

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #18
15th January, 2026



**Message from the
Principal/CEO
Ms. Valerie Thompson**

Dear WSS Parents,

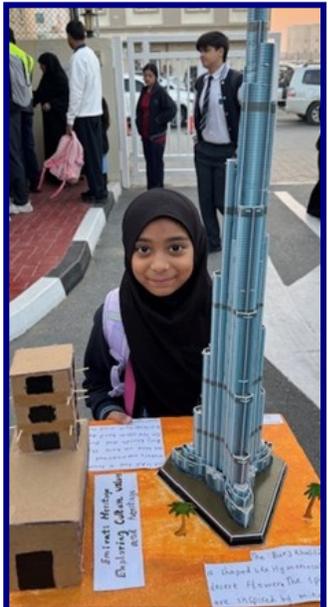
T2 School Fees

Huge thanks to all most of our parents who have cleared T2 school fees, enabling WSS to ensure smooth school operations & the payment of our teachers' salaries on time. If your child's fees are still pending, please clear at the earliest. Many thanks.



Dates for Your Diary	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Details</i>
Monday 5/1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day of Term 2. • T2 Fees due, thank you.
Saturday 17/1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Cashier open 8am-1pm for convenient fee payment. Please clear T2 fees, if not already done, thank you.
Monday 26/1/26 to Friday 13/2/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEMS Parent Survey. Kindly complete to have your voice! Your positive, constructive teamwork is much appreciated.
Saturday 31/1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSS Family First Carnival, 10am-2pm. (all WSS families invited) • Entrance fee AED5/- pp, including 2 free games tickets (Ts&Cs)
Monday 16/3/26 to Sunday 22/3/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break • T3 Fees due by latest Monday 23/3/26. Thank you.

Thank you to all our hundreds of dear parents who attended PTM on 15/1/26. We very much appreciate the positive teamwork & productive engagement. Together we can do so much!



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم 18
15 يناير 2026



رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

رسوم مدرسة T2

نتقدم بجزيل الشكر لجميع أولياء
الأمر الذين سددوا رسوم المدرسة
T2، مما مكن WSS من ضمان
سير العمليات المدرسية بسلاسة
ودفع رواتب المعلمين في الوقت
المحدد. إذا كانت رسوم طفلك لا تزال
معلقة، فيرجى تسديدها في أقرب
وقت ممكن. شكراً جزيلاً.

المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الاثنين 5/1/26	اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الثاني (T2). رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثاني مستحقة، شكراً لكم.
السبت 17/1/26	يفتح مكتب المحاسبة بالمدرسة من الساعة 8 صباحاً حتى 1 ظهراً لتسهيل عملية دفع الرسوم. يرجى تسديد رسوم T2، إن لم تكن قد قمت بالدفع، شكراً لك.
من الاثنين 26/1/26 إلى الجمعة 13/2/26	استطلاع رأي أولياء أمور طلاب مدارس جيمس. يرجى إكمال النموذج لإسماع صوتك! نقدر كثيراً تعاونكم الإيجابي والبناء كفريق عمل.
السبت 31/1/2026	كرنفال عائلة WSS أولاً، من الساعة 10 صباحاً حتى 2 ظهراً. (جميع عائلات WSS مدعوة) رسوم المخول 5 درهم إماراتي للشخص الواحد، وتشمل تذكرتي العاب مجايبتين (تطبيق الشروط والأحكام).
من الاثنين 16/3/26 إلى الأحد 22/3/26	عطلة الربيع رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثالث مستحقة الدفع في موعد أقصاه يوم الاثنين 23/3/2026. شكراً لكم.



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

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Parent Handbook Access QR


 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 to our Y13 Student Leader for addressing the KS3 Boys' Assembly on the benefits of reading to strengthen the mind & broaden horizons!

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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WS



FAMILY FIRST

WSS Family First Carnival

Thrilling Challenges
Grand Adventures
Dazzling Luxury
Live Entertainment
Remarkable
Showcases



 Saturday 31st Jan 2026
 10:00am - 2:00 pm
 WSS

Whole School News; Family First Activity - Reflection & Digital Footprint

January Activation: Reflection and Digital Footprint

**It's the start of a new year.
With every new beginning, there should be
time to reflect
and set new goals or resolutions.**

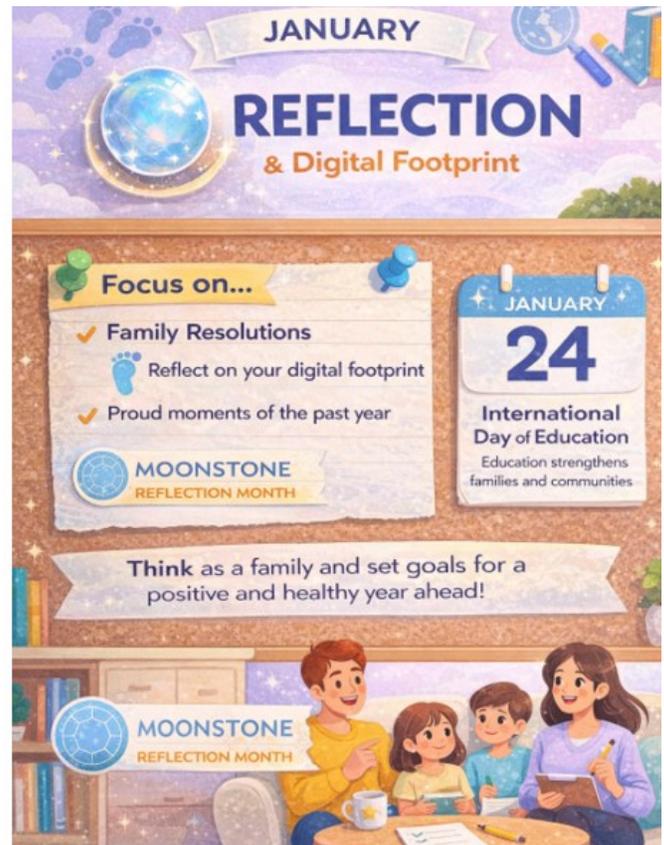
Join in as a family to set your goals!

**Please share this with your students and encourage them to join in!
Using the following hashtags.**

**#GEMFamilyFirst #GEMSEducation
#GEMWinchesterschooldubai
#GEMStones**

Or

Come into school and pin your resolution to the Family First Tree!



Find our Family First Tree in Reception, with examples of your submitted items

Whole School News; Staff CPD!



Our dynamic Learning Coach Ms. Christine led an interactive session for all teachers as a refresher to TLAG, on 13/1/26.



On 14/1/26, the Principal attended a SPEA Community Hub Schools initiative meeting, along with other SPC (Sharjah Principals' Council) members. SPEA is inviting community providers to link with schools to offer extra-curricula activity programmes to promote students' life skills.

The Principal Ms. Valerie attended the GCS LAB on 15/1/26 as a LAB member. The LAB team acts as a 'critical friend' supporting ongoing school development & holding the school accountable for raising standards. GCS Principal & SVP Ms. Ranju is a WSS LAB member.



On 14/1/26 our dedicated Head of Inclusion Ms. Rema & Guidance Counselor Ms. Anisha attended a workshop on GEMS Leadership GEMStones character development Playbook, to be introduced across all GEMS schools shortly.



Whole School News; This Week's Leadership GEMStone!

JANUARY – WEEK 3
LEADING WITH REFLECTION

MOONSTONE:

Encourages deep thinking and setting meaningful goals for growth.

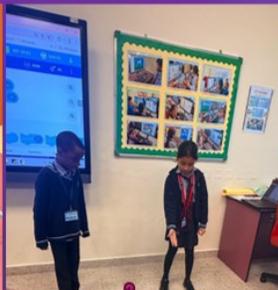
Reflecting on how others feel helps you understand your impact.

MESSAGE: Empathy in leadership is not about providing all the answers or solutions. It is about offering presence, understanding and emotional support. When we walk alongside those we lead, we validate their experiences and make them feel seen and heard. This approach builds trust, fosters psychological safety and strengthens relationships.

REFLECT: Am I creating a culture where people feel safe sharing their challenges? How can I be fully present to truly hear and understand the needs of those I lead?

Week 2 ECA Report!

Term 2
ECA
WEEK 2



AI & Robotics



Art/Design



Football



Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

SEED BOMB WORKSHOP



THE ECO CLUB BROUGHT SUSTAINABILITY TO LIFE WITH A LIVELY SEED BOMB WORKSHOP FOR KS3 STUDENTS. TURNING SIMPLE, NATURAL MATERIALS INTO TOOLS FOR CHANGE, STUDENTS LEARNED HOW SEED BOMBS CAN REVIVE BARREN SPACES AND SUPPORT LOCAL BIODIVERSITY. THE SESSION BLENDED CREATIVITY WITH PURPOSE AS PARTICIPANTS SHAPED, ROLLED, AND IMAGINED WHERE THEIR SEED BOMBS COULD ONE DAY BLOOM. MORE THAN JUST A WORKSHOP, IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE THAT PLANTED IDEAS OF HOPE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION IN YOUNG MINDS



Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Whole School News; Parent Voice—'You Said... We Did!'



You Said,

Many parents requested for involvement in the evaluation and feedback process.



Thank you to our WSS (FS) parents for joining us for the Reading Adventure and for giving your valuable feedback about the experience.

We Did,

WSS Junior Section invited parents to participate in free-flow reading activities, allowing them to observe their child's progress and share valuable feedback.

Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



The value of teamwork and a culture of excellence at WSS



Panel 1:

- Teacher: "The value of Teamwork" and "A culture of excellence"
- Student: "Hi Ahmed! I have noticed great improvement in both your academics and behaviour this year. I am very proud of you and truly appreciate all the effort you have put in. Keep it up!"
- Teacher: "Yes, teacher! I do agree with you. WSS is one of the best schools. My teachers here are very supportive and they are doing their job up to the highest standard so that the students achieve quality education."

Panel 2:

- Teacher: "The value of teamwork" and "A culture of excellence"
- Student: "With regards to quality education, WSS management and teachers ensure that each child is provided with care and bring out the best of them. We believe that we are preparing all the students to become the future professionals of our society."
- Teacher: "As a student, I am so thankful to WSS for the opportunities that we have throughout this year. We learnt a lot. We were honed with talents and skills through teamwork and characteristics that we need to possess as a better version of ourselves."

Panel 3:

- Teacher: "You are right! At WSS, our vision is, Excellence through teamwork; success for all. We feel that everyone here is valued with meaningful experiences of learning and a culture of excellence. This is the home of the champions!"
- Student: "Thanks for the good time to share my thoughts and feelings, teacher! I am so proud that I am here at WSS."

SPORTS DAY SPIRIT

Panel 1:

- Teacher: "We all will be cheering loudly for you. Just try your best and more importantly, have fun!"
- Student: "Sheena, hurry up or you'll be late for the sports day!"

Panel 2:

- Teacher: "Remember students, more than just the races and results, sports day is about having the spirit of sportsmanship -encouragement, healthy competition, and bonding."

Panel 3:

- Teacher: "In class, after the sports day"
- Teacher: "Fantastic perspectives everyone! I'm glad you see how sports day allows us to challenge ourselves and teaches skills beyond text book learning."
- Student: "It's also about learning skills like coordination."
- Student: "I felt great cheering everyone even though I didn't win."

Happy Birthdays!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms Mariam,

Thank you so much for your email and amazing support to my little Saif.

I wanted as well to take a moment to sincerely thank you for the wonderful care, dedication, and kindness you show Saif every day together with the assistant. (I really do apology I forgot her name)

Saif absolutely loves you and looks forward to coming to school, which truly speaks volumes about the warm and nurturing environment you create in your classroom. As parents, it brings us great comfort and happiness to see how much he enjoys school and how positively he is growing under your guidance.

We are extremely satisfied and grateful for all that you do. Thank you for being such an inspiring and caring teacher.

Regards,
Sana



Y2 Assembly Choir, 15/1/26

Sheikh Zayed Painting Competition Winners



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



ECA Sustainability Project Champions!



Class Champions!

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Junior Section News; Celebrating Isra Wal Mi'raj!

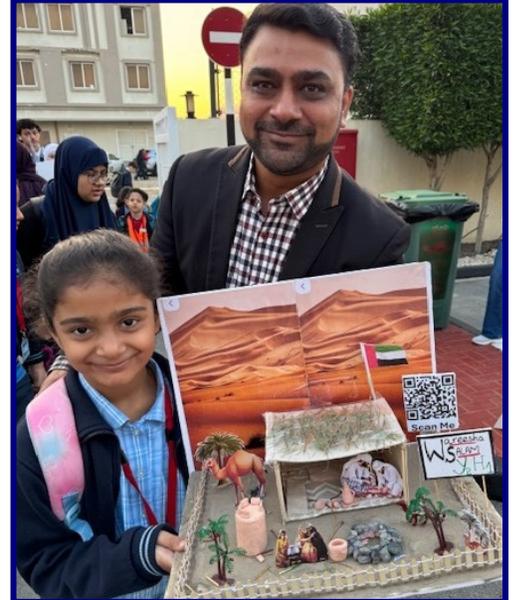
Celebrating Isrā' wal Mi'raj – JS Students' Activities



Junior Section News; Wonderful Winter Break Projects!



Junior Section News; Wonderful Winter Break Projects!



Junior Section News; Wonderful Winter Break Projects!



Junior Section News; Wonderful Winter Break Projects!



*Junior Section News: Assembly Time with Y2D2 (Resilience),
15/1/26!*



Y2D2 presented an excellent Assembly on Resilience. We learnt that a resilient mindset comes from trying again & again, & never giving up. Super job!



Junior Section News: Y1D Learning Activities!

Y1 D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna



We filled our first marble jar in Term 2! 🥰



Home learning

Special Stickers from Ms. Shamail and M



Phonics lesson



Y1 D2 WITH MS. ANEEZA AND MS. GURPREET



Pizza party fun



Happy Birthday



Junior Section News: Y1H Learning Activities!

Y1 H1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadia



Y1 H2 with Ms. Kishwar and Ms. Maryam



Junior Section News: Y1S Learning Activities!

Y1 S1 with Ms. Rajina and Ms. Mani



Y1 S2 with Ms. Sadiqa and Ms. Asma



Junior Section News: Y1F & Y2S1 Learning Activities!

Y1F with Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Foumy



Y2S1 with Ms. Safia and Ms. Catherin



Junior Section News: Y2D1 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H2 Field Trip To The Crocodile Park

“Exploring the fascinating world of reptiles—learning beyond the classroom.”



“Discovering how crocodiles survive, adapt, and thrive in their habitats.”



Junior Section News: Y2S2 Learning Activities!

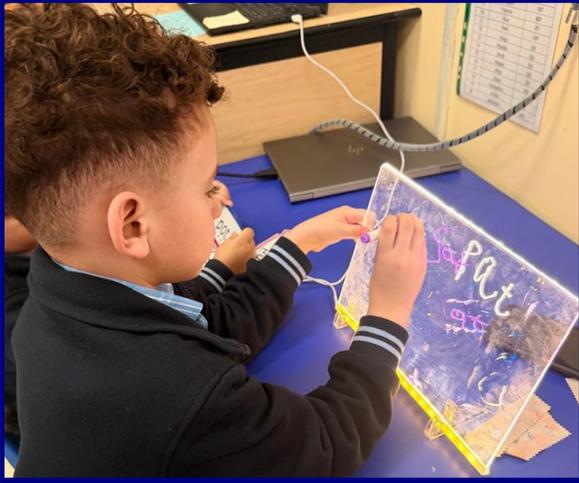
Y2S2-Learning Habitat @ OLA with Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil



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



Junior Section News; Learning Activities!



Fun writing on Glow Boards!



Thank you to the teachers & students for sharing the very cute Sports Day Invitation with us. We are looking forward to it!



WSS Primary Section Y6 Superstar Champions!



Y6 Class Champion
of the Week, Reading
& Be a GEM Cham-
pions



Primary Section News; Celebrating Isra Wal Mi'raj!



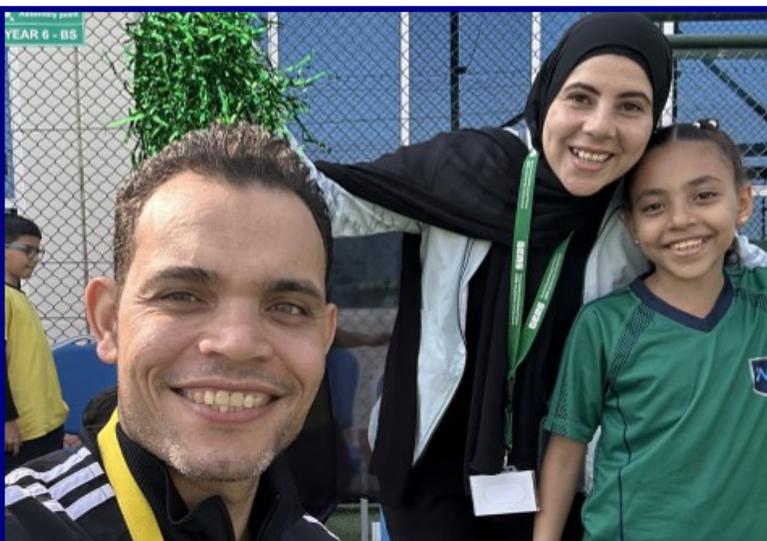
*Primary Section News; Sports Days -
Year 5, Monday 12/1/26!*



*Primary Section News; Sports Days -
Year 5, Monday 12/1/26!*



Primary Section News; Sports Days!



*Primary Section News; Sports Days -
Year 4, Tuesday 13/1/26!*



*Primary Section News; Sports Days -
Year 4, Tuesday 13/1/26!*



*Primary Section News; Sports Days -
Year 3, Wednesday 1341/26!*



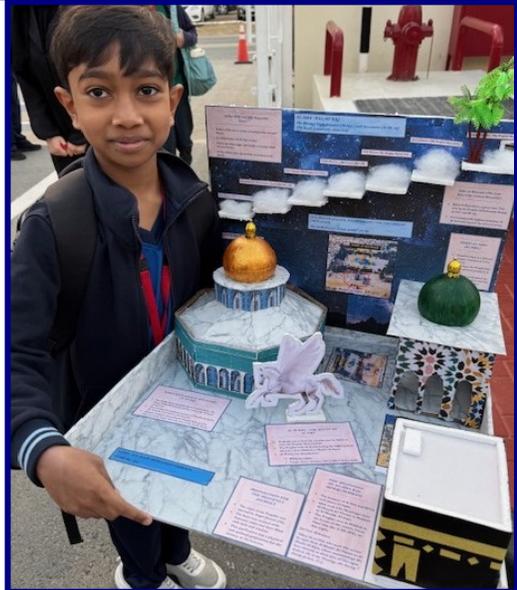
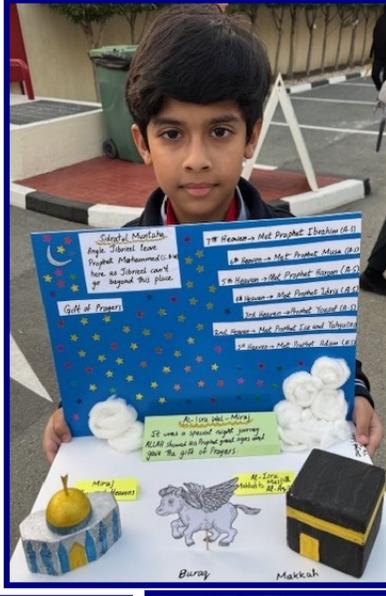
*Primary Section News; Sports Days -
Year 3, Wednesday 13/4/26!*



*Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y6GF, 14/1/25,
Be a GEM—Making the Most of Your Time!*



Primary Section News; Inspiring Islamic Projects!



Primary Section News; Y4 Learning Activities!



Y4D1 students enjoyed an exciting Sports Day, showing great teamwork, energy, and sportsmanship, followed by a hands-on STEAM activity that encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration across subjects.



Year 4 F1 - Science Exploring evaporation in action! Students observed a teacher-led demonstration to analyse how temperature affects the rate of evaporation, making predictions and discussing how heat speeds up the process.



Y4 S1

Year 4 H1 - Maths Hands-on learning in action! Y4H1 students explored how to read clock hands through an engaging practical activity, building confidence in telling the time accurately.



Y4 S2 "From science to poetry—Year 4 students engage in fun, interactive activities on the digestive system, Haiku, and the water cycle.

Primary Section News; Y5 STEAM Learning Activities!



STEAM empowers students to question, design, create, and innovate by blending science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics to solve real-world problems collaboratively and creatively.



Primary Section News; Y5 STEAM Learning Activities!



**Y5 STEAM
LESSON**

**Develop resilience,
innovation, and a
growth mindset.**



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



KS# Girls 'Be A GEM' Superstar Champions



KS3 Boys' 'Be A GEM' Superstar Champions

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



KS3 Boys' 'Be A GEM' Superstar Champions, having earned an impressive 200 BAG points!

*Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y8GD, 12/1/26
(Fear or Faith?)!*



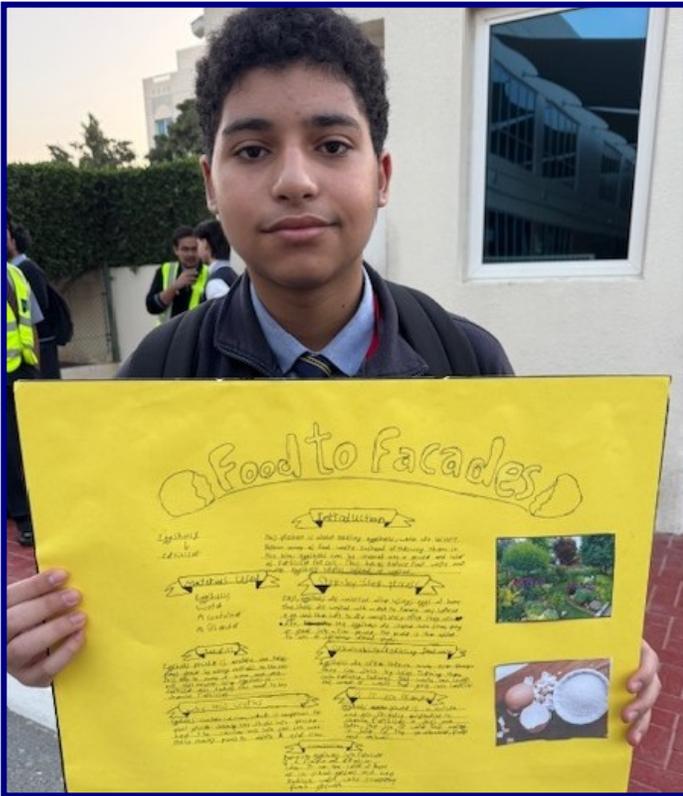
*Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y8GD, 12/1/26
(Fear or Faith?)!*



*Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y8BS, 13/1/26
(Reading Expands the Mind)!*



Secondary Section News; Learning Projects!



Students' creative project for the GEMS innovation SPARK Competition. Their project centers around a financial theme park.



An interesting hydroponics project.

Secondary Section News; KS5 PTM!

KS5 PTM Day 🍌

Working together to support student progress.

