

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #23
29th February, 2024



Message from the
Principal/CEO
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Team Problem-Solving

WSS is a large school of over 3,150 students. Student & parent needs are unique & parents may not always agree with our policies. However, rest assured that our systems & policies are developed (& reviewed regularly) to ensure a consistent, safe & organized educational environment. We have an open-door policy, which means that we listen to our stakeholders & work with you to resolve concerns and ensure that your children achieve to their potential. Let's work together on this. Complaints to SPEA are re-directed by them back to school by the Authorities for resolution, so it is much better to meet us in school as a team for all school-level issues.

Health & Safety; Medicines in School

Medicines need to be strictly controlled in school to ensure our students' health & safety. They must never be shared amongst the children (even Brufen or Panadol, since some children may be allergic, or take too much by accident). Please see p4 for our Policy, as published in the Parent Handbook. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Thurs. 7th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSS celebrates International Day. Studnets may come dressed in traditional dress & bring traditional food to share with classmates (optional)
Mon. 15/4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline to book seats online for September is Monday April 15th.
Thurs 2nd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline to pay the re-enrollment fee is Thurs. 2nd May. Regardless of any system-generated email, the <u>re-enrollment fee is non-refundable for any reason</u>, as per the Sharjah Authority Circular. Please note that any un-booked/unpaid seats would be given to the Waiting List.
Monday 11th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible start of Ramadan. Ramadan (& Exam days) timings for whole school 8m-1pm (TBC) (no Babysitting facility)
Friday 29/3/24 to Sunday 14/4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Spring Break (2 weeks) Online fee payments recommended to avoid queues. However, the Cashier will be open in school on Saturday 13/4/24, 8am-1pm for convenient fee payment Term 3 fees due by latest Monday 15th April. Thank you.
Mon. 3/6/24 to Thurs. 13/6/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T3 Final, compulsory promotional Exams. School timings for all students will be 7:30am-12:30pm. These dates are subject to SPEA approval & change.

Super cute Islamic Assembly on 28/2/24, presented by KS1 Junior students



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 23
29 فبراير 2024



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

فريق حل المشاكل

WSS هي مدرسة كبيرة تضم أكثر من 3150 طالبًا. تعتبر احتياجات الطلاب وأولياء الأمور فريدة من نوعها وقد لا يتفق أولياء الأمور دائمًا مع سياساتنا. ومع ذلك، كن مطمئنًا إلى أن أنظمتنا وسياساتنا يتم تطويرها (ومراجعتها بانتظام) لضمان بيئة تعليمية متسقة وآمنة ومنظمة. لدينا سياسة الباب المفتوح، مما يعني أننا نستمع إلى أصحاب المصلحة لدينا ونعمل معك لحل المخاوف والتأكد من أن أطفالك يحققون إمكاناتهم. دعونا نعمل معًا على هذا. يتم إعادة توجيه الشكاوى إلى SPEA من قبل السلطات إلى المدرسة لحلها، لذلك من الأفضل أن نتلقى في المدرسة كفريق لجميع القضايا على مستوى المدرسة.

الصحة والأمان؛ الأدوية في المدرسة

يجب مراقبة الأدوية بشكل صارم في المدرسة لضمان صحة طلابنا وسلامتهم. لا يجوز أبدًا مشاركتها بين الأطفال (حتى عقار بروفين أو بانادول، لأن بعض الأطفال قد يعانون من الحساسية، أو يتناولون الكثير عن طريق الصدفة). برجاء مراجعة الصفحة 4 للاطلاع على سياساتنا، كما هي منشورة في دليل أولياء الأمور. شكرًا لك.

المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الخميس، 7 مارس	WSS تحتفل باليوم العالمي. قد يأتي الطلاب مرتدين الزي التقليدي ويحضرون الطعام التقليدي لمشاركتهم مع زملاء الدراسة (اختياري)
الاثنين، 15/4/24	آخر موعد لحجز المقاعد عبر الإنترنت لشهر سبتمبر هو يوم الاثنين 15 أبريل.
الخميس 2 مايو	آخر موعد لدفع رسوم إعادة التسجيل هو يوم الخميس، 2 مايو.
	بغض النظر عن أي بريد إلكتروني يصدره النظام، فإن رسوم إعادة التسجيل غير قابلة للاسترداد لأي سبب من الأسباب، وفقًا لتعميم هيئة الشارقة.
	يرجى ملاحظة أنه سيتم منح أي مقاعد غير محجوزة/غير مدفوعة الأجر إلى قائمة الانتظار.
الاثنين 11 مارس	احتمال بداية شهر رمضان .
	مواعيد رمضان للمدرسة بأكملها من 8 صباحًا إلى 1 ظهرًا (سيتم تحديدها لاحقًا) (لا توجد مرافق مجالسة الأطفال)
من الجمعة إلى 29/3/24 الأحد 14/4/24	المدرسة مغلقة لعيد الفصح (أسبوعين).
	يوصى بدفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لتجنب قوائم الانتظار. ومع ذلك، سيكون أمين الصندوق مفتوحًا في المدرسة يوم السبت 13/4/24، من الساعة 8 صباحًا حتى 1 ظهرًا لدفع الرسوم بشكل مريح.
	رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثالث مستحقة بحلول يوم الاثنين 15 أبريل. شكرًا لك.
الاثنين، 6/3/24 إلى الخميس، 13/6/23	الاختبارات الترويجية النهائية الإلزامية. ستكون مواعيد الدراسة لجميع الطلاب من الساعة 7:30 صباحًا حتى 12:30 ظهرًا.
	تخضع هذه التواريخ لموافقة SPEA وتغييرها.

جمعية إسلامية رائعة
جدا بتاريخ 28/2/24،
مقدمة من طلاب المرحلة
الأساسية الأولى



رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ نجاح 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

Whole School News

Newsletter Contents

Page	Includes:
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices
3	Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contents Table QR Code to Access our online Parent Handbook
4 5-6 7 7-8 9 10 11 12	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Safety; Medicines in School (Parent Handbook p52) Family First WSS Superstar Champions Al Amanah Private School Quran Competition Winners, 25/2/24 Environmental & Recycling Superstar Champions Staff CPD (Training) Storyboard Top Tips; 1) Preparing Children for their Future, 2) Student Wellbeing Happy Birthdays
13-14 15 16 17 18 19-20 21-27	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Learning Activities (General) Y1 Islamic Assembly, 28.2.24; Welcoming Ramadan Y1S1 Assembly, 29/2/24 FS1 Learning Activities; Trip Time! Y1 Learning Activities Y2 Learning Activities
28-29 30 31-32 33 34	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Section Superstar Champions Learning Activities (General) Islamic Council Students leading Moral Values Y3 Learning Activities; Trip Time! Y5 Learning Activities; Trip Time!
35-37 38 39-44 45 46-51 52 53	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Section Superstar Champions; Awards Ceremony, 29/2/24 & Family First Celebrations Secondary Superstar Champions Stepping Stones Foundation Art Exhibition Learning Activities Maths Marvel Y8 Learning Activities Learning Activities (General)

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



Whole School News; Health & Safety; Medicines in School!

Please do not send medicines to school with your child without following the below policy to ensure the health & safety of all our students.

It is very important that medicines are never shared with classmates/friends/others in school (such as Brufen, Paracetamol etc as others may have an allergic reaction or overdose).

Medicines:

- Students are **not permitted to carry medicine with them around school** under any circumstances.
- If your child needs medication at school, please **hand it to the Clinic where it will be stored safely**. Your child will be required to come to the clinic at the appropriate time to take it.
- You must also inform the Clinic if any medicine may be needed at the school for an existing condition such as an inhaler for asthma, insulin for diabetes, or an EpiPen for allergies.
- After the treatment period, any remaining Medicine must be collected by parent/Guardian from the Clinic. If uncollected after one week it would be discarded through Wekaya.
- Please complete & submit the Medicine Consent Form as required (collect from the Clinic).

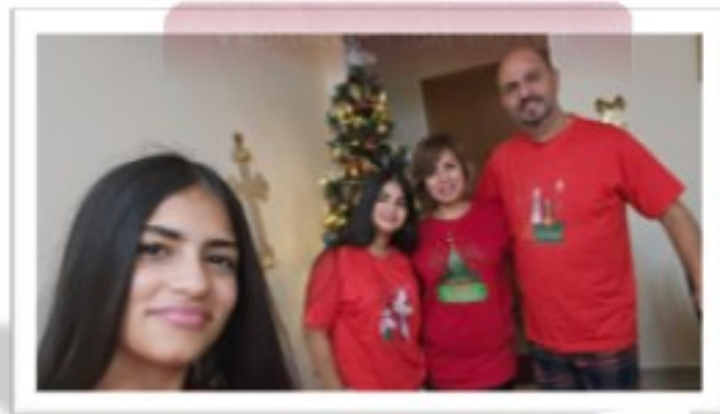
"Eshal's Eco-Adventure: A Proud Parent's Perspective from Y9GS1!"

"We're over the moon to join the Wasteless Wonderland hosted by Westminster School, Dubai, among stellar teams! As proud parents of Eshal, we're bursting with joy at their commitment to a greener future. Bagging multiple prizes for their Wasteless smart steps project proves their grit and genius. This event isn't just about accolades; it's a spotlight on sustainable solutions for our community. Gratitude fills our hearts towards the Wasteless smart steps initiative as we stride towards a brighter, eco-conscious world!"

**From Parent of
Eshal Y9GS1**



Whole School News; Family First!



As per the parent of John from Y8 BH, Rayan Noaman of Y8BS and Karin from Y8GD, family gatherings play a crucial role in nurturing strong connections, safeguarding cultural legacies, and establishing meaningful relationships that bring enrichment to our lives.



Beautiful Family

WSS Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms. Valarie I hope this email finds you well and healthy.

It was a great honor for all of us to see you and the SLT team during our celebration of Haq Alleila. Your participate means a lot for us.

At the same time and as a parent, I would like to convey my special thanks to Ms. Doaa Romeh for her ideas, for her hard works and for giving us as a parent a chance to be a part of her celebration of Haq Alleila with our kids.

I don't have words to express my happiness and joy during this occasion, not only us as parents but our kids as well, and all Emirati students.

It was a very nice idea from her to show all SLT team our traditional wedding ceremony. Warm regards, Ayda and Noora's Mother.

Thank you Maam 😊 for providing best learning activities for students well being. Appreciate the efforts and hardwork of all subject teachers.



WSS Superstar Champions; Al Amana Private School Quran Competition Winners, 25/2/24!

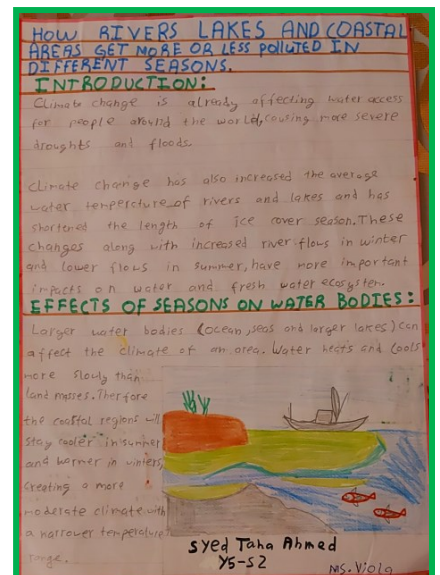
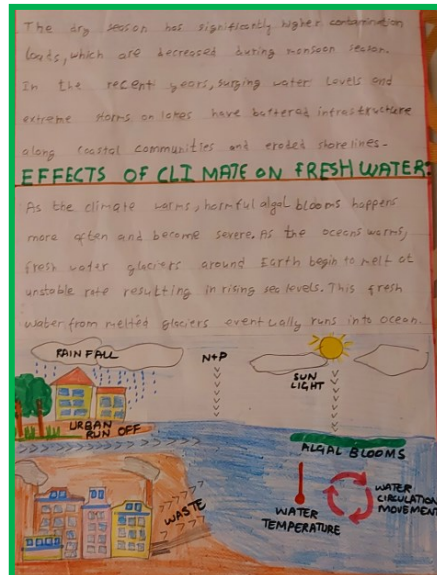
Congratulations to Quran Competition winners:

- **Fatema Mustafa— First place**
- **Ahmed Elanani - Second place**
- **Hatem Mahmoud—Second place**
- **Anas -Third place**
- **Sama Eslam—Third place**

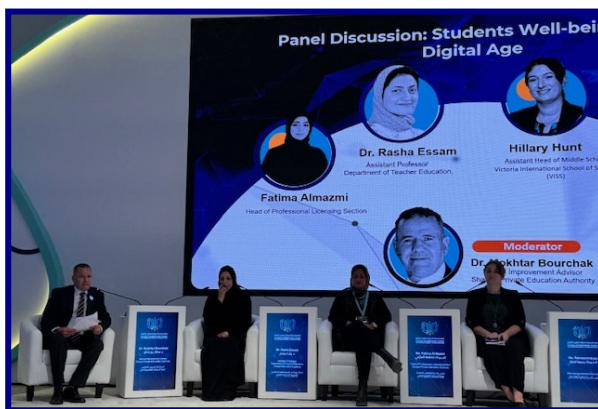
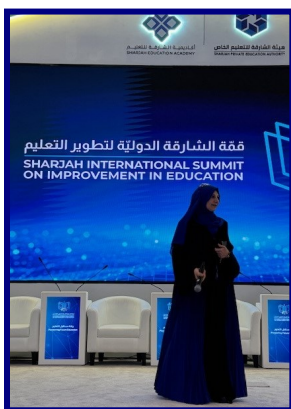
Huge thanks to Ms. Mukhsana for organizing & to Mr Issam and Mr Abed for accompanying the students on their weekend.



Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Whole School News; Staff CPD (Training)!



The Principal attended the SEA/SPEA Sharjah Education Academy International Summit on Improvement in Education on 26/2/24.

The Principal attended GEMS Sharjah Education Principals' Leadership Conference on 28/2/24 with fellow Principals & GEMS Leadership Team. The Chairman Mr. Sunny Varkey addressed attendees, reinforcing GEMS commitment to the newly launched 'Family First' initiative.



Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

Preparing Students For Their Future



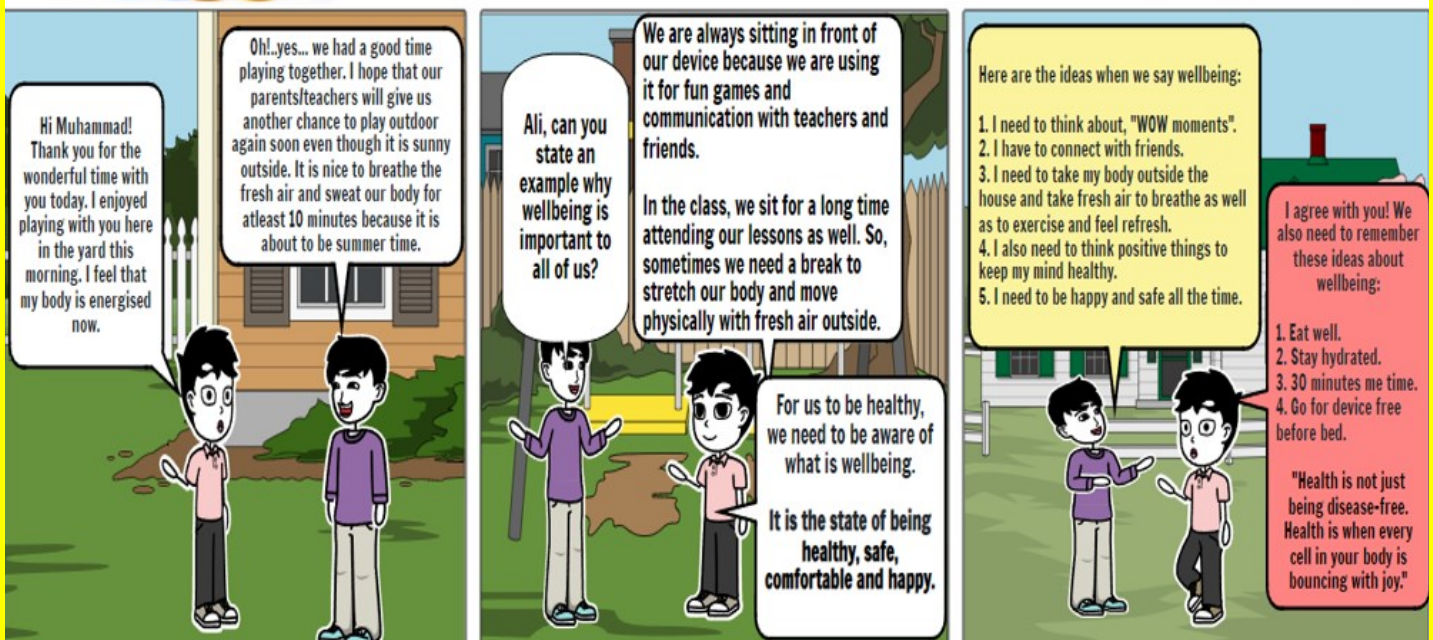
Be with the best people



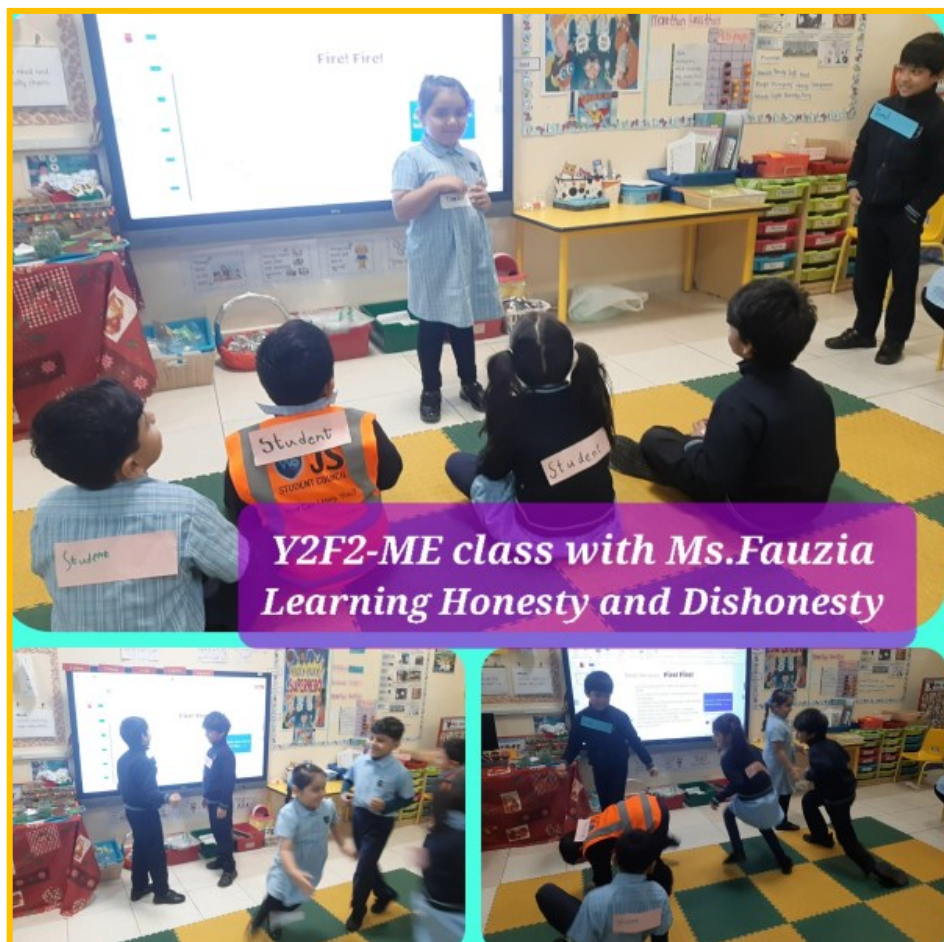
Student Wellbeing

The best people will bring out the best in you.

Positive, friendly & supportive people will give you energy & strength.



Happy Birthdays!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to one of our TWS Dubai Wasteless Wonderland Inter-School competition prize winners!



Happy to showcase our home learning



Y2F1 with Ms Uzma and Ms.Askia

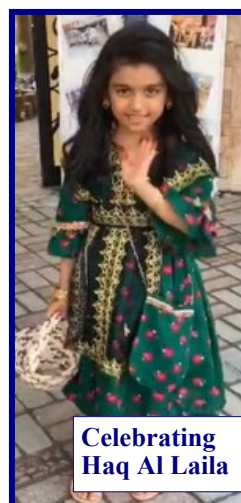


Y2F1 with Ms Uzma and Ms.Askia

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Junior Section News



Celebrating
Haq Al Laila



Junior Section News; Y1 Islamic Assembly, 28/2/24; Welcoming Ramadan!



Junior Section News; Y1S1 Assembly, 29/2/24!



Y1S1 presented a wonderful Assembly on the pleasure & importance of reading. We met some enthusiastic characters & learnt the **WOW** word 'voracious'!



Junior Section News; FS1 Learning Activities—Trip Time!



Junior Section News; Y1D2 Learning Activities!



moving our bodies with Ms. Sheema



ICT lesson with Mr. Jowie



Full marble jar



OLA-1



Y1-D2 with Ms. Sadiqa and Ms. Asma



Junior Section News; Y1F1 Learning Activities!



Arabic home learning



Token of ❤️



Activity time



Token of ❤️



Token of ❤️

Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!

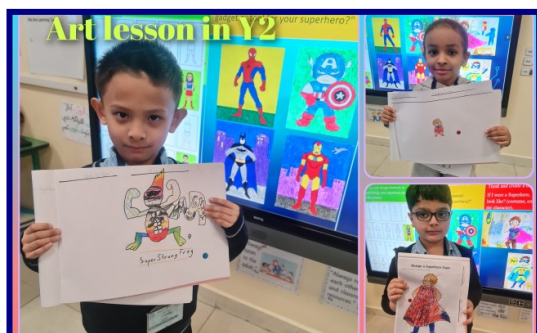
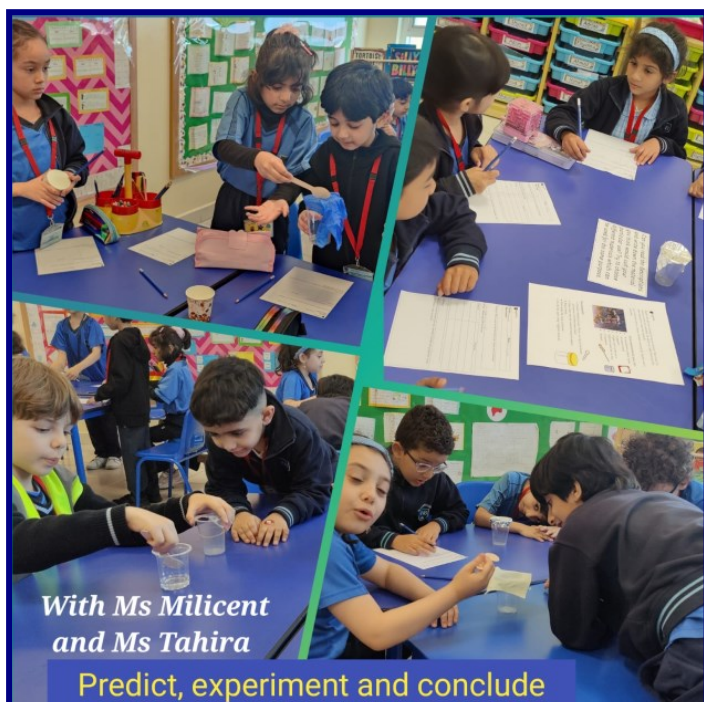
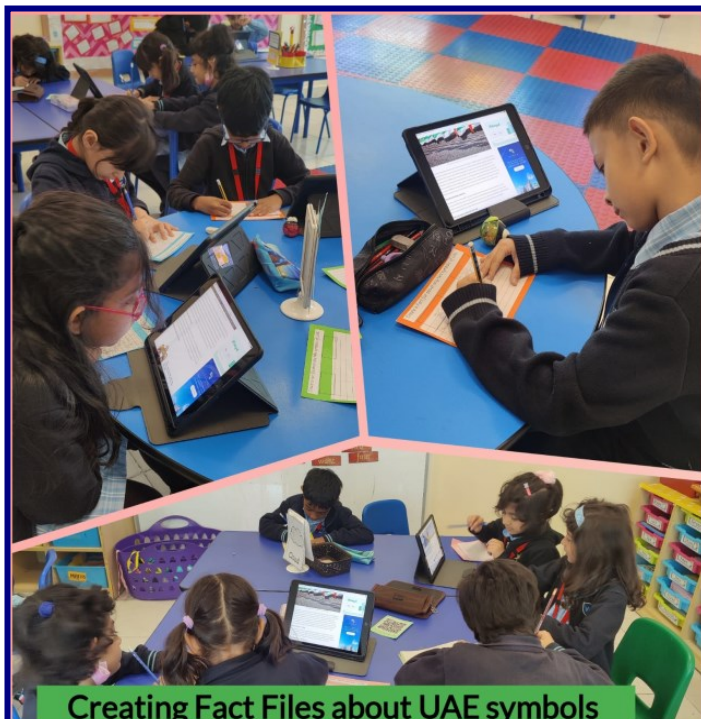
Y2D1 Class activity Picture

TR: Jinitra Rajesh

TA: Asma Mohamed



Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!



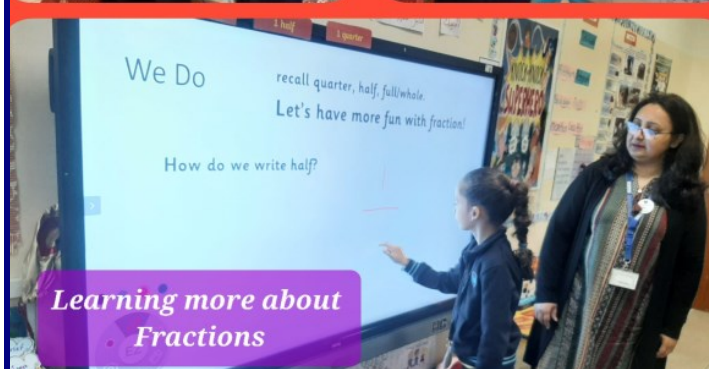
Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2F2 Learning Activities!



With Ms.Fauzia and Ms.Benil



Learning more about Fractions



Pancake Game using Hand and eye co-ordination



Y2F2 with Ms.Sheema



Y2F2 Wishes



Happy Haq Al Laila



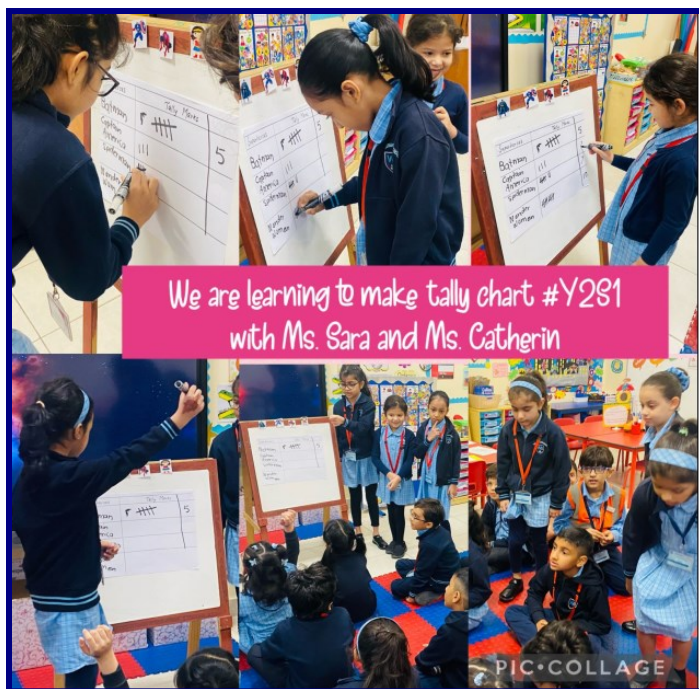
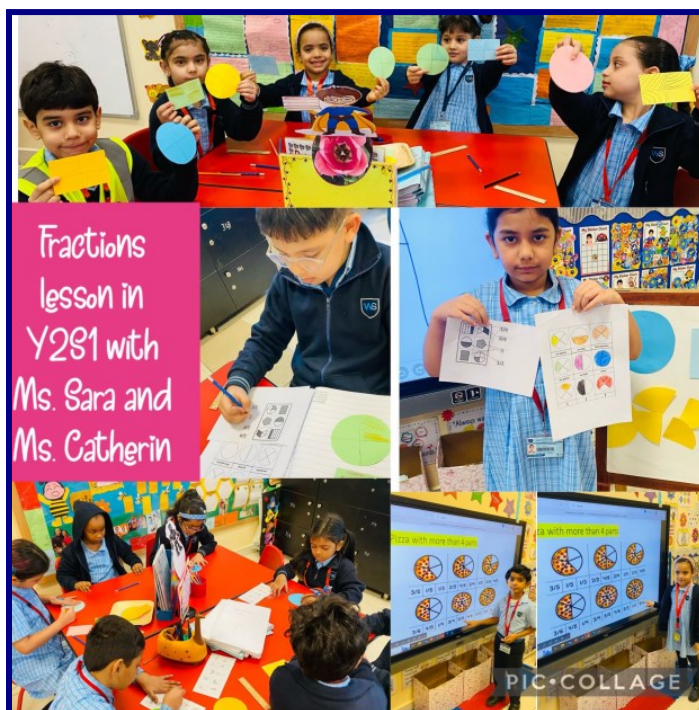
Sharing Happiness



Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!



WSS Primary Section Y6 Superstar Champions!

Year 6 Term 1 Achievement Assembly



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to Nabia, one of our TWS Dubai Wasteless Wonderland Inter-School competition prize winners!

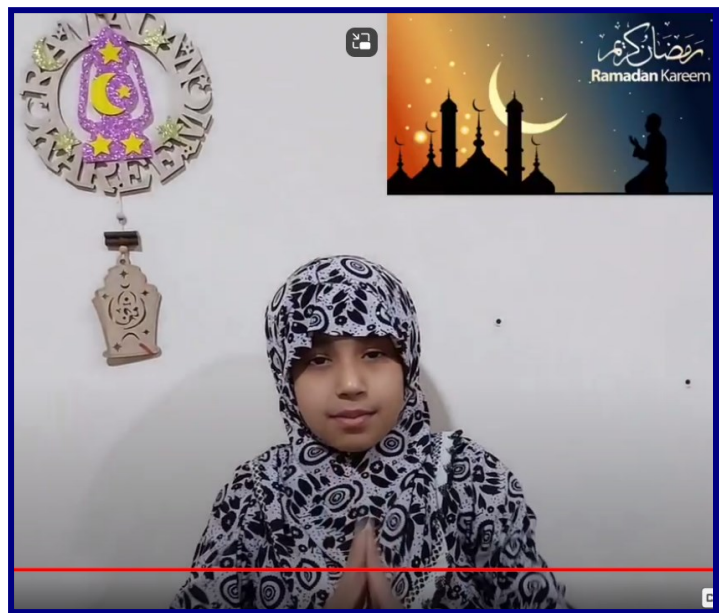


Congratulations to Rose Fam (Y3D1) for winning medals at a Gymnastics competition in Baku. Awesome!



Congratulations to critical thinker superstar Yug Kamble (Y4S1) who was awarded a participation certificate for doing a great job in a 'League of Logic' competition.

Primary Section News



Thank you for our thoughtful & interesting Ramadan video, Nabia! Ramadan Kareem!

Primary Section News; Islamic Council Leading Moral Values!

Islamic Council students are teaching Islamic moral values in various classes.

Our teachings instill compassion, integrity, and respect, reflecting Islamic tradition. “We empower students with honesty, generosity, and humility to face life’s challenges. “Emphasizing empathy, justice, and forgiveness, we guide students to embody Islamic morality and contribute positively.

Year-5 students on the Islamic council with various positions.



Year-5 students teaching to Year-3 (Islamic Awareness).



Year-5 students teaching to Year-3 (Islamic Ethics).



Year-6 students teaching to Year-4.



Primary Section News; Islamic Council Leading Moral Values!

Islamic Book Club (Reading Islamic Story)



Islamic innovation leader (AbdulHadi Y-5H1)



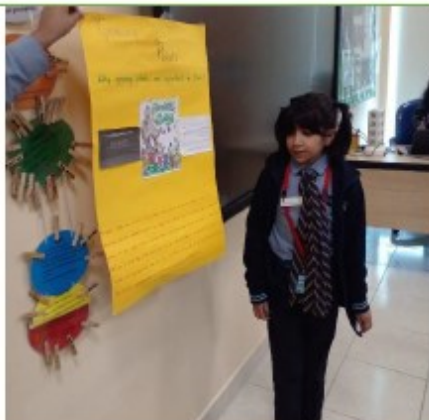
Islamic ethics leader (MarwanY-6BS)



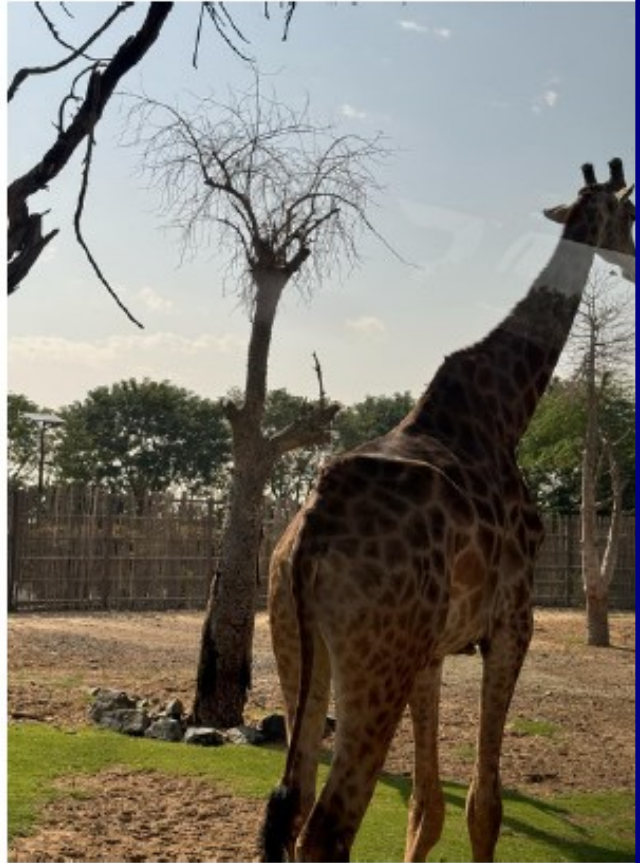
Islamic Ethics/Islamic book club leader (Shanzy and AiyshaY-6GD)



Green Islamic Projects Leader (Zoya Y-5F2)



Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities—Trip Time!



Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities - Trip Time!



Glimpses of Y5H2 Dubai Safari Trip



WSS Primary Section Y5 Superstar Champions!



T1 Achievement Award Ceremony and the Winners of Y5D1



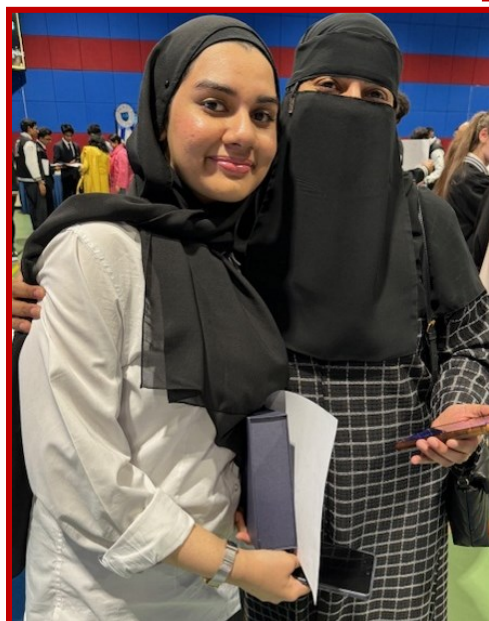
*WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions;
Toppers Awards Ceremony, 29/2/24!*



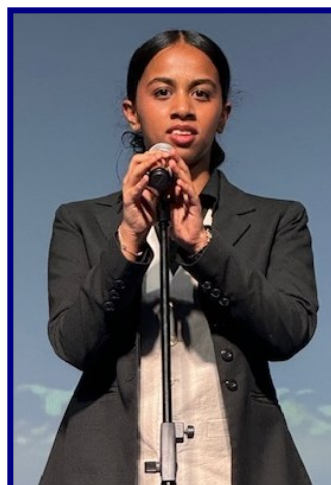
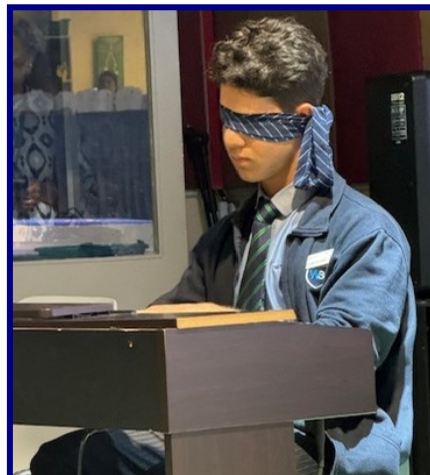
Congratulations to our Academic Toppers & to their proud parents.
We also enjoyed 2 great speeches by parents—thank you for that!!



Celebrating Success; Family First!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions; Awards Ceremony, 29/2/24!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



Secondary Section News; Stepping Stones Foundation Art!

WSS AND STEPPING STONES FOUNDATION SECONDARY ART EXHIBITION



We are thrilled to announce the successful culmination of the WSS Secondary Art Exhibition. As the curtains rose on this long-awaited event, it was a joyous sight to behold the enthusiastic participation of our students, showcasing their stunning paintings and igniting a newfound passion for art within our Secondary section.

The exhibition served as a testament to the flourishing artistic talents that have begun to bloom within our school community.

From vibrant landscapes to intricate portraits, each artwork spoke volumes about the creativity and dedication of our students, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

The feedback from our visitors was overwhelmingly positive, with students eagerly critiquing, judging, and voting for their favorite pieces. With over 700 votes cast, it was clear that the exhibition had struck a chord with our audience, inspiring appreciation and admiration for the beauty of art.

A special highlight of the event was the exemplary leadership demonstrated by our Art volunteers, who worked tirelessly to organize the exhibition and create enchanting decorations that enhanced the ambiance of the venue. Their passion and dedication were palpable, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication.

In particular, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Maryam Year 13 for her invaluable contribution through her organization, Stepping Stones. Maryam's efforts played a pivotal role in inspiring students to participate wholeheartedly in the exhibition, and her dedication did not go unnoticed. Thank you, Maryam, for your outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to the arts.

As we reflect on the success of the WSS Secondary Art Exhibition, we are filled with a sense of pride and gratitude for all who contributed to making this event a resounding success. We look forward to nurturing and celebrating the artistic talents of our students for years to come.

Ms.Maha
Art and Design Subject leader

**MARYAM
RAFAT
Y13GD**



Organizing the art exhibition for the past weeks, was an experience that will always be remembered. From working with miss Maha's team to trying to find out last minute solutions for major problems, but everything alhamdulillah end up amazing.

My foundation collaboration with WSS to creating the art exhibition was a milestone for both organizations as we set higher goals to work on for more impactful projects in the coming future.



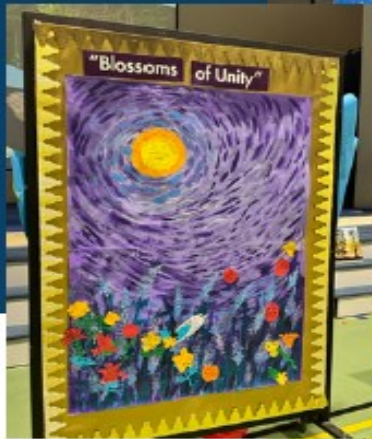
01/02

Secondary Section News; Stepping Stones Foundation Art!

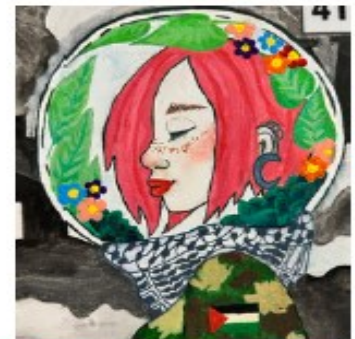
Nature of Well Being

Exploring the essence : Unveiling the objectives behind our Art Exhibition

The primary objective of our art exhibition themed "Wellbeing" was to nurture and celebrate the talents of our students while providing them with a platform to showcase their work. Specifically, we aimed to inspire and encourage students who are preparing to enter the IGCSE Art and Design 0400 subject. By aligning the theme with concepts of mental, emotional, and physical wellness, we sought to stimulate creativity and self-expression among participants, fostering a deeper understanding of the therapeutic potential of art. Through this exhibition, we aimed to instill confidence in our budding artists and prepare them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in their artistic journey, particularly in the context of academic pursuits such as the IGCSE Art and Design course.



A heartfelt thank you to Parwana Y13GD for her exceptional leadership in coordinating the girls' volunteering teams, resulting in the creation of stunning displays at the WSS art exhibition. Her dedication and creativity truly elevated the ambiance of the event, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. We are immensely grateful for her invaluable contributions to the success of the exhibition



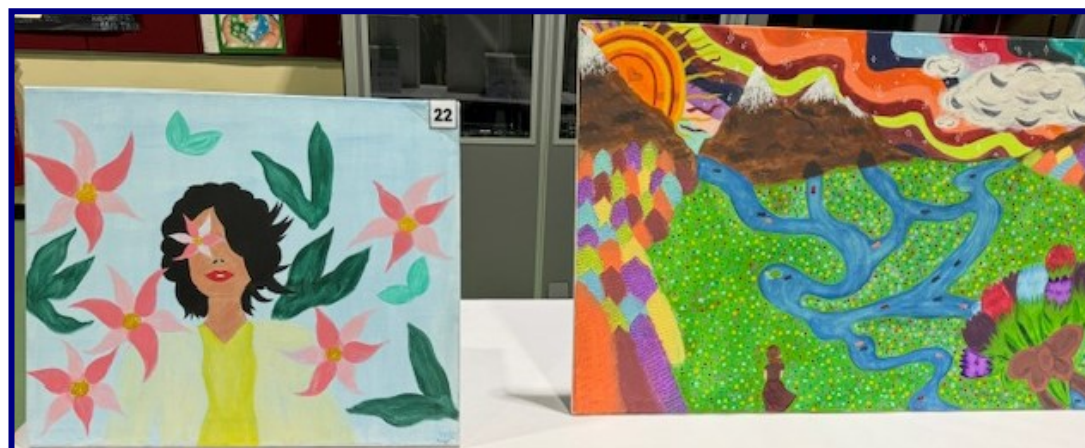
some of the students beautiful paintings

02/02

Secondary Section News; Stepping Stones Foundation Art!



The theme of wellbeing was explored through students' art pieces, which expressed a highly personal perspective.



Secondary Section News; Stepping Stones Foundation Art!



Secondary Section News; Stepping Stones Foundation Art!



Secondary Section News; Stepping Stones Foundation Art!



Secondary Section News; Learning Activities!

The highly anticipated T2 Breakbusters rounds have started. Y7BD is well organized with their own class team strip! Love the enthusiastic teamwork! Thank you parents for making this possible for our Y7B sporting superstars!



Haq AL Laila in KS4

Secondary Section News; Maths Marvel, Y7!

Maths Marvel 2024

Final Round

Y7 – Fraction Art Y8 -Saving and Building Wealth Campaign



Secondary Section News; Maths Marvel, Y7!

Maths Marvel 2024

Final Round

Y7 – Fraction Art Y8 -Saving and Building Wealth Campaign

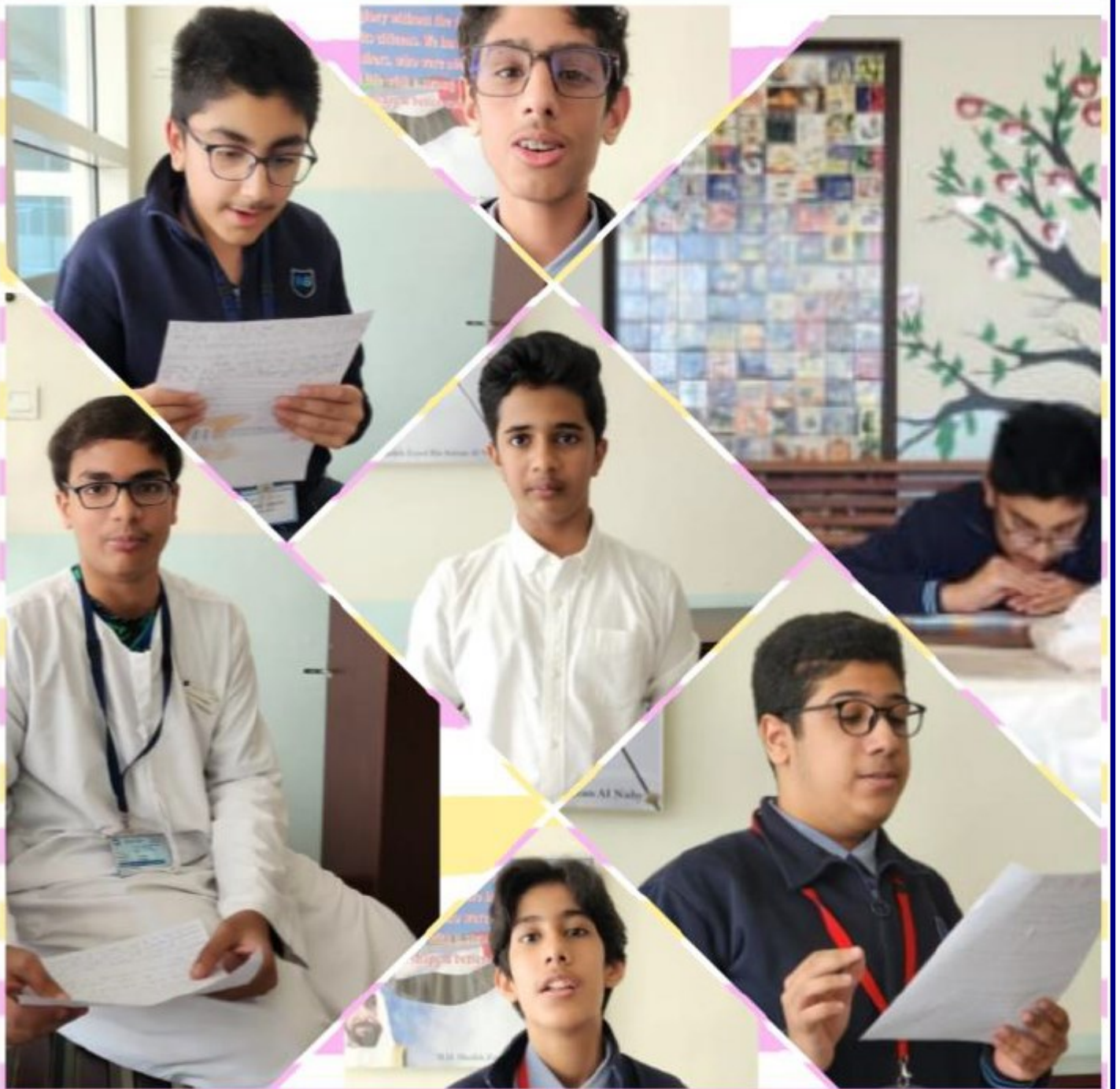


Secondary Section News; Maths Marvel, Y9!

Maths Marvel 2024

Final Round

Y9: Live Demonstration – Mathematics Around Us



Maths Marvel 2024

Final Round

Y9: Live Demonstration – Mathematics Around Us



Secondary Section News; Maths Marvel, Y10!

Maths Marvel 2024

Final Round

Y10: Maths Team Debate

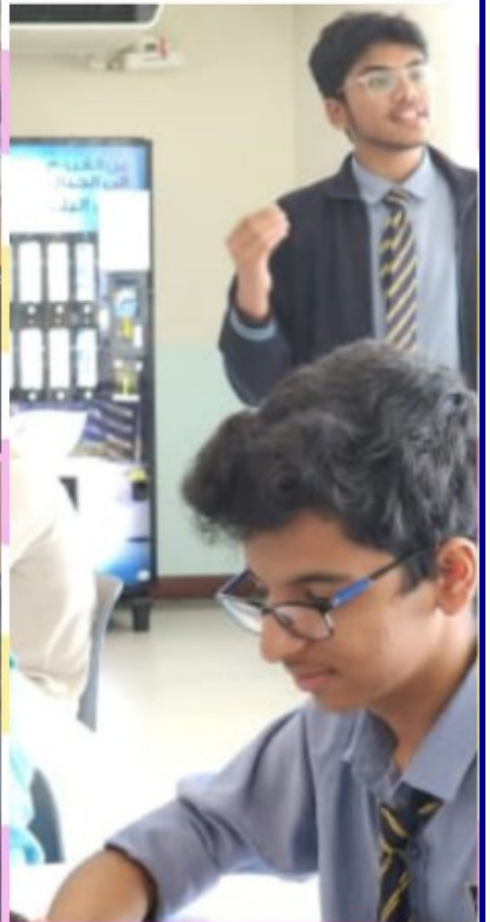


Secondary Section News; Maths Marvel, Y10!

Maths Marvel 2024

Final Round

Y10: Maths Team Debate



Secondary Section News; Y8 Learning Activities!

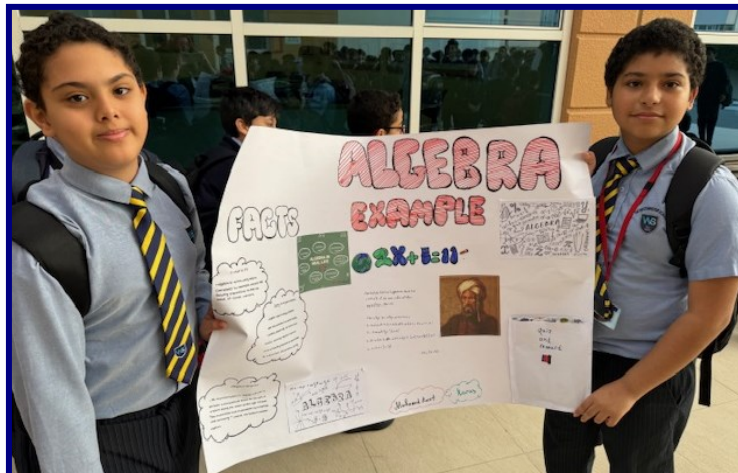
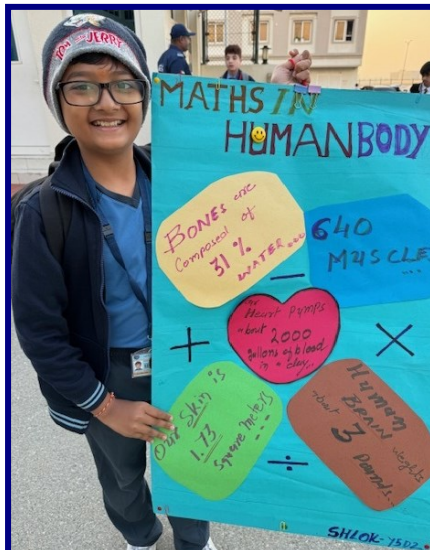
Y 8 – Week highlights

"Nurturing minds, shaping character, and fostering growth - education's essence lies in cultivating the complete student."



***Break Buster champions- Y8BD
Congratulations to the winners!***

Secondary Section News



Break Buster Year 7

Students are learning the importance of participation in a competition.

