

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #22  
12th February, 2026



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

Dear WSS Parents,

As we approach the holy month of Ramadan next week, we would like to wish our families every blessing & Ramadan Kareem. It is a time for peace, care, kindness & reflection for all of us, as we come together to respect this very special

time of the year. The WSS family is here to support your child in their character development journey, so do let us know if your child has any special individual needs. Please ensure that they continue arrive on time by 7:15am in smart school uniform with ID, tie/scarf etc. Thank you.



## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Monday 26/1/26 to Friday 20/2/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>GEMS Parent Survey.</b> Kindly complete to have your voice! Your positive, constructive teamwork is much appreciated.</li> </ul>
Week of 16/2/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ramadan</b> starts (possibly Wed. 18/2 or Thurs. 19/2. Exact date TBC).</li> <li>Ramadan timings <b>7:15am-12:20pm</b></li> </ul>
Monday 16/2/26 to Sunday 5/4/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Re-enrolment facility for seats for Sept. 26-27 opens, subject to no pending T2 fees or behaviour blocks/On Probation.</li> <li>We are unable to hold un-booked/unpaid seats beyond 5/4/26, which would then have to be given to the Waiting List. Seats are limited, so to avoid inconvenience &amp; upset, do please re-enroll/pay within the deadline. Thank you.</li> </ul>
Monday 16/3/26 to Sunday 22/3/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Spring Break</b></li> <li>T3 Fees due by latest Monday 23/3/26. Thank you.</li> </ul>
Thursday 26/3/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Whole school T2 Report Card PTM, 8am-3:30pm.</b> Time slots will be available to book in advance online. Arrangement details TBC</li> </ul>



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

# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم 22  
12 فبراير 2026



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي  
السيدة قاتيري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر  
الشارقة الأعزاء،

مع اقترابنا من شهر رمضان المبارك  
الأسبوع المقبل، نتمنى لعائلاتنا كل  
التوفيق والبركة، ورمضان كريم. إنه  
وقت للسلام والرعاية والطف والتأمل  
لنا جميعاً، حيث نجتمع معاً لتحترم هذا  
الوقت المميز جداً من السنة. عائلة  
WSS موجودة هنا لدعم طفلك في رحلة  
تنمية شخصيته، لذا يرجى إخبارنا إذا  
كان لدى طفلك أي احتياجات فردية  
خاصة. يرجى التأكد من استمرار

وصولهم في الوقت المحدد بطول الساعة 7:15 صباحاً مرتين الذي  
المدرسي الأتيق مع بطاقة الهوية وربطة العنق/الوشاح وما إلى ذلك.  
شكراً لكم.

## المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
من الاثنين 26/1/26 إلى الجمعة 13/2/26	• استبيان أولياء أمور طلاب مدارس جيمس. يرجى تعبئته لإبداء رأيك! نقدر كثيراً تعاونكم الإيجابي والبناء كفريق عمل.
أسبوع 16/2/26	• يبدأ شهر رمضان (ريما يوم الأربعاء 18/2 أو الخميس 19/2. التاريخ المحدد غير مؤكد).
من الاثنين 16/2/26 إلى الأحد 5/4/26	• سيتم فتح مرفق إعادة التسجيل للمقاعد للفترة من 26 إلى 27 سبتمبر، بشرط عدم وجود رسوم T2 معلقة أو عقوبات سلوكية / "تحت المراقبة". • لا يمكننا الاحتفاظ بالمقاعد غير المحجوزة/غير المدفوعة بعد تاريخ 5/4/26، والتي سيتم منحها بعد ذلك لقائمة الانتظار. لتجنب أي إزعاج أو استياء، يرجى إعادة التسجيل/الدفع قبل الموعد النهائي. شكراً لكم.
من الاثنين 16/3/26 إلى الأحد 22/3/26	• عطلة الربيع • رسوم T3 مستحقة الدفع في موعد أقصاه يوم الاثنين 23/3/2026. شكراً لكم.
الخميس 26/3/26	• اجتماع أولياء الأمور والمعلمين لتقرير المدرسة بالكامل (الفصل الدراسي الثاني)، من الساعة 8 صباحاً حتى 3:30 مساءً. ستوفر مواعيد الحجز المسبق عبر الإنترنت. سيتم الإعلان عن تفاصيل الترتيبات لاحقاً.



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

# Contents

*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 Omer (Y1D1) for your act of kindness.

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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26-29 30 31 32-34 35 36-38 39-42	<b>Primary Section News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Section Superstar Champions (Choir Fest Competition Finalists, GCS Pandora Box Challenge winners, swimming champion, BAG Champions)</li> <li>Family First Classroom Reading Activity</li> <li>Family First Healthy Cooking Activity</li> <li>Y5 Concert; The Time Machine Adventure</li> <li>Y3-5 Read Like a GEM Drama Assembly by Teachers, 11/2/26</li> <li>Y3 Learning Activities</li> <li>Y4 Learning Activities</li> </ul>
43-46 47 48-50 51-54 54 55-56 57-60 61-62 63-64 65-66 67-68 69 70-71	<b>Secondary Section News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary Section Superstar Champions (RLAG Champions, GFS Cop 30 Runner-up Celino, Y13 got a Special Mention in the AUS Physics Open Day Project Competition, KS5 Superhero Form Tutors, BAG Champions)</li> <li>Family First KS5 Parenting Tips</li> <li>KS3 Ramadan Assembly, 9/2/26</li> <li>Boys' Sports Day, 10/2/26</li> <li>Creativity in Action</li> <li>Girls' Sports Day, 11/2/26</li> <li>Read Like a GEM (RLAG) World Read Aloud Day</li> <li>KS3 Women in Science Poster Competition</li> <li>KS4 Learning Activities ('Be a GEM' Routines, Wellbeing Stress Reset Session)</li> <li>Rocket Launch Competition, 9/2/26, with 'Be Curious; LAB of FUTURE'</li> <li>KS5 Boys Skills Fair, 9/2/26</li> <li>Women in Science Guest Speaker</li> <li>KS5 Leadership &amp; Learning (Sixth Form Options Meeting, 12/2/26, WSS Inter-School Cyber Olympia)</li> </ul>

## *Whole School News; Safeguarding Alert!*



### HAZARD ALERT Button batteries



#### What are button batteries?

Also known as coin batteries, these are small, round batteries commonly found in many everyday items such as toys, small torches, flashing shoes, musical greeting cards, watches, calculators, remote-controlled toys, and light-up accessories.

Due to their size and shiny appearance, young children may mistake them for coins or sweets and place them in their mouth.

#### What happens if swallowed?

If a button battery is swallowed, it can cause severe internal injury very quickly. When the battery encounters saliva, it creates an electrical current that produces a strong alkaline chemical, resulting in serious chemical burns inside the body, particularly the oesophagus.

Serious damage can happen in as little as two hours, even if the battery appears used or no longer working.

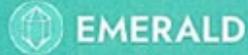
# Whole School News; The WSS Local Advisory Body (LAB), 2025-2026!

	<b>WSS Local Advisory Body (LAB)</b>		<b>Academic Year: 2025-2026</b>  <i>Updated: 11/2/26</i>
			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms. Ranju Anand</b> Senior Vice President Schools Focus on PS1 &amp; PS6; Achievement &amp; Leadership</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mr. Carl Roberts</b> Principal/CEO TWS &amp; Brand Ambassador Focus on PS4; Curriculum</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms. Valerie Thompson</b> WSS Principal/CEO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms. Christine McDermott</b> WSS Learning Coach (LC) Focus on PS3; Teaching &amp; Assessment</p>
			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms. Aiysha Khan</b> WSS Parent Relations Executive (PRE) Focus on PS6.3; Partnerships with Parents &amp; Community</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mr. Ajit Moorkoth</b> Focus on <u>PS5</u>; Protection, Care, Guidance &amp; Support</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms. Manal Thani</b> WSS Parent Rep. Focus on PS2; Students’ Personal &amp; Social Development &amp; Innovation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dr Mai</b> WSS Parent Rep. Focus on PS2; Students’ Personal &amp; Social Development &amp; Innovation</p>
	<p>The Local Advisory Body (LAB) works closely with the Principal &amp; wider WSS leadership team as a ‘Critical Friend’, as one part of the schools governance system. LAB meets Termly to observe lessons, engage with our 360* workshops, review progress with the school’s Excellence Plan &amp; to share ideas for development. Each LAB member oversees an Inspection framework Performance Standard &amp; holds the school Principal accountable, through focused questioning, for continuous improvement.</p> <p>We would like to thank our dedicated LAB members for their regular attendance of meetings &amp; positive engagement with school. We would also like to welcome our newest LAB member Dr. Mai, an enthusiastic &amp; proactive FOW member, Carnival Committee star &amp; Parent Rep.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms. Sera (MSO)</b> Focus on PS5: Protection, Care, Guidance &amp; Support</p>			

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

FEBRUARY – WEEK 7

## LEADING WITH COMPASSION



EMERALD

Inspires kindness, understanding and care toward others.

“ Listening is just as important  
as speaking. ”

**MESSAGE:** Listening deeply allows others to feel seen and heard. When we truly listen, we validate the experiences and emotions of those around us, fostering a sense of belonging and trust. Deep listening is an act of empathy that goes beyond hearing words; it involves understanding the underlying feelings and perspectives. By creating a safe space for open and honest communication, we empower others to share their struggles and insights without fear of judgment.

**REFLECT:** How can I improve my listening skills?

WS

## You Said,

Primary section parents requested the Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) programme (Art, Robotics, Sports) to continue in Term 2.



## We Did,

WSS arranged for the programme to continue and it has been a huge success, with students actively learning, developing new skills, and growing through these enriching experiences.

*Parent Voice; ‘You Said... We Did...’!*

## *Whole School News; Staff CPD!*



Primary Librarian Ms. Sarah attended a ‘Read Like a GEM’ (RLAG) networking session on 10/2/26 at GEMS Wellington Silicon Oasis, along with other GEMS Librarians. Ms. Sarah shared “...*It was a compelling event, we had a wonderful interactive session with different school librarians and shared our activities and experiences with the pros and cons and the challenges we as librarians face when it comes to pro-*

Dr. Osama, HOD MOE Subjects, held a training session with the MOE Subjects Department to reinforce the implementation of the ‘Be A GEM’ initiative, ensuring consistency in behavioural and learning expectations across all Sections. The discussion focused on clear communication, accountability, and the effective use of BAG behaviour points to promote positive conduct—particularly regarding punctuality, student transitions, classroom environment, and structured lesson openings.

In addition, preparations for the upcoming TLAG Review (Inspection) visit on 2nd March was reviewed, with emphasis on clearly demonstrating key instructional practices during lessons, especially the You Do phase, the use of Exit Tickets, and ensuring that clear, granular steps are visible throughout all parts of the lesson to reflect strong planning and delivery.



## *WSS Superstar Champions!*



Two of our fortunate Carnival Raffle prize winners received their gold coins on 9/2/26. Congratulations Sultan Aamar & Azaan Kazi! Thank you again to SAMS Shop for sponsoring 5 glittering prizes!

## *Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!*



# Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions; Junior Section Student Leaders Beach Clean-up, 11/2/26!



# Happy Birthdays!



## Whole School News; Week 6 ECA Report!

**Art/Design**

**Term 2**

**WEEK 6** **ECA**

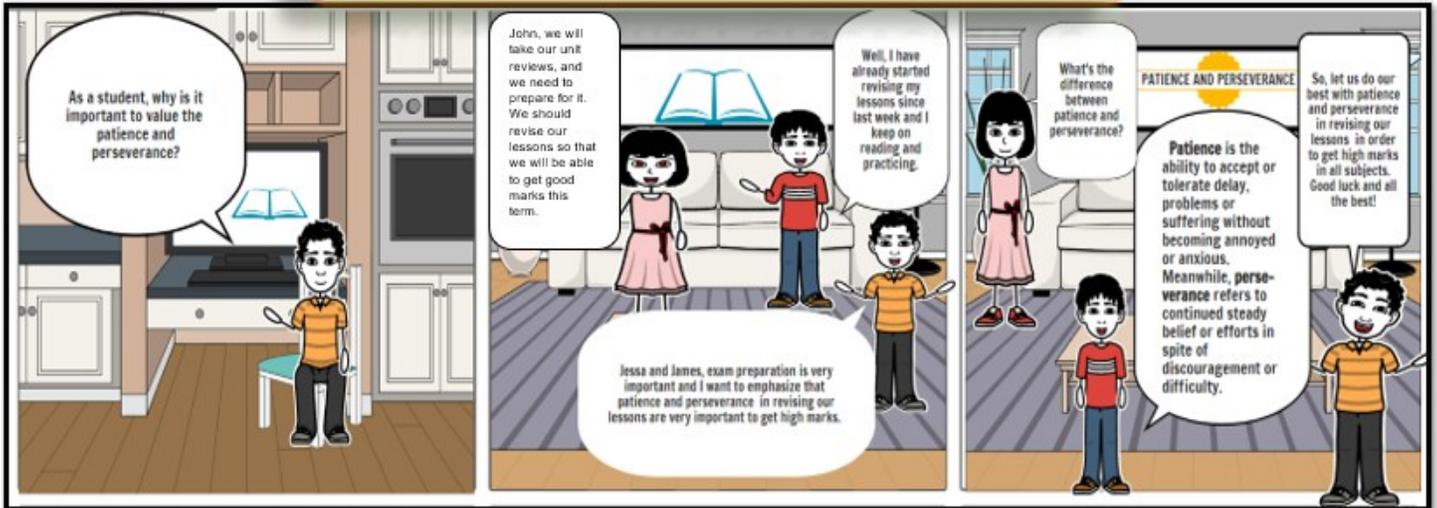
**AI & Robotics**

**Football**

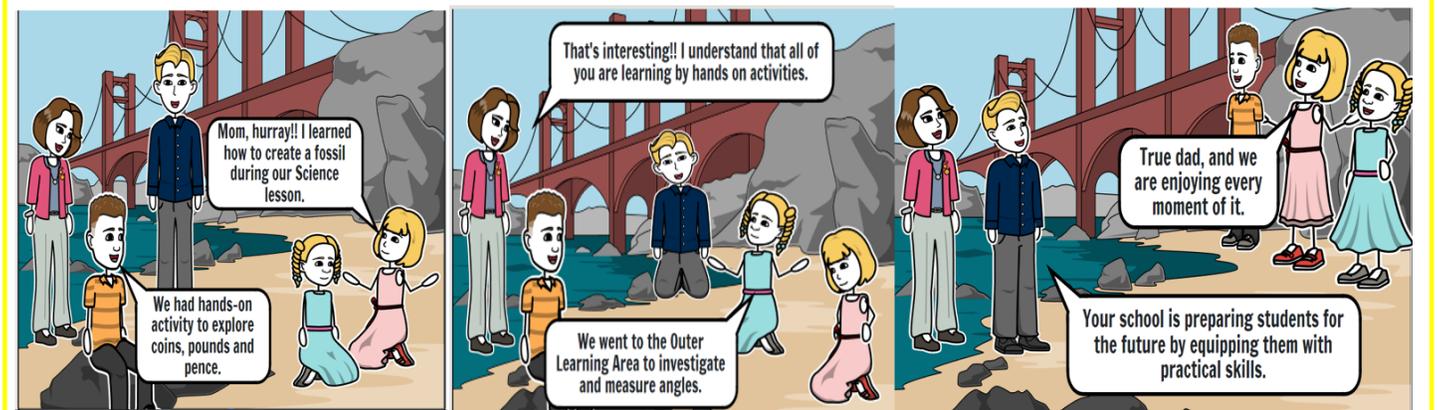
The collage features three main images: 1) Students in a classroom working on art projects at a table. 2) Students in a computer lab working on laptops. 3) Students playing football on an outdoor field. A central graphic contains the text 'Term 2', 'WEEK 6', and 'ECA'.

# Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

## Patience and Perseverance



## Preparing students for their future



## WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



The Junior Assembly Choir, 12/2/26

Dear Ms. Kishwar and Ms. Maryam,

Good evening!

I am overwhelmed with joy and gratitude as I write this email, reflecting on the incredible progress my daughter Crystal has made. As a working mother, I've often felt guilty about not being able to spend enough time with her studies, but I've always knew that with your guidance, she'd thrive.

I'm thrilled to share that Crystal has come a long way! From struggling with speech and writing to becoming a confident and motivated learner, her transformation is nothing short of miraculous. Your patience, dedication, and passion have made all the difference. Seeing her picture on the Gems Leaderboard for completing the Reading Wise module filled my heart with pride and gratitude.

What I admire most is how you've nurtured her curiosity and instilled a love for learning. She's now eager to attend school, and it's all because of the love and care you both shower her with ❤️❤️. Your influence extends beyond academics; you've helped shape her confidence and character.

Thank you, dear Ms. Kishwar and Ms. Maryam, for being an integral part of Crystal's journey. Your selfless dedication and unwavering support mean the world to her and our family. We're so fortunate to have you both in her life!

Warmest regards,  
Keerthy Vijay

*Junior Section News; Assembly Time with FS1H, 12/2/26,  
How to be Brave!*



## *Super Heroes & Super Dads' Day, 12/2/26!*



Dear Teachers and Management,

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire teaching staff and management for organizing such a wonderful Father's Day celebration for the children.

The event was thoughtfully planned and beautifully executed. It was truly heartwarming to see the kids so excited and involved. Creating these special moments not only strengthens the bond between fathers and children but also builds lasting memories for families.

Special thanks for the cards written by kids.

We sincerely appreciate the effort, time, and dedication that went into making this celebration so meaningful. Thank you for always going the extra mile for our children.

Warm regards,  
Mother of Muhammad Umer.  
Y1-D1.

# Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!

## Y1 D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna



## Y1 D2 WITH MS. ANEEZA AND MS. GURPREET



# Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!

## Y1 H1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadiya



## 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 & Y2F Learning Activities!

## Y1F with Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Foumy

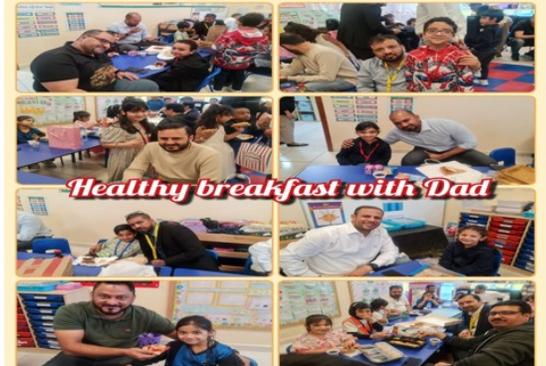


# Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!



# Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!

## MS MILLICENT & MS TAHIRA Y2D2



# Y2H1; Family First Breakfast With Dad, 12/2/26!!



**Breakfast with Dad.**



## Y2H1 with Ms Sarah & Ms Ashika

# *Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!*

**Junior Section: Y2 H2 Ms. Jinitra and Ms. Jameela**

**Learning beyond the classroom.....**



**Exploring, discovering, growing.....**



# Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!

## Y2S1 with Ms. Safia and Ms. Catherin

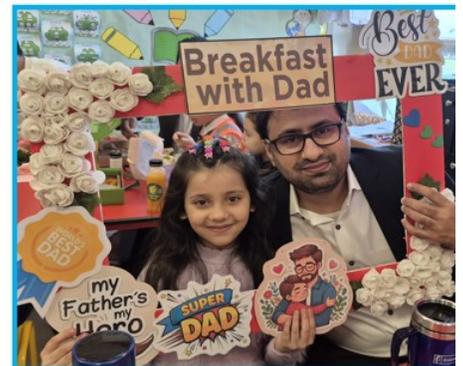


# Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

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



## Y2S2-Breakfast with Dad - Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil



# Junior Section News; Week 6 ECA Report!

Topic : Should Students Have Homework?

**DEBATE CLUB**

Term 2 ECA -Junior Talks Debate Club

Homework or no homework? Year 2 students took on this big question with big voices! Their confidence, teamwork, and thoughtful ideas made for a fantastic debate!



## WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to BRAINOBRain gold medalists Isbah Yasmin (Y6G) & Muh'd Hadi (Y6B)



Congratulations to swimming superstar Mariam Ahmed (Y3H2) who won 2nd prize in a recent swimming

WSS Champions—winners of the GCS Pandora Box Challenge, 12/2/26!



## WSS Primary Section Superstar Choir Champions!



**Congratulations to Mr. Benjamin & our talented Primary Choir who have made it through to the finals of the prestigious Choir Fest Middle East competition held last weekend. They sang a song in Spanish and one in English, which included technically difficult harmony. The final will be held this coming weekend. We wish them every success!**

Dear Mr Ben,

Congratulations to you and the children on progressing to the next round. It is so well deserved, and we are incredibly proud of the entire choir. Thank you so much for all your efforts and the video. It truly means a lot to us as parents to see how thoughtfully you have guided and encouraged the children throughout this journey.

I wanted to share something small but very meaningful from our side. During the month of January, Imaan decided entirely on her own to give up ice cream so she could stay committed and disciplined for choir rehearsals and performances. We strongly feel this growth has been inspired by the values of commitment, teamwork, and perseverance that you have instilled in the children.

We have also seen a noticeable change in her confidence. She is very happy being part of the choir and understands the importance of working together as a team. These are lessons that go far beyond music, and we are truly grateful for that.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your constant encouragement and dedication. Your passion and support have made this experience memorable and impactful for them, and it is sincerely appreciated.

Best Regards,

Femy Aboobacker

## WSS Primary Section Y5 BAG Superstar Champions!

### Y5 Students' Achievements



Congratulations on achieving an amazing number of **BE A GEM** points! You are a fantastic example to everyone—keep up the brilliant work!



Ashmita of Y5D1, Vivaan, and Vihaan of Y5F2 successfully cleared the Round 1 of the KenKen International Championship 2025-UAE Edition.



WSS Y5 Superstar Champions—winners of the GCS Pandora Box Challenge, 12/2/26!

# WSS Primary Section Y6 BAG Superstar Champions!



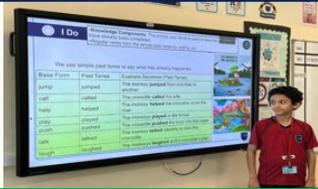
**Y6 GH BE A GEM-Leave as you enter.**



**Y6 GH Lara, Yara and Nia from 6GH with their certificates for Reading Wise completion.**



**Y6 BD Habits of discussion: TLAG**



**Y6 BS Adam explaining the difference between regular verbs and irregular verbs.**



**Y6 BD Art Project by Muhammed Yasa.**



**Well done, Mohammed Faris & Sajid Mohamed! Great spirit at the Kaizen Sports Fest!**

**Well done, Hadi! From Y6 BS has successfully cleared Round 1 of the XI KenKen International Championship 2025 (UAE Edition). A fantastic achievement—keep thinking smart and aiming high!**



**Y6 BD Be A GEM Champions.**

**Y6 GF Be A GEM Champions.**

**Y6 GH Be A GEM Champions.**



**Ibrahim Ammar of Y6BF won the 2nd RAK Taekwondo championship.**



# Primary Section News; Family First Classroom Reading Activity!

Good morning

I hope you are well

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the school administration, and a special thank you to Ms. Tasneem, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to visit the school and share such a meaningful experience with the students.

It was truly an honor to be part of this session and to engage with the students through one of the most beautiful and important topics in life—the nourishment of the soul through reading. Reading is not only a skill, but a gateway to imagination, knowledge, and lifelong learning, and it was a joy to witness the students' enthusiasm and interaction.

Thank you once again for your trust, support, and for creating such enriching opportunities for both parents and students. I truly appreciate this memorable experience.

Warm regards,



# Primary Section News; Family First Healthy Cooking Activity, 12/2/26!



*Primary Section News; Y5 Concert, 12/2/26,  
The Time Machine Adventure!*



*Primary Section News; Y5 Concert, 12/2/26,  
The Time Machine Adventure!*



Y5 presented a truly fabulously entertaining Concert, including drama, dance & story-telling. Dances were creatively choreographed, costumes dazzlingly colourful & lines presented confidently. Well done to the whole Y5 team!



# Primary Section News; Y5 Concert, 12/2/26, The Time Machine Adventure!



I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the wonderful concert.



The teamwork and the teachers' dedication over the past weeks were truly evident. The students' performances were impressive, and the costumes were beautiful and appealing.

It was a delightful event and a treat to watch, we enjoyed it very much.

Looking forward to more such concerts in the future.

Thank you again for all your hard work.

Regards,  
Parents Syed Talha Ahmed Y5S1

**The Primary SLTs and Year 5 team would like to express their sincere gratitude for the success of the 2026 Y5 Concert.**



*Primary Section News; Y3-5 Read Like a GEM (RLAG) Drama  
Assembly by Teachers, 11/2/26!*



Y3-5 Teachers entertained their students with a lively dramatization of 3 stories. Students will be given the online pathway to access & finish the stories independently at home.



# Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities—Trip Time!

Year 3 students had an exciting and educational trip to the Dolphinarium, where they explored marine life and gained a real-world experience.



Y3 S2



Y3 F2



Y3 S1



Y3 D1



Year 3 students embarked on an enriching visit to the Dolphinarium, exploring marine life and deepening their understanding through a meaningful experience.



Y3 F1

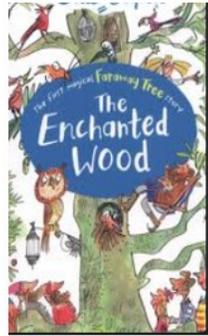


Y3 H1



# Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities—Read Aloud Day with Parents!

Year 3 students enjoyed an engaging Read Aloud session to enhance their listening, comprehension, and reading skills, with strong parental engagement supporting their learning journey.



Year 3 students took part in an interactive Read Aloud session that strengthened their listening, comprehension, and reading skills, with valuable parental engagement enriching the experience.



# Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities!

Y3 S1 students engaged in active learning, exploring concepts through hands-on resources and interactive experiences.



Y3 D1 students enthusiastically explored the concept of friction through engaging hands-on experiments, actively applying and deepening their understanding



# Primary Section News; Y4 Learning Activities—Trip Time!



What a wonderful week for Y4D1! From an exciting trip to the Crocodile Park to a special read-aloud session with parents and teachers, the learning never stopped. The week ended creatively with parents and students designing scenery using recycled materials — teamwork at its best!



Y4D2 had an exciting and memorable learning experience at Dubai Crocodile Park. The students enjoyed observing the crocodiles up close, learning interesting facts about their habitat and behaviour, and exploring the park with great curiosity. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn beyond the classroom while having fun together.



# Primary Section News; Y4 Learning Activities & Trip Time!



**RLAG CHAMPION**



**Reham Javed  
Y4 F2**

Y4F2 Parents and children enjoyed a fun playdough activity, strengthening fine motor skills and creativity together.

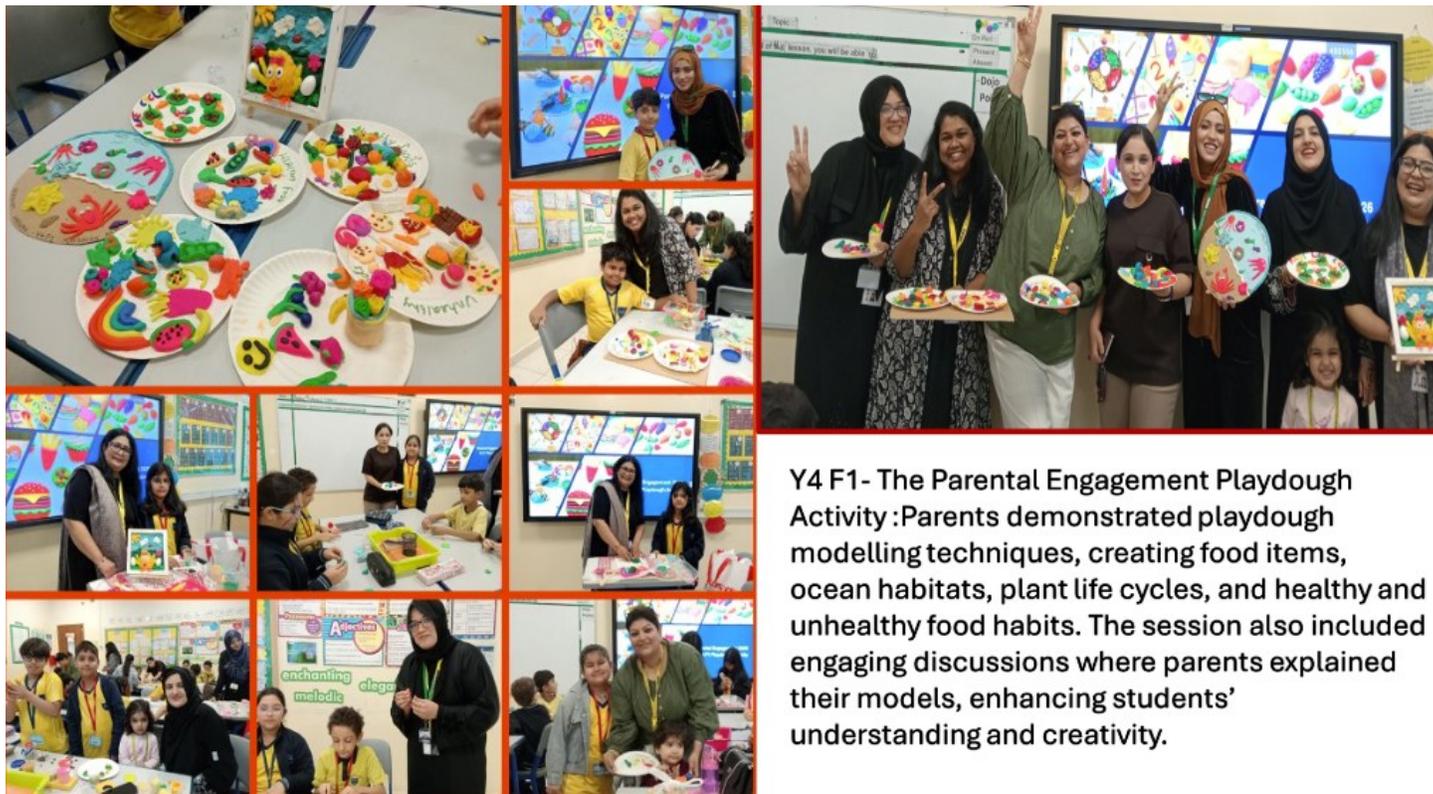
Using geoboards, Y4F2 created rectilinear shapes and learned to find their area by counting the square units.



**Y4 S1 enjoyed a fun filled trip where they learned about the different vertebrates.**



# Primary Section News; Family First Y4 Cooking Activity, 12/2/26!



**Y4 F1- The Parental Engagement Playdough Activity :**Parents demonstrated playdough modelling techniques, creating food items, ocean habitats, plant life cycles, and healthy and unhealthy food habits. The session also included engaging discussions where parents explained their models, enhancing students' understanding and creativity.

## Y4S1- Cooking without Fire, creating memories with love!



# Primary Section News; Family First Y4 Cooking Activity, 12/2/26!

## Y4S2- "Fireless Cooking Fiesta! Parents & Children Crafting Healthy Bites!"



# WSS Secondary Section COP30 Competition Superstar Champion!

## COP30 @GFS

Huge congratulations to Celino Jayasinghe, who won the runner up award for delegates at Cop30 at GFS

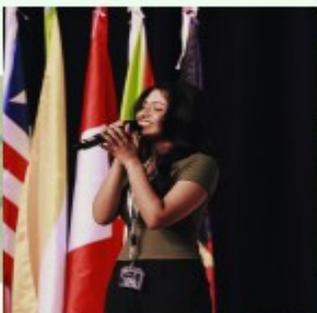
IT WAS A PROUD MOMENT FOR WSS AS CELINO JAYASINGHE OF YEAR 12B WAS AWARDED RUNNER-UP FOR BEST DELEGATE IN HIS COMMITTEE AT COP30@GFS, HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT GEMS FOUNDERS SCHOOL, AL BARSHA.

COP30@GFS PROVIDED AN EXCEPTIONAL PLATFORM FOR YOUNG DELEGATES TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL CLIMATE DISCOURSE, PARTICIPATE IN POLICY NEGOTIATIONS, AND COLLABORATE THROUGH STRUCTURED DIPLOMATIC SESSIONS. THE CONFERENCE ENABLED STUDENTS TO DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING, PUBLIC SPEAKING, AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS WHILE ADDRESSING PRESSING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

SEVEN STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS YEAR GROUPS ENTHUSIASTICALLY REPRESENTED WSS AT THE CONFERENCE:

- RIFAH SADIA – YEAR 12
- GHULAM FAREED – YEAR 13
- CELINO JAYASINGHE – YEAR 12
- RAYYAN AJEBOVICH KHAN – YEAR 10
- GANATALLAH SHADY – YEAR 9
- REIGNAH REJI THOMAS – YEAR 9
- ALEENA BATOOL – YEAR 9

THE CONFERENCE WAS AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. STUDENTS CONFIDENTLY PRESENTED THEIR POSITIONS, ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATES, COLLABORATED ON INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, AND DELIVERED WELL-STRUCTURED RESOLUTIONS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE TOPICS.



*WSS Secondary Section COP30 Competition Superstar Champion!*



**Congratulations to Ms. Basitha & the WSS Physics superstars who achieved a special mention & prize for their presentation at the AUS Physics Open Day Competition on 12/2/26.**



## WSS Secondary Section KS5 Superhero Form Tutors!

### KS5 GEM Form Tutors - Silent Heroes of Our Success



*Our KS5 Form Tutors have been recognised for their consistent pastoral support, high expectations, and commitment to the Be a GEM standards. Their calm leadership and daily impact continue to set the benchmark across Sixth Form.*

*Though your efforts often happen behind the scenes, your impact will always remain with us.*

# WSS Secondary Section RLAG Superstar Champions!



## WSS SECONDARY READERS CHALLENGE 2026



Congratulations to our highest word count champions in Scholastic Reading



Omar Sherif  
4579121 word counts



Abdelrahman Sherif  
3767523 word counts



Mohamed Ahmed  
629908-word counts



Alizeh Nabeel  
1880231 word counts



Sumaiya Umar  
301141 word counts



Hibah Binti  
655563word count



Aatika Asim  
174340 word counts



Sourav Kumer  
473985 word counts



Jonier Alber  
5416341 word counts



Muhammad Umar  
152740 word counts



Zoya Nabeel  
346825 word counts



Celebrating the champions who turn pages into possibilities



## *Family First KS5 Parenting Strategies!*

We actively support our children's learning by monitoring unit reviews, tests, and assessments, discussing mistakes, arranging tuition when needed, and setting academic targets. Regular communication helps them improve performance, build confidence, and develop responsibility toward their studies.

We motivate our children by setting clear academic standards and rewarding achievements with gifts. Positive reinforcement, encouragement, and quality family time help maintain motivation, discipline, and a healthy attitude toward learning and personal growth.



Our biggest challenge is balancing academics with social life and distractions. We manage this by creating structured schedules, limiting screen time, encouraging family activities, and guiding our children to manage time effectively while maintaining emotional well-being.



*Muhammad Hadi  
y13/BD*

*Secondary Section News; KS3 Girls Ramadan Assembly, 9/2/26!*



**The KS3 Islamic Council presented a wonderful Assembly on the importance of making good choices, especially during Ramadan. Self-discipline is an important life skill.**

## *KS3 Boys Ramadan Assembly, 10/2/26!*



**KS3 boys & the Islamic Council presented a special Ramadan Assembly. The recitations were stunning & gave us all reflection focus. We learnt about the importance of smart choices, self-control & positive behaviours. Huge thanks to our parent guest speaker Ms. Omar, who discussed the special importance of family during Ramadan.**



# KS3 Boys Ramadan Assembly, 10/2/26!

This Ramadan, let our actions reflect the GEMS values of respect, responsibility, and compassion.

**KS3 BOYS**



## *Secondary Section News; Boys' Sports Day, 10/2/26!*



**Thank you to the Sports Leaders & PE team for a well-organized & exciting Sports Day. We were treated to ultra-impressive acrobatics, daring 'Human pyramid' moves & an entertaining band performance. All this with minimal loss of learning time & exemplary teamwork & sporting skills-development. Well done!**



*Secondary Section News; Boys' Sports Day, 10/2/26!*



*Secondary Section News; Boys' Sports Day, 10/2/26!*



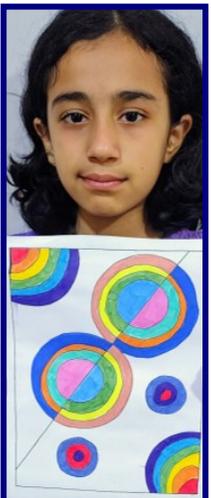
# Secondary Section News; Boys' Sports Day, 10/2/26!

## 🏆 WSS KLS5 Boys Sports Day 2026 – Strength, Spirit & Sportsmanship

WSS proudly presents the KS5 Boys Sports Day 2026, a celebration of energy, teamwork, and determination. This exciting event showcase our young athletes as they compete in a variety of track and field activities, demonstrating resilience, discipline, and true sportsmanship.



# Secondary Section News; Creativity at Work!



*Secondary Section News; Girls' Sports Day, 11/2/26!*



*Secondary Section News; Girls' Sports Day, 11/2/26!*



**KS4: SPORTS DAY**



**KS4 Girls demonstrated exceptional teamwork, determination, and resilience during Sports Day, embracing healthy competition with confidence and outstanding sportsmanship.**

# Secondary Section News; Read Like a GEM (RLAG) World Read Aloud Day!



## WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

OUR STUDENTS TOOK THE LEAD IN CELEBRATING WORLD READ ALOUD DAY. WITH CONFIDENCE AND EXPRESSION, THEY BROUGHT STORIES TO LIFE AND INSPIRED THEIR PEERS THROUGH THE POWER OF READING.



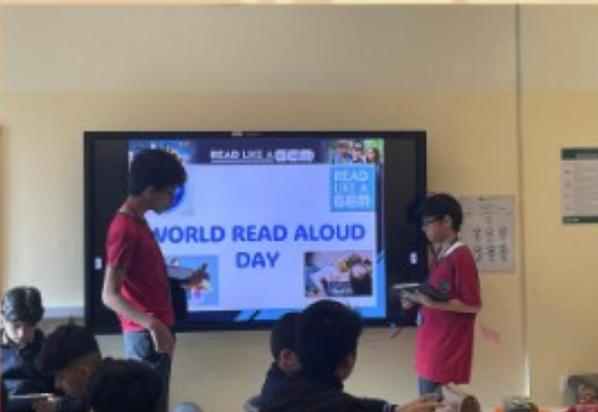
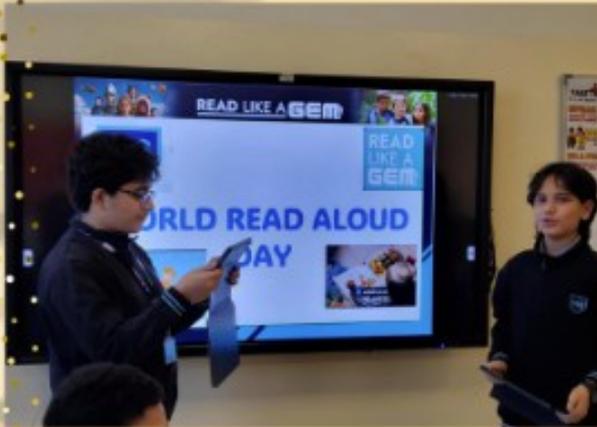
FROM CONFIDENT NARRATION TO THOUGHTFUL LISTENING, OUR STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED THAT READING ALOUD IS A SHARED JOURNEY OF IMAGINATION AND UNDERSTANDING.



THROUGH SHARED STORIES, WE STRENGTHEN VOICES, BUILD CONNECTIONS, AND CELEBRATE THE JOY OF READING TOGETHER.

*Secondary Section News; Read Like a GEM (RLAG) World Read Aloud Day!*

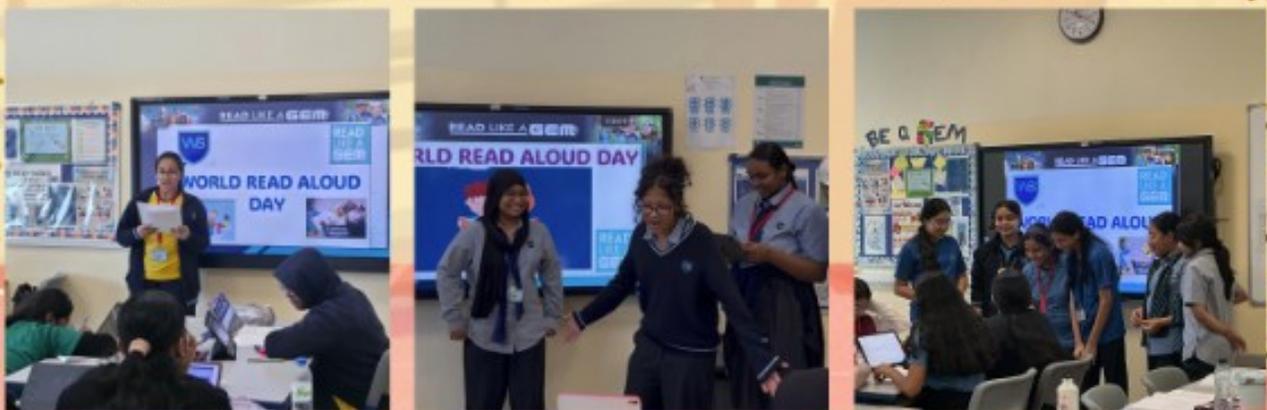
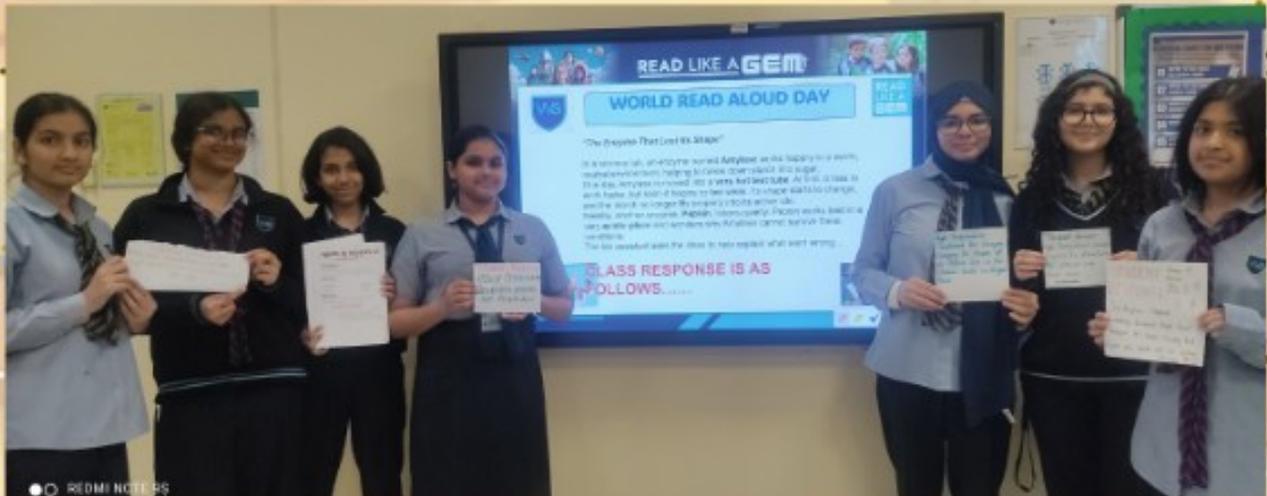
**ACROSS CLASSROOMS AND CULTURES,  
STORIES CONNECT US ALL.**



**WITH POISE AND ENTHUSIASM, OUR STUDENT READERS SHOWCASED HOW  
READING ALOUD NURTURES FLUENCY, EMPATHY AND A GENUINE LOVE OF  
LITERATURE.**

# Secondary Section News; Read Like a GEM (RLAG) World Read Aloud Day!

**ONE STORY, MANY STUDENT VOICES—EACH ADDING DEPTH, PERSPECTIVE AND MEANING TO OUR SHARED CELEBRATION OF READING.**



**THROUGH EXPRESSIVE READING AND ATTENTIVE LISTENING, OUR STUDENTS REMINDED US THAT STORIES ARE BEST EXPERIENCED TOGETHER.**

*Secondary Section News; Read Like a GEM (RLAG) World Read Aloud Day!*

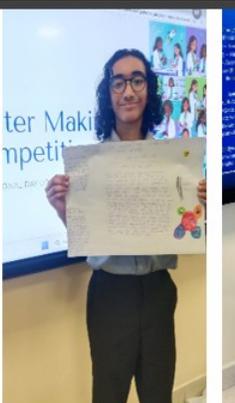
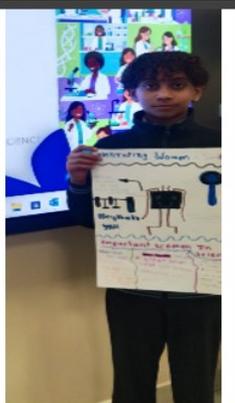
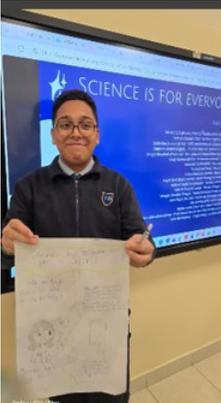
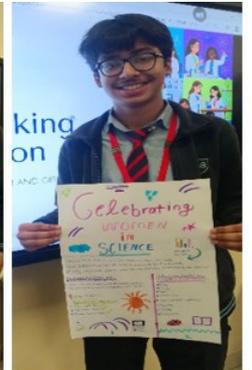
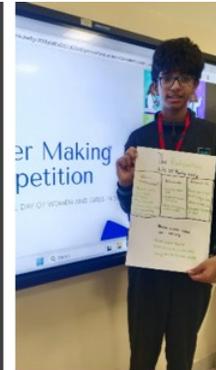
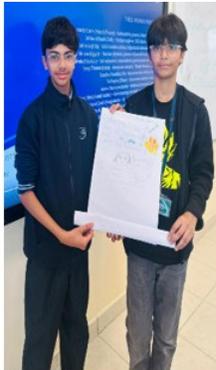
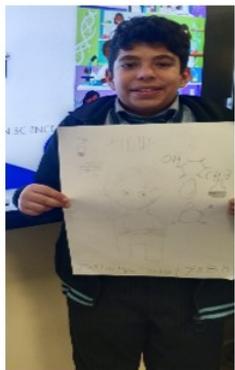
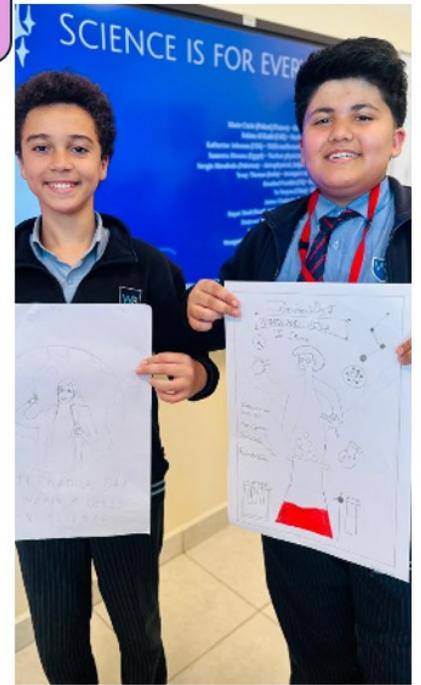
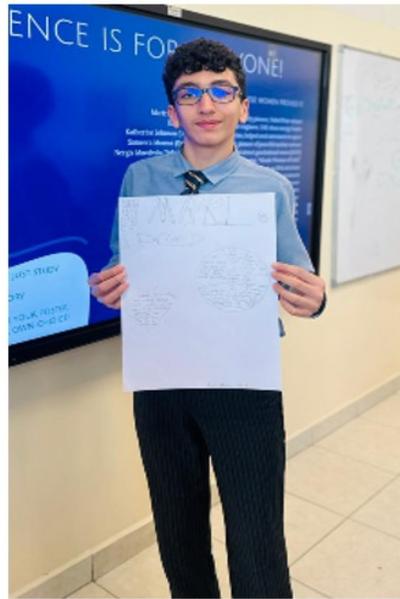
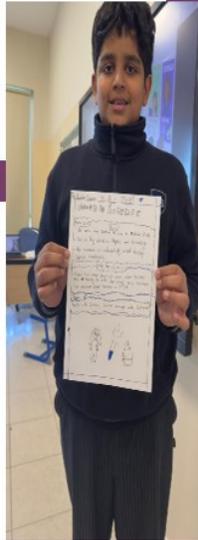
**AT WSS, WE BELIEVE THAT READING ALOUD NURTURES UNDERSTANDING, CONFIDENCE, AND A LIFELONG LOVE FOR LEARNING.**



**READ ALOUD. SHARE STORIES. INSPIRE MINDS.  
HAPPY WORLD READ ALOUD DAY!**

# Secondary Section News; KS3 Poster Competition!

KS3 Poster Competition: Celebrate Women in Science – Inspire, Create, Showcase.



# Women in Science; KS3 Poster Competition!



KS3 students actively participated in the Women and Girls in Science Poster Competition, coming well-prepared with research on the contributions of women in STEM. Their creativity and effort resulted in exceptional poster entries, making the event both inspiring and impactful.

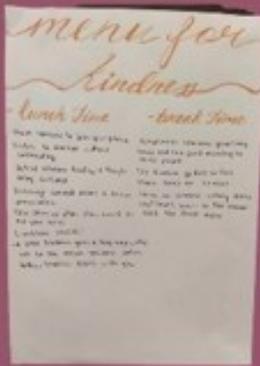
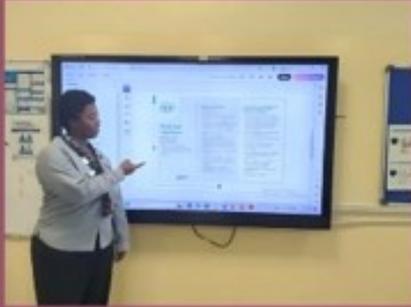
To mark the *International Day of Women and Girls in Science*, the WSS Science Department organized a series of meaningful and inspiring activities aimed at encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and representation in STEM.

## KS3 – Poster Making Competition

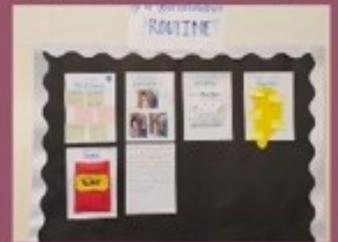
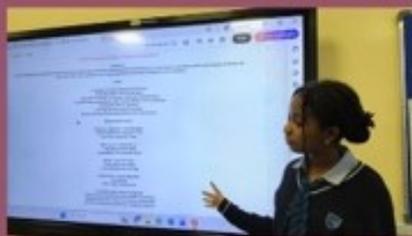
Students from KS3 participated enthusiastically in a vibrant Poster Making Competition, showcasing their understanding of women's contributions to science. Their creative posters highlighted influential female scientists and emphasized the importance of gender equity in scientific fields.

# Secondary Section News; KS4 Learning Activities!

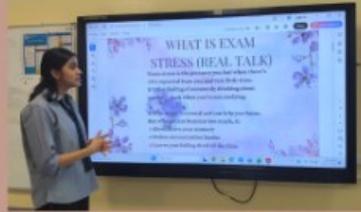
## KS4 Girls- Be a Gem Behaviour Routine 6: Kind and Courteous (Break and lunch time)



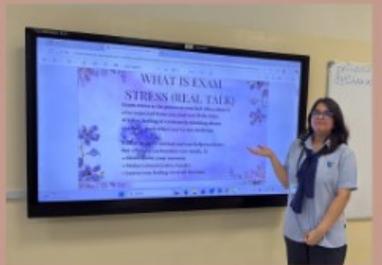
KS4 girls demonstrated the Be a GEM Behaviour Routine 6 by being kind and courteous during break and lunchtime, showing respect through their words and actions.



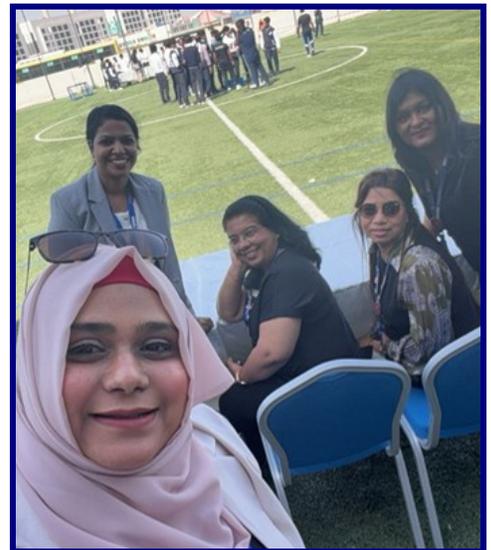
# KS4 Girls: Well-being activity Stress Reset Session



As part of a well-being activity, class leaders led a Stress Reset Session focusing on the value of routine and practical strategies to manage exam stress, ending with a calming yoga session.



# *Water-Powered Rocket Launch Competition with 'BE CURIOUS LAB OF FUTURE', 9/2/26!*



**Huge thanks to the Engineering Tech Team for a fabulously exciting practical water-powered rocket launching competition designed to develop skills in physics, design & technology & creativity!**

**Special thanks to Mr. Aakif & Lab of Future Team - Perfect launch support that ensured every rocket soared successfully, & student Leaders - Huzaifa & Mridini, Tasnim, Ahmed shahid, Izzan, Rayan Moin & club volunteers: True leaders who owned every moment! Your support made our students' day and reinforced why we do this - their growth and excitement!**

# *Water-Powered Rocket Launch Competition with 'BE CURIOUS LAB OF FUTURE', 9/2/26!*

## ***Ks4-5 Boys & Girls Water Rocket Competition: Science that soared.***



***KS4 and KS5 students launched their creativity sky-high in the Water Rocket Competition, blending physics, precision, & teamwork. 🚀 Engineering & Tech Club teams optimized rockets for maximum height—Team Velocity hit 28m—during fun field trials with data logging.***

# Secondary Section News; KS5 Boys Skills Fair, 9/2/26!



Sixth Form Boys organized a Practical Skills Fair, presenting a range of every day useful tips & skills, from folding clothes, finance advice, keeping fit, music for wellbeing, avoiding malware, to the mechanics of cars!



# *Secondary Section News; KS5 Boys Skills Fair, 9/2/26!*

## ***KS5 Boys Life Skills Workshop - Building skills beyond the classroom.***



***KS5 boys engaged in a practical life skills workshop, focusing on decision-making, resilience and real-world readiness.***

## Women in Science Guest Speaker!



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

10TH FEB 2026

SECONDARY  
LIBRARY

11:50 AM

# WOMEN IN SCIENCE



Ms. Ghayah Al Harmoodi

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST,  
WOMEN IN NUCLEAR GLOBAL YOUNG GENERATION

GEMS Westminster School, Sharjah was honoured to host Ms. Ghayah Al Harmoodi, Emirati Nuclear Engineer at ENEC (Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant), in celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. With humility and warmth, she shared her journey of resilience—from not being a "physics girl" to becoming a regional STEM leader—leaving our students inspired.

To mark the *International Day of Women and Girls in Science*, the WSS Science Department organized a series of meaningful and inspiring activities aimed at encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and representation in STEM. Our KS5 students had the opportunity to attend an insightful Guest Speaker Session, where they engaged in discussions about career pathways in science, the role of women in research, and the future of STEM innovation. The activities received excellent participation and created an inspiring atmosphere across the department.

*Secondary Section News; Sixth Form Options Meeting, 12/2/26!*



# Secondary Section News: WSS Inter-School Cyber Olympia!

## Cyber Olympia: Competing in the digital arena



*Our students took part in Cyber Olympia 2026 alongside multiple invited schools, showcasing innovation, strategy and teamwork.*