

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #30  
24th April, 2025



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

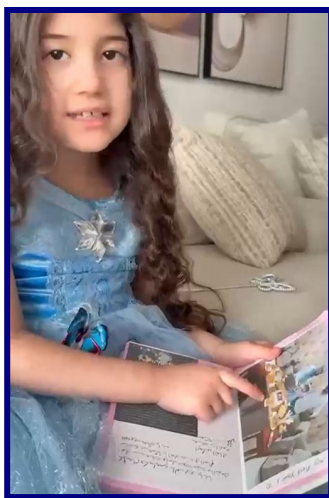
Dear WSS Parents,

### Fees for 2025-2026

Please note p4 for the updated fee structure for the coming academic year, just received from SPEA. The small increase is to allow school to continue on its developmental journey, manage rising operational costs & to ensure continuation of our drive towards excellence in our learning programmes.

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Thurs. 26th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day of compulsory T3 Promotional Exams</li> </ul>
Thurs. 3rd July, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The last official day for students for this academic year.</li> </ul>
Monday 25th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First day of T1 for new joiners.</li> <li>T1 fees need to be cleared in full before any student is admitted into class for the new year. There are no exceptions to this, so please budget accordingly.</li> </ul>
Tuesday 26th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First day of T1 for returning students.</li> <li>T1 fees need to be cleared in full before any student is admitted into class for the new year. There are no exceptions to this, so please budget accordingly.</li> </ul>



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



# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم #30  
24 أبريل 2025



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي  
السيدة فاذيري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر  
الشارقة الأعزاء،

## الرسوم لعامي 2025-2026

يرجى ملاحظة الصفحة 4 لتحديث  
هيكل الرسوم للعام الدراسي القادم،  
والذي تلقيناه للتو من SPEA. وتهدف  
هذه الزيادة الصغيرة إلى  
السماح للمدرسة بمواصلة رحلتها  
التنموية وإدارة تكاليف التشغيل المتزايدة وضمان استمرار  
سعيها نحو التميز في برامجنا التعليمية.

## المواعيد

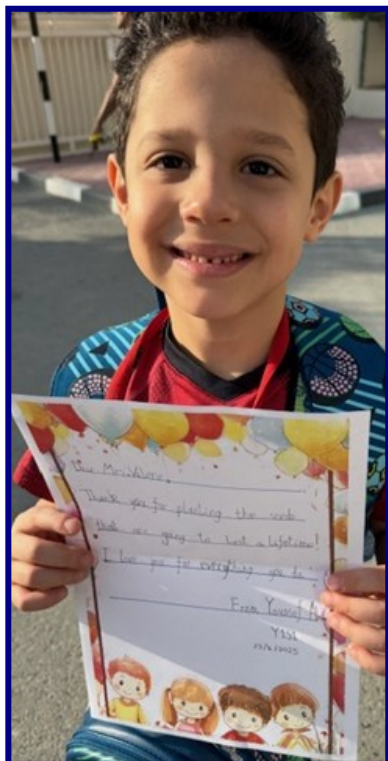
التاريخ	التفاصيل
الخميس 26 يونيو	• آخر يوم من امتحانات T3 الترويجية الإلزامية
الخميس 3 يوليو 2025	• آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي.
الاثنين 25 أغسطس	• اليوم الأول من T1 للمنتسبين الجدد.
	• يجب سداد رسوم T1 بالكامل قبل قبول أي طالب في الفصل الدراسي للعام الجديد. لا توجد استثناءات لهذا، لذا يرجى إعداد الميزانية وفقاً لذلك.
الثلاثاء 26 أغسطس	• اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الأول للطلاب العائدين
	• يجب سداد رسوم T1 بالكامل قبل قبول أي طالب في الفصل الدراسي للعام الجديد. لا توجد استثناءات لهذا، لذا يرجى إعداد الميزانية وفقاً لذلك.



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.



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### *Parent Handbook Access QR Code*

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# Whole School News; Updated Fee Structure, 2025-2026!



مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة  
GEMS Westminster School  
SHARJAH

April 2025

Dear Parents,

**Subject: Fee increase for the Coming Academic Year, 2025-26**

I hope this finds you and your families well.

I am writing with regard to the education regulator's recent directive of tuition fee increases to private schools in the emirate. In line with this directive, WSS will be increasing fees by the approved amount to help us meet rising costs and continue improving the standards of education for our students. This will apply to all Year Groups FS1 –Year 13) from the start of the 2025-26 academic year as follows:

Year Group	Current Academic Year 2024-2025	Term 1 (August-December)	Term 2 (January-March)	Term 3 (April-July)	Total SPEA-approved Tuition fees for AY 2025-26
FS1	13428	5506	4130	4129	13765
FS2	13377	5486	4115	4114	13715
1	13761	5642	4232	4231	14105
2	16247	6616	4962	4962	16540
3	16144	6620	4965	4965	16550
4	16575	6662	4997	4996	16655
5	16431	6738	5054	5053	16845
6	16611	6796	5097	5097	16990
7	16134	6812	5109	5109	17030
8	18389	7526	5645	5644	18815
9	18353	7540	5655	5655	18850
10	20536	8420	6315	6315	21050
11	23335	9568	7176	7176	23920
12	24529	10058	7544	7543	25145
13	26343	10802	8102	8101	27005

As ever, our priority is to deliver the highest standards of Safeguarding, teaching and learning for our students. This increase will support us to do just that by empowering us to invest further in our teachers, who are the foundations of the quality education we provide.

Please note that there are many saving opportunities available to our parents thanks to the GEMS Rewards programme – through the GEMS FAB Titanium Credit Card, through discounts across various experiences, and via GEMS Points that can be redeemed against school fees. I encourage you to take advantage of these many benefits, as their sole purpose is to support and give back to our parents.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children.

With warmest regards,

Ms. Valerie Thompson  
WSS Principal/CEO



*Whole School News; Join us on SM—QR Codes for Instant Access!*

**FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK!**



**SCAN ME**

Stay in the loop with everything happening at WSS!  
From exciting events and student achievement to  
important updates and daily stories - you'll find  
it all on our official Social Media accounts!

## You Said,

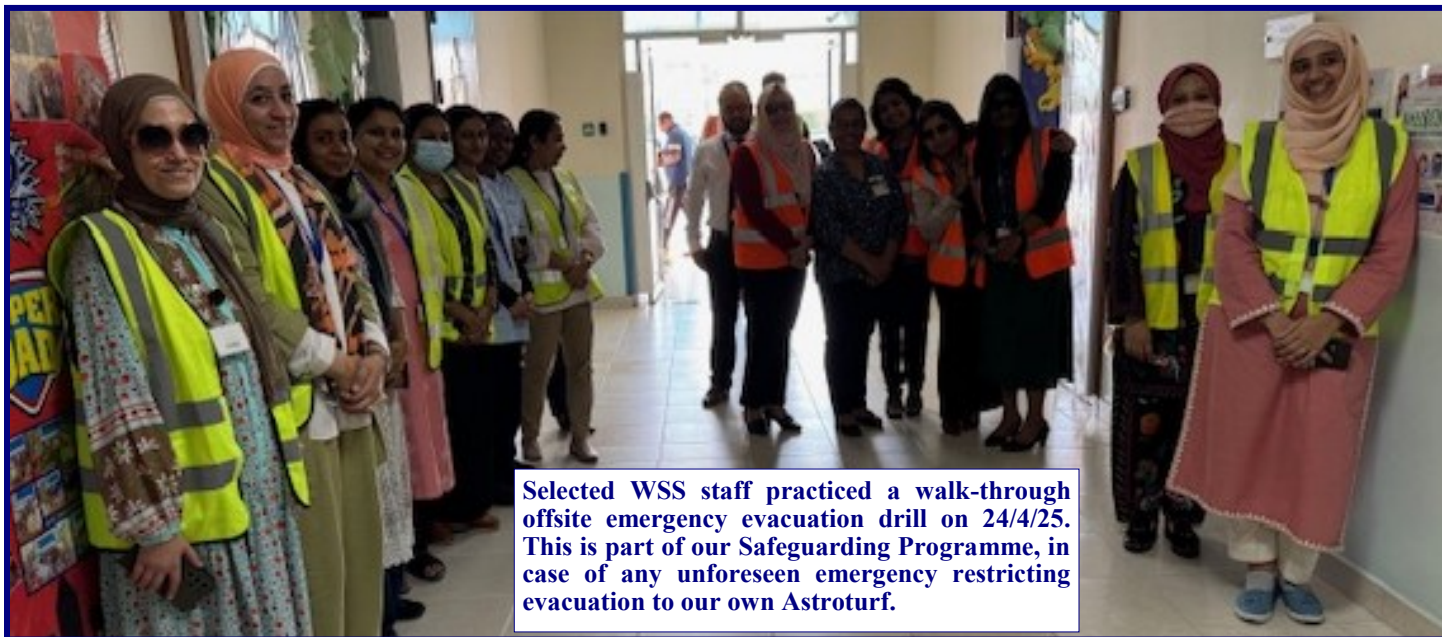
Through the recent PSI survey, parents expressed a desire for increased encouragement and recognition for their children's efforts. They also highlighted the need for additional support in developing English reading and writing skills.



## We Did,

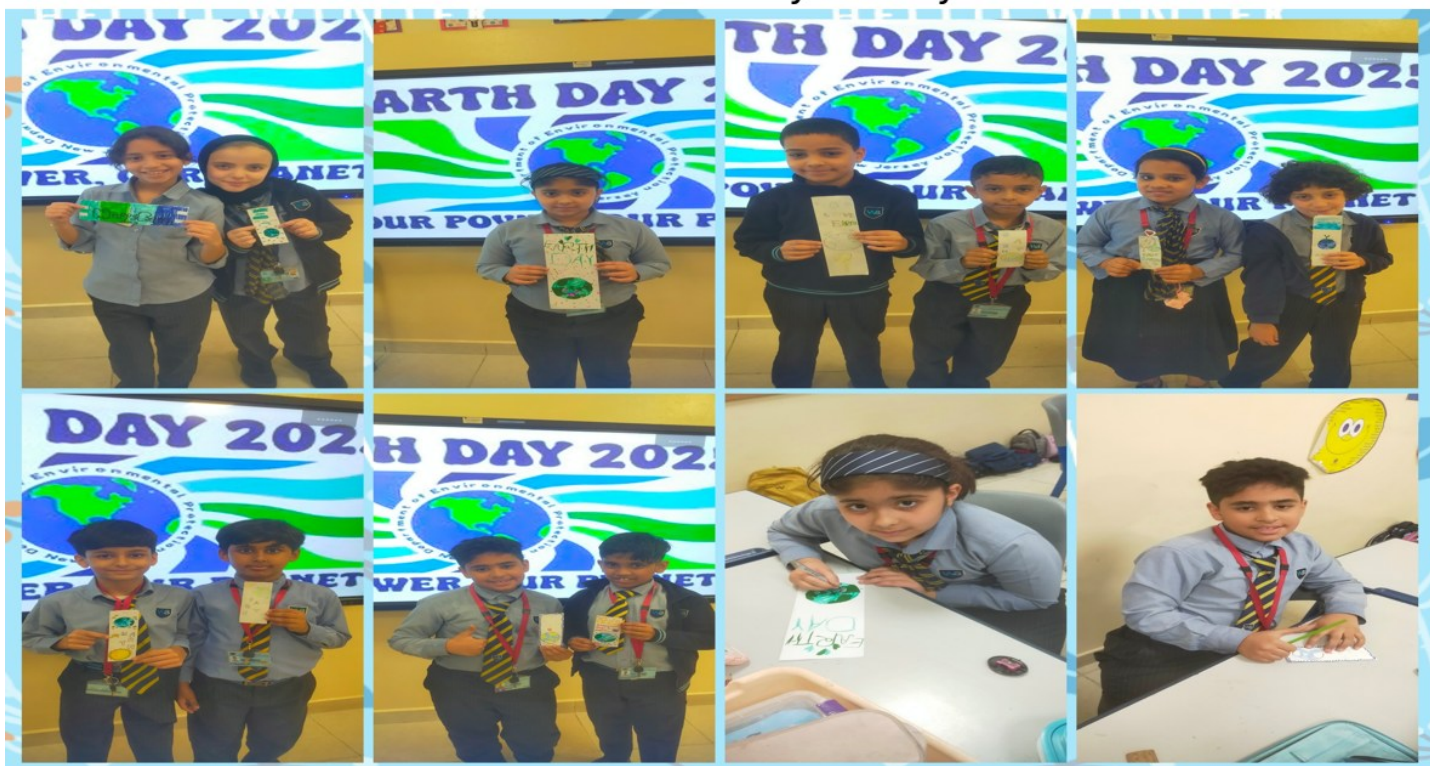
The Junior Section organized an engaging Literacy Week and celebrated World Book Day with great enthusiasm. Every student had the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitions, including poetry recitation, reading, and writing. Their efforts were recognized and celebrated in a special award assembly, where students were appreciated for their creativity and participation.

## *Whole School News; Offsite Emergency Evacuation Drill to GCS, 24/4/25!*



## *Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions– Y4 Celebrating Earth Day!*

### Y4F2 Earth Day Activity





# *Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions– Y3 & Y4 Celebrating Earth Day!*

## **Y3 H2 – Earth Day activities**



## **Y4 D2 Earth Day Activity**

Design and decorate Earth Day-themed bookmarks





# *Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions– Y4H2*

## *Celebrating Earth Day!*



## Happy Earth Day

Y4H2

“Celebrate Earth Day by doing one thing today that your future self—and future generations—will thank you for.”



## Happy Earth Day

- Y4H2
- “Sustainability isn’t just a goal—it’s a responsibility. Happy Earth Day.”



## Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



## We are celebrating the lovely place we live in: Y4 S1





*Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions– Y4S2  
Celebrating Earth Day!*

**Y4S2- World Earth  
Day Activity**





## *Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions– Y6BH*

### *Celebrating Earth Day!*

The Earth Day activity by Y6 students - To celebrate Earth Day, our Year 6 students showcased their creativity and commitment towards protecting the planet. They collaboratively composed a heartfelt poem expressing their love and concern for the Earth, highlighting the importance of conservation and sustainable living. Additionally, each student made a personal Earth Day pledge, promising to take small but meaningful steps—like reducing plastic use, saving water, and planting more trees—to make a positive impact on the environment. It was an inspiring and thoughtful initiative by our young environmental champions!



## Earth Day Activity by Year 6 students





## *Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!*



Celebrating World Earth Day





# Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

## RECYCLE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW THE NATIONAL E-WASTE DRIVE BY

Sharaf **DG**

Start collecting!!  
Drop-off dates to  
school to be confirmed



Top 3 Contributors

# Win Exciting Prizes

## Turn Your School into a Sustainability Champion!

### How to Participate

Bring your old electronics and drop it in the e-Waste bins placed in your school during the 2-week collection period.

The more e-Waste you donate, the closer you get to winning!



### Prizes for Schools



### Prizes for Students



(TOP 3 PER SCHOOL)

Recycling Partner

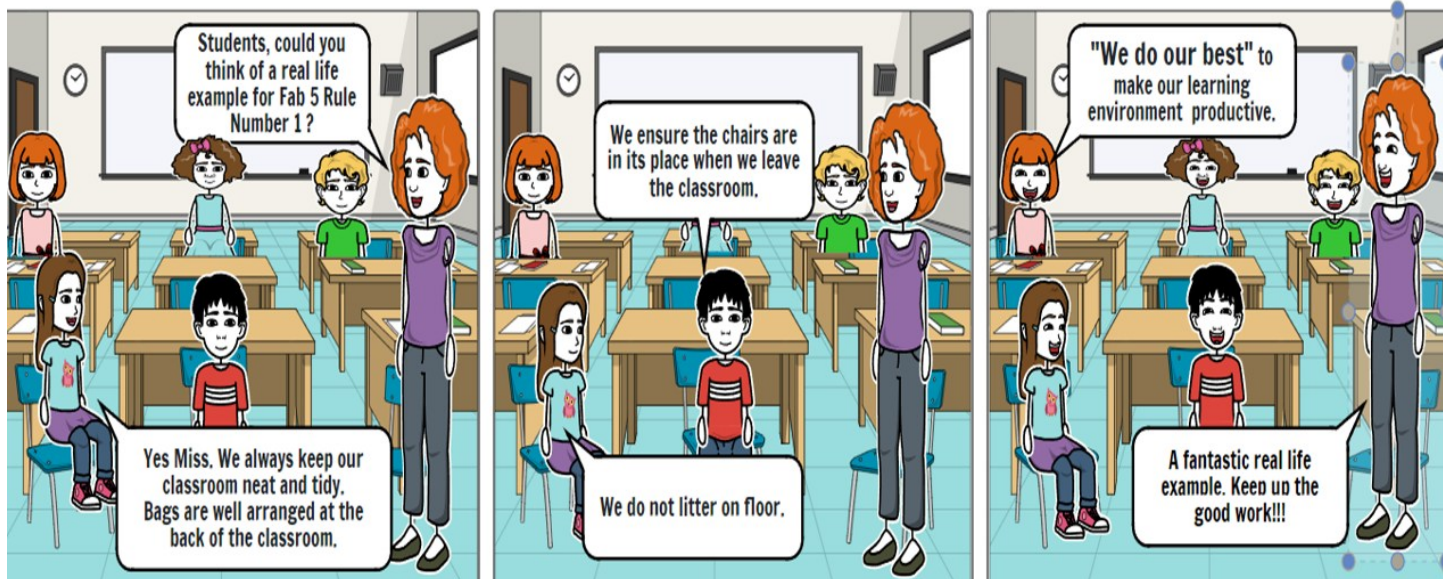
انفيريوس  
serve

Tech Partner

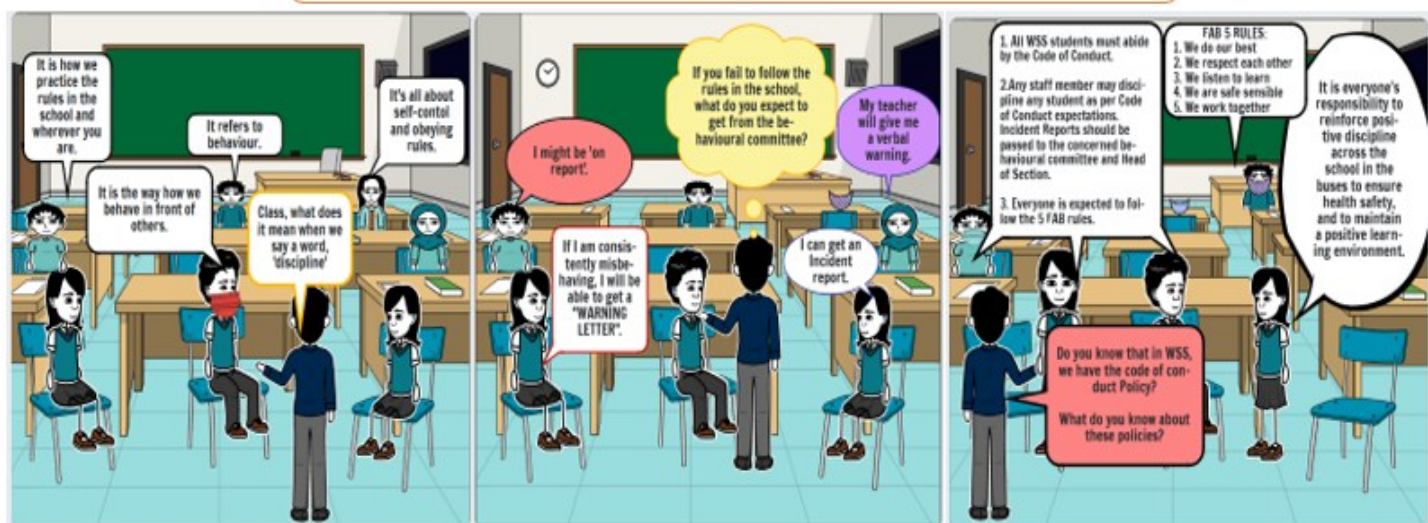
**Renie**  
The future of waste is digital

## Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

### The Fab 5 – “We do our best”



### Discipline and the school code of conduct





## Happy Birthdays!



Y2D1 with Ms. Uzma and Ms. Askia





## *WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!*

Dear Ms Kishwar and Ms Mani,

Hope you both are doing well. Firstly, congratulations on winning the Pizza Party.

I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you both for the incredible effort and dedication you've shown in supporting Yasa's learning journey. It's been truly heartwarming to see the remarkable progress he has made, especially in his phonics. His knowledge and confidence are growing day by day, and it's clear that your hard work is making a real difference.

Beyond phonics, Yasa is also making progress in other subjects, and we are so grateful for the engaging and supportive environment you've created. Your enthusiasm, patience, and encouragement have played such an important role in his development. Indeed Yasa is blessed to have teachers like you both.

Thank you once again for everything you do!

Thanks and best regards

Ayesha Farrukh

Mother of Yasa Farrukh

Y1 H2

## *Junior Section News; Family First—Happy Mothers' Day Celebration at WSS, 21/4/25!*





## *Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!*

**FS2D1**



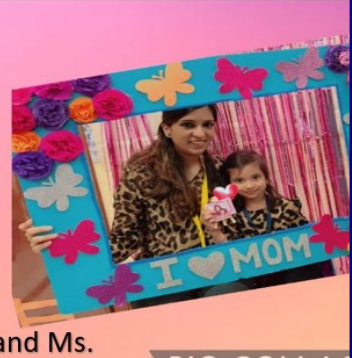
**Pizza party winners 🏆**

PIC•COLLAGE

**FS2D1**



**Celebrating Mother's Day ❤️**



With Ms. Nikhat and Ms. Afroz

PIC•COLLAGE

**FS2D1**



**Celebrating Mother's Day ❤️**



PIC•COLLAGE

**FS2D1**



**Celebrating Mother's Day**



With Ms. Nikhat and Ms. Afroz

PIC•COLLAGE



## *Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!*

### Y1D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna



### Y1D2 WITH MS. SADIQA AND MS. ASMA





## Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!

### Y1F1 WITH MS. AYSHA AND MS. JAMILA



### Y1F2 WITH MS. ANEEZA AND MS. GURPREET





## *Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!*

### Y1H1 WITH MS. AAFREIN AND MS. FIZZA



### Y1H2 WITH MS. KISHWAR AND MS. MANI





## Y1S1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadiya





## *Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!*





## Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!

### MS MILLICENT & MS TAHIRA Y2D2





## *Junior Section News; Y2F2 Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!*

### **Y2F2-With Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Benil**



### **Y2F2-With Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Benil**





# *Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!*

## **Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!**



Miss Jinitra and Miss Maryam



### **Mothers Day Celebrations**





## Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities & Parental Engagement (Breakfast with My Mother)!

### Y2H2 MS.ROOMANA AND MS.AQUEEN



### Teddy goes home



### Wellbeing Champions of Y2H2



### Y2H2 MS.ROOMANA AND MS.AQUEEN



### Super stars of Y2H2





## *Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!*

### Y2S2 with Ms. Safia and Ms. Catherin





## *WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!*

### Y4 Champions



Our Teaching & Learning Coach Ms. Christine would like to give a 'Shout out' to the two year 5 students below who effectively modelled, annotated and explained the features of an autobiography to their class. They were eloquent and precise in their explanation. Well done!

**Karen Mohamed Aly Ahmed Abdellah**

**Mariam Tarek Zainelabdeen Ahmed Youssef**



## Y4S2 Assembly Topic – E-Safety



**Syed Talha Y4 S1 champion in football.**



**Karmen Maisara Neyazy Y4 D2 recently participated in a gymnastics competition in Dubai and won the first place.**



**Yousef Ahmed- Y4 S2 prize for swimming in Green Champions Gala- Al Ahli club**



## *Primary Section News; Primary Art Exhibition, 24/4/25!*





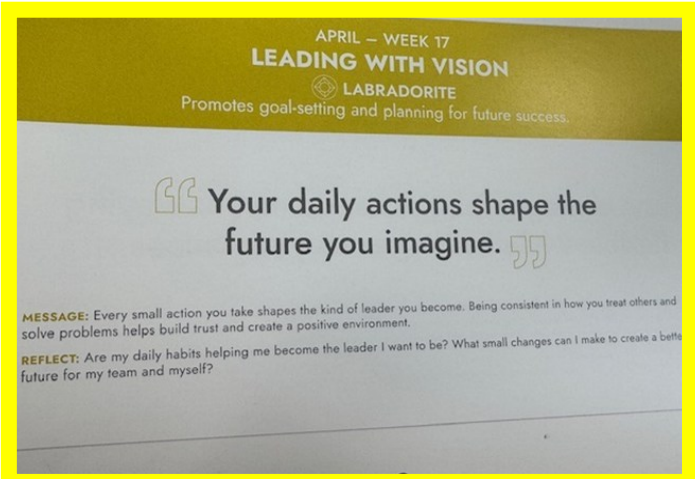
## Primary Section News; Primary Art Exhibition, 24/4/25!

Well done to all parents & students who submitted such creative & beautiful art items for this exhibition. There was an impressive range of different creations. Huge thanks to all parents who helped their child at home.





## Primary Section News; Primary Art Exhibition, 24/4/25!





## *Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities*



Y3S1 did lots of hands-on activities to explore 2D shapes using Geoboards and cross curricular link to Science on shadow.



## *Secondary Section News; KS3 Wellbeing Assembly with VIP Guest Dr. Mokhtar, SPEA Wellbeing Lead, 21/4/25 & 22/4/25!*

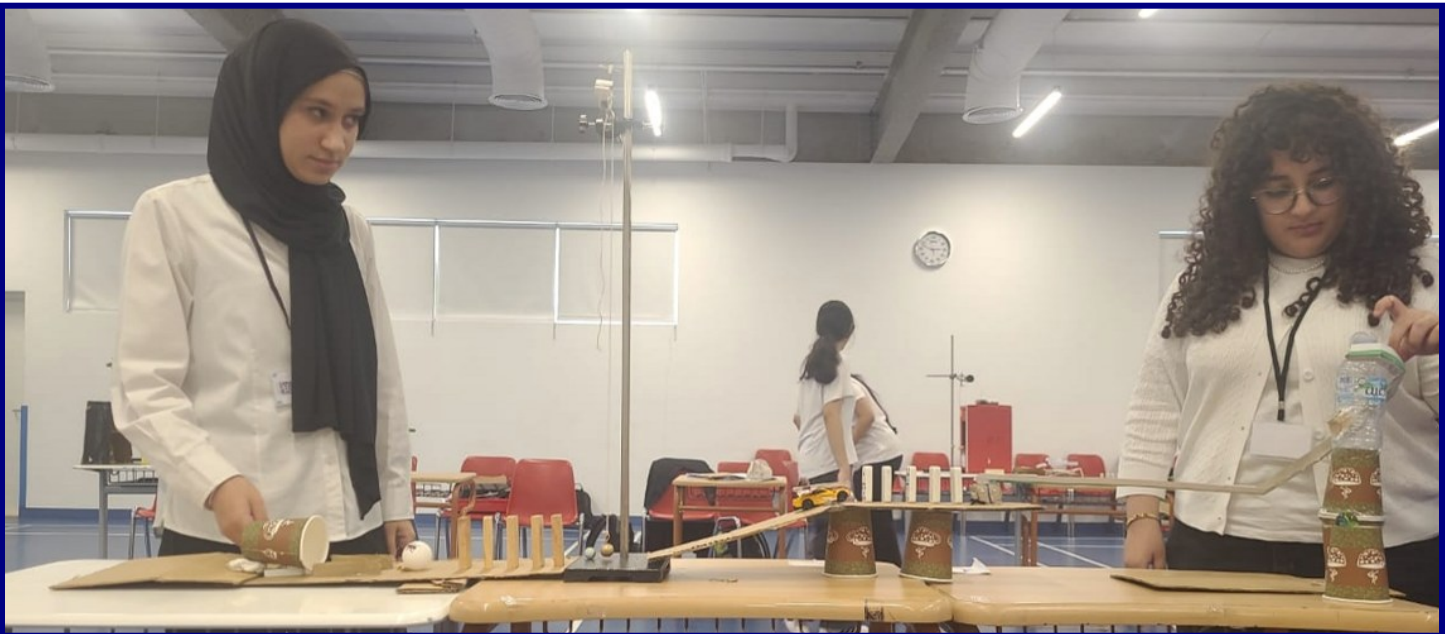


Huge thanks to SPEA Wellbeing Lead Dr. Mokhtar for visiting WSS this week, & for sharing his valuable insights. We learnt that managing our wellbeing (emotional, physical, digital, social, academic & life-skills acquisition) is critical to happiness & success. Stress is a normal part of life, but has to be managed. Life can be seen as a giving us a 'Stress Bucket', but we can create 'taps' or outlets by adopting positive practices & strategies to release the stress so it is manageable.

Students shared some great strategies—such as practicing gratitude, talking about concerns to friends or trusted adults, following a healthy lifestyle & choosing our friends wisely.



## *Secondary Section News; Participation in the GEMS Modern Academy Science Symposium!*



### **Celebrating Innovative Thinkers at the STREAM Contraption Challenge**

We are incredibly proud of our Year 12 students, **Menna and Kenzy**, who represented our school at the *STREAM Contraption Challenge* held as part of the GMA Modern Science Symposium. Competing against 16 teams from schools across the UAE, they showcased exceptional problem-solving, collaboration, and time management skills throughout the event.

Their creativity, composure under pressure, and teamwork stood out on a platform designed to test innovation and precision under real-time constraints.

Well done, Menna and Kenzy, for your spirited effort and for making us proud!



## *Secondary Section News; SSL U17 Tournament!*



Great to see our students participating in an inter-school Football League with SSL. Many thanks to our dedicated HOD PE Mr. Jishar & his enthusiastic PE team for their support for this weekend event. The WSS team achieved 2nd runner-up!