pm Exam Day Timings for full school
Fri. 13/12/24 to Sun. 5/1/25	• Winter Break (3-weeks)
Mon. 6/1/25	 First day of T2. T2 fees due by latest first day of Term, thank you.
Thurs. 26th June	Last day of compulsory T3 Promotional Exams
Thurs. 3rd July, 2025	• The last official day for students for this academic year.







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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 15 28 نوفمبر 2024















المواعيد		
التفاصيل		التاريخ
تم فتح نظام التسجيل الإلكتروني للمقاعد الجديدة للعام الدراسي المقبل 2026-2026.	•	مفتوح
سيبدأ تقييم التسجيل اعتبارًا من يناير 2025، على أساس "أسبقية الحضور". نظرًا لأن المقاعد محدودة للغاية، يرجى التسجيل مبكرًا لتجنب خيبة الأمل إذا كنت تريد مقاعد جديدة.	•	بناير 2025
تم إغلاق المدرسة بمناسبة عيد الاتحاد 53 (اليوم الوطني) وتستأنف الامتحانات يوم الأربعاء 4/12/24.	•	الانتين 2/12/24 والثلاثاء 3/12/24
مواعيد امتحانات من الساعة 7:15 صياحًا حتى الساعة 12:30 ظهرًا لجميع المدارس	•	من الأربعاء 27/11/24 إلى الخميس 12/12/24
العطلة الشتوية (3 أسابيع)	•	الجمعة 13/12/24 إلى الأحد 5/1/25
اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الثاني. يجب سداد رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثاني في موعد أقصاه اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي.	•	الانتين 6/1/25
آخر يوم من امتحانات الترقية الإلزامية للفصل الدراسي الثالث	•	الخميس 26 يونيو
آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي.	•	الخميس 3 يوليو 2025

رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التتفيذي السيدة فاليري تومبسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة الأعزاء،

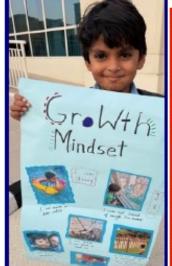
نتمنى لحكام وشعب دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة عيدا سعيدا ومبارقا بمناسبة اليوم الوطني 53 لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة.











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

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Whole School News; Meet the WSS Local Advisory Board (LAB), 2024-2025!



WSS Local Advisory Body (LAB)

Academic Year 2024-2025

Updated: 28/10/24



Ms. Ranju Anand Senior Vice President Schools Focus on Achievement, Leadership & Curriculum



Mr. Darren Coulson LAB Chair Principal Sharjah English School Focus on Teaching & Assessment



Ms. Manal Thani WSS Parent Rep. Focus on Protection, Care, Guidance & Support



Mr. Ajit Moorkoth Focus on Protection, Care, Guidance & Support



Ms. Aiysha Khan
WSS Parent Relations Executive
(PRE)
Focus on Students' Personal &
Social Development, Innovation
& Parents



Ms. Christine McDermott WSS Learning Coach (LC) Focus on Teaching



Ms. Valerie Thompson WSS Principal

Whole School News; Meet the WSS Local Advisory Board (LAB) Role, Responsibilities & Function, 2024-2025!

1. ROLE and FUNCTION

The LAB functions primarily as an advisory board and holds an important strategic role in overseeing the achievement of the school's strategic aims and objectives. The LAB will:

- understand and uphold the school's and GEMS vision and values.
- monitor, advise and support the school on matters of strategy and policy.
- help monitor the school's standards and performance.
- support the school and the Principal and seek to provide wise counsel.

Members are a group of experienced and skilled individuals from diverse backgrounds, who add a great deal to improve the school's performance. Members are mindful of the role and responsibilities of the Principal, and understand and appreciate the relationship of GEMS (the company) to the school.

The LAB is not involved in financial matters, appointing staff, the day to day running of the school, admissions, individual issues or grievances, or any other matters which are the remit of GEMS or the school's leadership.

The school is a member of the GEMS Education group. The headquarters of the Group is located is Dubai, UAE and operate through Premier Schools International LLC (the "Corporate Office"). The Corporate Office is generally responsible for supporting the school financially and supplying human resources, legal support, certain procurement and enrolment support.

The LAB assists with monitoring the activity and performance of the school by supporting the school's senior leaders to be fully accountable for the school's outcomes. Working in partnership with the school, the LAB actively collaborates, engages and challenges the school through constructive dialogue at all times. Confidentiality must be assured by all members of the LAB at all times.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of a governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role

A governor is expected to:

- a) contribute to the strategic discussions at LAB meetings which help determine:
 - · the vision and ethos of the school.
 - clear strategic priorities and targets for the school
- assist the school in the monitoring of their performance including:
 - reviewing the outcomes of the school's self- evaluation (SEF)
 - considering relevant data and feedback on school performance.
 - listening to the school's stakeholders (i. e : students, parents, staff, local community, the wider GEMS family) to help inform advice and support given.
- upon request, serve on sub-committees, working parties, panels as appropriate, for example when a new Principal is appointed.



















































































Whole School News; Eid Al Etihad 53 (UAE National Day) Celebrations—The Cultural Show, 26/11/24!









Huge thanks to the student leaders, student performers, parents, Emirati Team & Ms. Doaa Romih for working so hard to make the WSS Eid AL Etihad show an entertaining & special treat for us all.





Whole School News; Eid Al Etihad 53 (UAE National Day) Celebrations—The Cultural Show, 26/11/24!













Whole School News; WSS Participation in the GCS Eid Al Etihad 53 (UAE National Day) Celebrations, 27/11/24!



The event, honouring the Cluster Emirati team with special service awards, was graced by the presence of GEMS Group CEO Mr. Dino Varkey, SPEA SIA Ms. Lynn Stanbridge, GEMS Group Chief Education Officer Ms. Lisa Crausby OBE, a MOHRE dignitary & Cluster school Principals. Our students performed a very nicely choreographed dance.







Sustainability Superstars; Junior Section ECO Report!



Junior Section ECO Club activities





We are focusing on developing healthy eating habits.

Sustainability goal: 3





We are actively engaged in conservation efforts.

Sustainability goal: 7





Raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment.

Environment, Sustainability & Life Skills Superstar Champions!



I placed the plastic Materials in the Designated Place for recycling.



I cleaned the place ith my father and Cooperated With him .



I watered the rose With water.



I helped the cleaner Then, I gave him dates and Water.





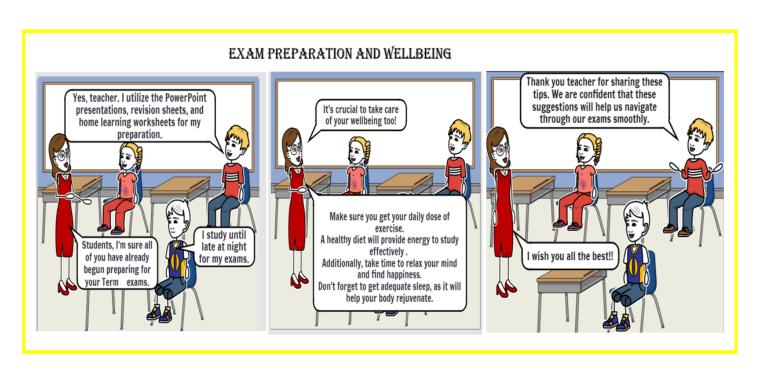
Sila (Y2F1)

Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Thak you for brining in a big bag of empty water bottles for recycling!

Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



Happy Birthdays!

Happy Birthday! Thank you so much dear parents for bringing healthy fruit treats to share with friends to support our 'Healthy Lifestyle' Policy.



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to Kaleb Paranayapa Ranasinghe (Y2F1), who took part in an Abacus Competition on 23/11/24 and was awarded as a Gold Topper!

Dear Ms Fozia,

Thank you so much for your email, it is well noted.

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for your incredible support during Ms. Jennifer's absence.

Your patience, dedication, and ability to manage the classroom were truly commendable.

The kids responded so positively to your guidance, and I'm grateful for the nurturing environment you created during that time.

Your hard work did not go unnoticed, and it made a significant difference in the students' experience.

Thank you once again for stepping up and ensuring everything ran smoothly.

We are fortunate to have you as part of our team!

Regards, Sana Saif's mothe

Junior Section News

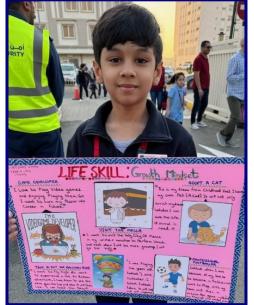




Thank you for your super Life Skills video. We love the message, "Become a Leader of your own Life".



Adam (Y2F1) shared a super video about using positive words. The video shared some important character traits too. Thank you Adam, good job!





Thank you to Naimal (FS2H1) for the super cute video relating the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' to the theme 'Growth Mindset'. We learnt that the caterpillar persevered until it became a beautiful butterfly!

Junior Section News



Thank you Kinda (Y2F1) for your motivating video on 'Positive Words'.

Did you guess? That
hardworking and kind bird is
actually me, Adam Tarek!! I love
swimming, helping others,
spreading happiness, kindness
in the world, and face any
challenges bravely.

I'm happy to tell you this lovely
story!!

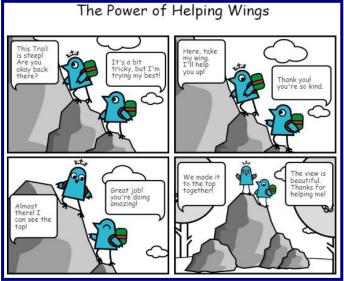


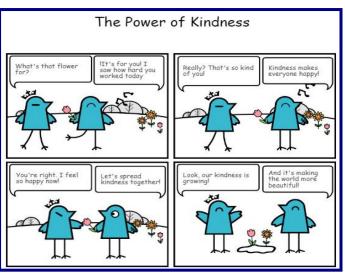
Every story I tell has a little bit of me in it. Thank you for reading!



Thank you to Adam Tarek (Y2F1) for sharing a super project on 'The Power of Words'.







Junior Section News; FS1H Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; FS2S2 Learning Activities!













FS2 S2 celebrating UAE National Day with Ms. Sarah and Ms. Maria

Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!

Y1D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna Eid All Etihad Celebration Eid All Etihad Celebration Eid All Etihad Celebration One of the control of

Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!

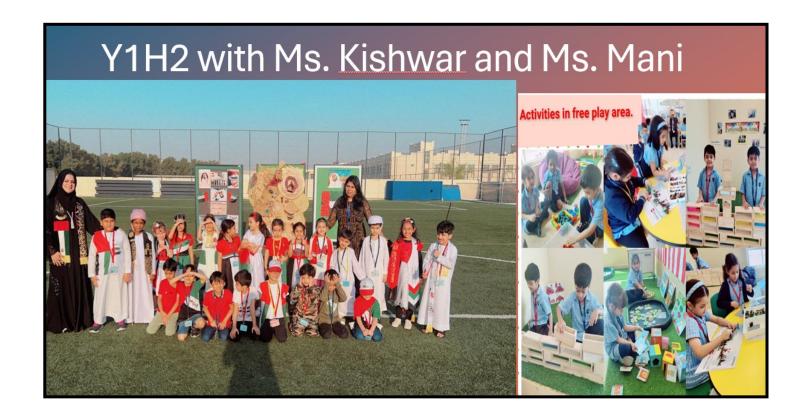




Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!



Y1H1 Eid AL Etihad Celebrations, 26/11/24



Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!



Y1S2 with Ms. Rajina and Ms. Foumy



Junior Section News; Y2D Learning Activities!















Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!

Miss Jinitra and Miss Maryam











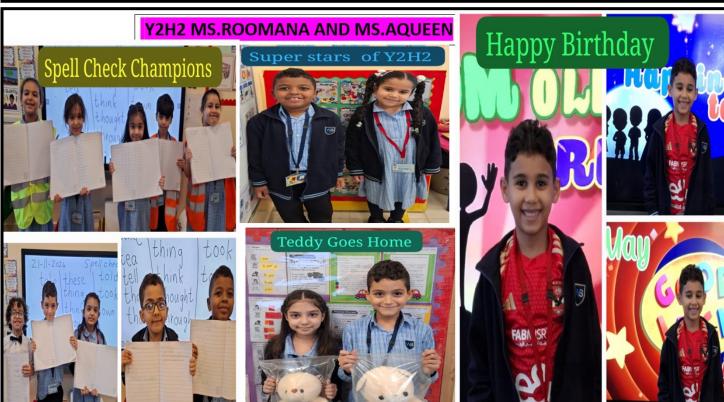






Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!







Special thanks to Eyad's parents, who sponsored special trophies for our choir, after their excellent performance at the Music Festival. We very much appreciate teh positive teamwork & thoughtful gesture.

I want to thank you and the entire WSS team for all the amazing activities and efforts put into the students' learning and well-being.

The recent Science Exhibition was wonderful. Both of my children enjoyed taking part, and the idea of using daily waste to create eco-friendly projects was very inspiring. It taught them the importance of sustainability in a fun and practical way.

We really appreciate the hard work and teamwork behind such events.

WSS is truly nurturing the students in every way, and we are proud to be part of this school.

Wishing you and the WSS family a Happy Eid Al Etihad!

Regards,

Parents

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



17/11/24, Alaqmar participated in the 10th National Abacus Competition, organised IPA UAE an interschool event held at Crescent English High School Dubai. He achieved the 3rd Runner-Up position and was awarded a trophy for his commendable performance considering the high level of competition at the national







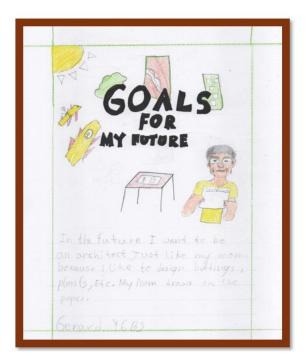
Huge thanks to all our superstar students & parents for the magnificent Science & Sustainability projects for teh exhibition this week. It really was an impressive event, especially as the students were able to talk to confidently & knowledgeably about their projects. It really was a reflection of our school vision, 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for all!'

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

Gerard Dojo Champion

Year 6 student Gerard proudly showcased his creative project, 'WSS Life Skillz,' highlighting his thoughtful goals for the future and emphasizing the importance of planning and perseverance.







Empowering the Future: Meet Our Year 6 BS Council Leaders!

This inspiring team of leaders is ready to make a difference, embodying responsibility and teamwork at its finest.

Primary Section News; Science Exhibition, 'Green Horizons— Science Driving Sustainability!' 25/11/24!













Primary Section News; Science Exhibition, 'Green Horizons— Science Driving Sustainability!' 25/11/24!















Primary Section News; Science Exhibition ,'Green Horizons— Science Driving Sustainability!' 25/11/24!







Huge thank you to all participating students & parents for the fantastic Science & Sustainability projects. Students were able to talk about their project confidently & enthusiastically to other students & staff. The Science Exhibition impressive showcasing students' understanding of sustainability goals & scientific & practical solutions.







Primary Section News; Science Exhibition, 'Green Horizons— Science Driving Sustainability!' 25/11/24!

















Primary Section News; Science Exhibition, 'Green Horizons— Science Driving Sustainability!' 25/11/24!

















Primary Section News; Science Exhibition, 'Green Horizons— Science Driving Sustainability!' 25/11/24!













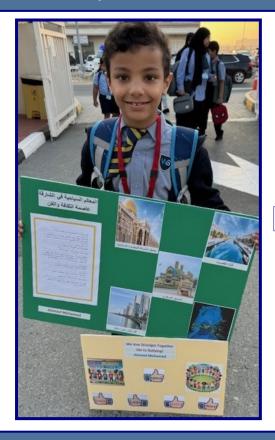








Primary Section News; Social Studies!



Social Studies Project

Primary Section News; Y3H2 Learning Activities!









Y3 H2 With Ms. Saranya Prasad

Primary Section News; Y5 & Y6 Cultural Activities!

Y5F1 students joyfully celebrated UAE National Day (Eid Al Etihad) at WSS. They wore the colours of the UAE flag and shared traditional Emirati food with their classmates and teachers.



UAE National Day





Year 6 students enthusiastically celebrated UAE National Day, showcasing their pride and appreciation for the nation's rich heritage through vibrant performances and creative activities. Form Tutor Ms. Iram Y6 BS



'Exploring, Experimenting, Excelling: Year 6 at the Science exhibition!"

Year 6 students in the science exhibition displayed exceptional creativity and a strong commitment to sustainability. Their projects included innovative waste management systems, recycling stations, and models of sustainable cities and villages, offering practical solutions to environmental challenges. The students explored renewable energy through solar, wind, and hydroelectric power and emphasized water conservation with initiatives like rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, and wastewater treatment. Projects such as zero-waste lifestyle zones and sustainability posters promoted ecofriendly living and raised awareness about global warming. These young innovators truly embodied the spirit of building a sustainable future.















Year 6 students showcased their innovative ideas and scientific curiosity at the Science Exhibition, 'Green Horizons—Science Driving Sustainability,' demonstrating their commitment to building a greener and more sustainable future.



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Siji Ma'am,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude and appreciation for organizing the recent quiz competition at school. It was a wonderful initiative that not only engaged the students but also encouraged them to expand their general knowledge in a fun and interactive way.

Competitions like these are instrumental in fostering a sense of curiosity and learning among students. They provide an excellent opportunity for children to explore new topics, develop quick thinking skills, and boost their confidence. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm and teamwork displayed by my daughter and her team preparing for that competition.

I sincerely hope the school continues to organize such events in every term, perhaps even in other areas like debates, creative writing, or science challenges. These activities play a significant role in enhancing students' overall development.

Thank you once again for your effort in making learning so enjoyable.

P.S. Children are eagerly waiting for their prize.

Best regards,

Aneela Syed

BEST READER AWARD



Alya Tarek Y8GD

BEST CLASS AWARD (READING)



Y8GD

Secondary Section News; English Dept. Character Day Awardees!





Secondary Section News; Secondary Library Winners!

LIBRARY QUIZ COMPETITION WINNERS



HORY LASTAL VIOLE HORY REICKO AHOR HERY ROCK AWAY ANTHRO ASIM YZGH HERT CANE WILLIAM

PRIZE - 8QF3 SERVICES PARKADOUS EMPERIPHENING BEST HIPPAC CAPPAULE OHIAR ENGLY786 EVED EHLIKYYSE BETY HENDLE GARMAGE



WSS Secondary Library

Quiz Competition

WSS Secondary Library

Quiz Competition



PRIZE - GIRLS

ANNA HAGHEM YING SWAN-HANGURAN-HANG PRILAXALAA YRQF PARAMPENANTOYIGE SPEDAZIMAL Y70F PROJECT PROPERTY OF THE

2⁸⁰ P9028 - BOYS MIRK KRACI CIRCAN OWLOSINANDER WERH SPECI PERENDA Y78H OMAR HESHAMY76H

> COST CIPTA MAME CORY CIRMAN ARCIS CORY ENGINERAL VIOLE LARA DIAA YERO ODTY CHANGO APPROXY PRINTA NAVIGA LAL Y750

VICE EN MO-WIND Y/NO AZFRAALI YEBO CBSY SIMNE CRYPWICE! HAVEZ BITSANT YIELD PROHIBPESSOURIMAN Y750 JOSEPH FIRMZ Y76D







Secondary Section News; Flameless Cooking Winners!

'KS3 CHEFS, FUELED BY FAMILY' WINNERS OF FLAMELESS COOKING





Omar Imad,1st Prize (KS3 Boys) Y8BD



Hana Ahmed, 2nd Prize (KS3 Girls) Y8GH



Fathima Aaqifa,1st Prize (KS3 Girls) Y8GD



Aleen Fatima,3rd Prize (KS3 Girls) Y8GH

Secondary Section News; Fibonacci Day!



Secondary Section News; Fibonacci Day!

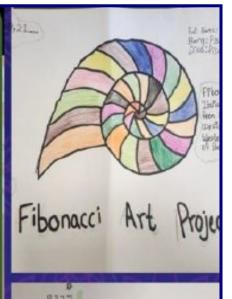


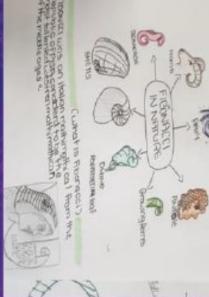
Secondary Section News; Fibonacci Day!



Fibonacci day
celebration in class
highlighted the
beauty of the
Fibonacci sequence
through engaging
activities creating
projects and
exploring its real
world applications









Secondary Section News; Secondary Library News!

SECONDARY LIBRARY NEWS



CE 845 STATE AND THE PROPERTY SHE PROPERTY S

Celina Haytham Y7GS successfully completed Five Book reviews during Term 1.

BEST READER OF TERM 1
ALYA TAREK -Y8GD

BEST READING CLASS AWARD BOYS - Y8BF





BEST READING CLASS AWARD GIRLS -Y8GD

Secondary Section News; KS3 Learning Activities!

KS3 students celebrated UAE National Day with hands-on micro-bit coding activities.



Teacher Incharge: Ms Seema Altaf

As part of our Eid AL Etihad 53 UAE by coding with "Hour of Code" to create digital representations of the UAE flag.

Students also created exciting projects with micro:bit.



Teacher Incharge: Ms. Seema Altaf

Secondary Section News; KS3 Learning Activities!

National Day celebration in class fostered patriotism and unity through cultural performances, inspiring speeches and activities highlighting the nation's history and achievements. 77 Boys White Peace and Horasty

Secondary Section News; KS3 (Y8) Learning Activities!

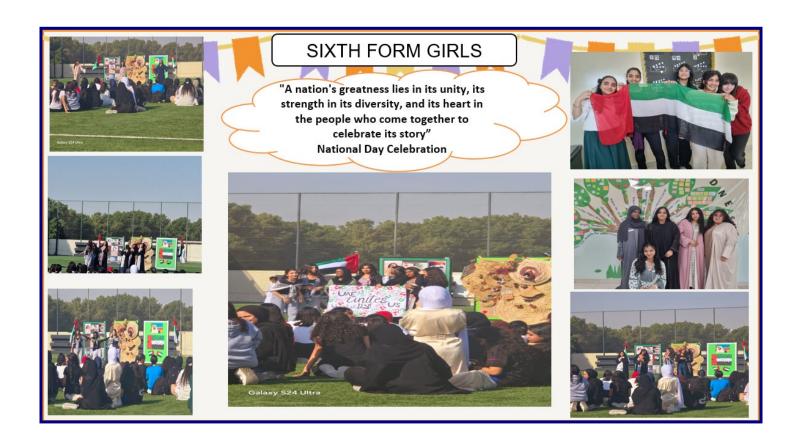








Secondary Section News; KS5 Learning & Leadership!





Secondary Section News; KS5 Learning & Leadership!

KS5 NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION (BOYS)





On 26th November, the KS5 boys enthusiastically celebrated the 53rd Eid Al-Etihad.

This event was a meaningful tribute to the nation's unity and a memorable opportunity for the students to honor the UAE's rich heritage and achievements.









