

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #34
22nd May, 2025



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

Dear WSS Parents,

Mandated Clinic Forms

Many thanks to the parents who have already submitted their child's mandated five Clinic Forms. If you have not yet done so, please submit ASAP. Many thanks.

There is also a very quick **Independent Exit** survey for **Y9-12** to complete ready for August, by latest **Monday 16th June**. Many thanks.



Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Thurs. 29th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Awareness Day, whole school. Students may come dressed in traditional dress & bring traditional food to share with friends. Deadline for FS1-Y12 parents to submit their child's Clinic forms. Thanks.
Thurs. 6/6 to Sun. 8/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Eid Al Adha (TBC by Authorities)
Mon. 16/6/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for Y9-12 parents to complete the Independent Exit Survey
Thurs. 19th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day of compulsory T3 Promotional Exams
Thurs. 3rd July, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last official day for students for this academic year.
Monday 25th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of T1 for new joiners. 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.
Tuesday 26th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of T1 for returning students. 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.

It has been such a busy, joyful few weeks in school, with so many events, projects & parent engagement. Dear parents, thank you for your support, time, creativity & engagement every step of the way!



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 34
22 مايو 2025



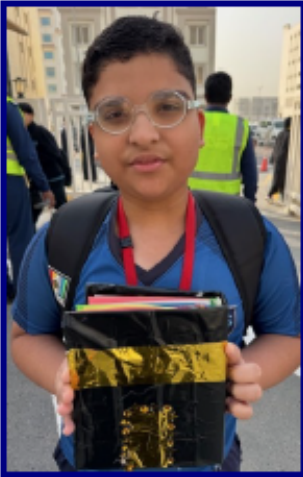
رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومبسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

نماذج العيادات الإلزامية

شكرًا جزيلاً للآباء والأمهات الذين
قدموا بالفعل نماذج العيادة الخمسة
المطلوبة لأطفالهم. إذا لم تقم بذلك
بعد، يرجى إرساله في أسرع وقت
ممكن. شكرًا جزيلاً.

هناك أيضًا استبيان خروج مستقل سريع جدًا للصفوف من التاسع
إلى الثاني عشر، جاهز للتقديم في أغسطس، في موعد أقصاه يوم
الاثنين 16 يونيو. شكرًا جزيلاً.



المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الخميس 29 مايو	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> يوم التوعية الثقافية، لجميع طلاب المدرسة. يُسمح للطلاب بالحضور بالزي التقليدي وإحضار مقولات تقليدية لمشاركتها مع أصدقائهم. آخر موعد لأولياء أمور الصفوف من FS1 إلى Y12 لتقديم استمارات العيادة الخاصة بأطفالهم. شكرًا.
من الخميس 6/6 إلى الأحد 8/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> إغلاق المدارس بمناسبة عيد الأضحى المبارك (سيتم الإعلان عنه لاحقًا من قبل السلطات)
الاثنين 16/6/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> الموعد النهائي لأولياء أمور طلاب الصفوف من التاسع إلى الثاني عشر لإكمال استبيان الخروج المستقل.
الخميس 19 يونيو	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> آخر يوم من امتحانات T3 الترويجية الإلزامية
الخميس 3 يوليو 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي.
الاثنين 25 أغسطس	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> اليوم الأول من T1 للمتضمنين الجدد. يجب سداد رسوم T1 بالكامل قبل قبول أي طالب في الفصل الدراسي للعام الجديد. لا توجد استثناءات لهذا، لذا يرجى إعداد الميزانية وفقًا لذلك.
الثلاثاء 26 أغسطس	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 وفقًا 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 Hand-
book** through this QR code.
Check-out school policies & pro-
cedures to be familiar & com-
fortable with our system.



Contents

Parent Handbook Access QR Code

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17-18 18 19-22 23-29 30-34	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions; winners in the Emirates American School 'Stage Bloom' oratory competition promoted by SPEA. This Week's Leadership GEMStone Y1 Learning Activities Y2 Learning Activities Junior & Primary Hajj Exhibitions
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Whole School News; Independent Exit Survey for Current Y9-12, Ready for Y10-13 in the new Academic Year!

Dear WSS Y9-12 Parents,

The below important survey has been sent home to Y9-12 parents (ready for Y10-13 next academic year). Please complete it by latest Monday 16/6/25, so that we can have the new purple Independent Exit lanyards ready for your children in September.

Please note that Y10-13 would wear a dark purple lanyard with their school ID, & younger siblings approved to accompany the Y10-13 sibling would wear a pale purple lanyard, with their school ID.


Please note that there is no charge for the first issue.

Parent Approval for Student's Independent Exit

WSS recommends that all Own Transport students are picked up from school by a designated adult. However, we understand that parents may wish for their Y10-13 children to exit school at the end of the day independently, & may also wish the Y10-13 student to take their younger siblings. Please choose the option as per your wish. Please note that school accepts no responsibility for any consequences of parent-approved independent exit. Special Lanyards will be provided to Independent Exit students & their siblings accordingly, which must be worn with their ID card daily.

Hi, Nikita. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

* Required

1. Please **choose one** of the below options: * 

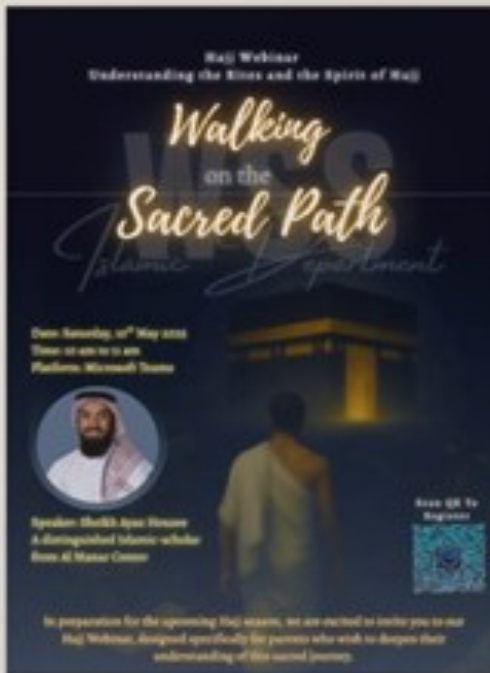
- ☐ I do not approve Independent Exit for my children
- ☐ I approve Independent Exit for my Y10-13 child to leave WSS at the end of the school day without a designated adult. However, I do not approve for my Y10-13 child to take their younger siblings (if any).
- ☐ I approve Independent Exit for my Y10-13 child to leave WSS at the end of the school day without a designated adult, & to take their younger siblings (if any).

Submit

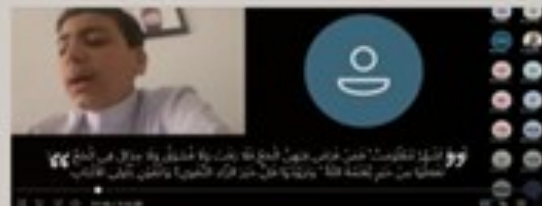
Whole School News; Islamic Week

Online Hajj Webinar, 10/5/25!

WALKING ON THE SACRED PATH



On 10th May, WSS had hosted an online hajj webinar, In preparation for the upcoming Hajj season, designed specifically for parents who wish to deepen their understanding of this sacred journey.



We had the privilege of having Sheikh Ayaz Housee, a highly respected and resourceful Islamic preacher, known for his efforts in clarifying the true message of Islam to both Muslims and non-Muslims. He has shared his knowledge across continents and on platforms such as Huda TV and Sharjah TV.

To view the recorded session
Please scan the QR



GEMS Westminister School
Grafton



Whole School News; Islamic Week!



The youths remarkable creativity

**Young minds united
in crafting
phenomenal projects
that beautifully
capture the spirit of
Hajj.**



Whole School News; Islamic Week!



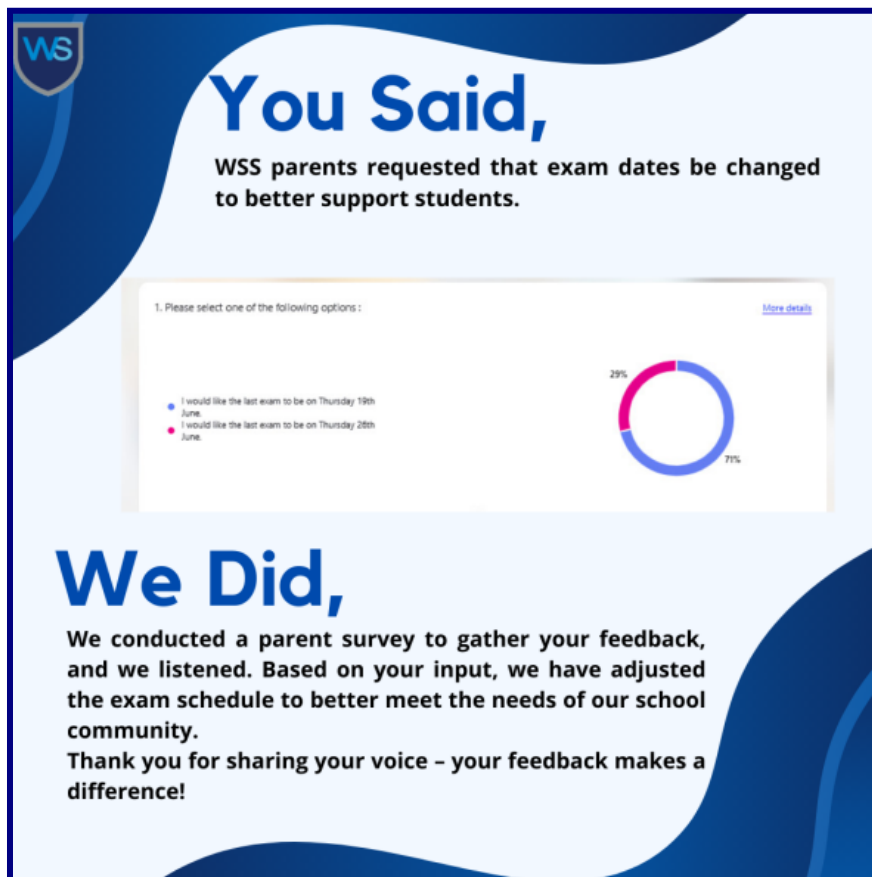
Whole School News; Staff CPD (Training)!



SPEA SIA Ms. Lynn's Hub Maths CPD was hosted this week by PACE British School. WSS Maths Leads attended as part of their ongoing CPD programme.



Whole School News; Parent Voice!



Whole School News; Family First Breakfast!

Huge thanks to all students, parents & staff involved! It was wonderful to share the positivity & joy of quality family fun time!



We are the fruit of these roots... Together, we form our School Family Tree

Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



On 21/5/25 WSS hosted Mr. Moaz Sawaf, an Auditor for the Green Flag Sustainability Award. The Sustainability team, Ms. Laneetha, Ms. Indira, Ms. Jinitra, Ms. Saranya & our enthusiastic sustainability champion students have worked extremely hard over the last 18 months to promote sustainability awareness & initiatives across the school. Mr. Moaz interviewed staff & students, & was very complimentary about our sustainability programme so far.



Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DAY
SMALL ACTS, WHEN MULTIPLIED BY MILLIONS OF
PEOPLE, CAN TRANSFORM THE WORLD.
PLANTING TODAY FOR A GREENER TOMORROW.

Y5D1

WSS Superstar Champions!



The Principal Ms. Valerie received a Long Service Award at the recent GEMS Awards Ceremony held at the Atlantis Palm Jumeirah. The Award recognised over 30 years' service to GEMS. The event recognised exceptional contributions to education & the community by students, Parents & GEMS staff.

Dear Mr. Mahmoud,

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for your unwavering support, dedication, and consistent follow-up with our students as they prepared and revised for the international Arabic language exams.

Throughout the academic year, you have provided all the necessary assistance without sparing time or effort. Even in the final moments before the exam, you were there for them, offering additional revision sessions to ensure their success.

May God bless you abundantly and reward you for your efforts. We sincerely wish you continued excellence and success.

With gratitude,

Amani Fathy

Mother of student Mona Ahmed Abdel Rahman – Year 12

الأستاذ الفاضل محمود
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته
أود أن أتقدم لكم بخالص الشكر والتقدير على دعمكم وجهودكم ومتابعكم لأولادنا الطلبة في الاستعداد والمراجعة للاختبارات الدولية في اللغة العربية
على مدار العام قنمتم كل الدعم والمساعدة ولم تبخلوا بالوقت والجهد حتى إلى قبل الامتحان مباشرة وقرتم لهم حصص مراجعة إضافية
بارك الله لكم، وجعله في ميزان حسناتكم، متمنين لكم دوام التميز
وشكرا

أمانى فتحى

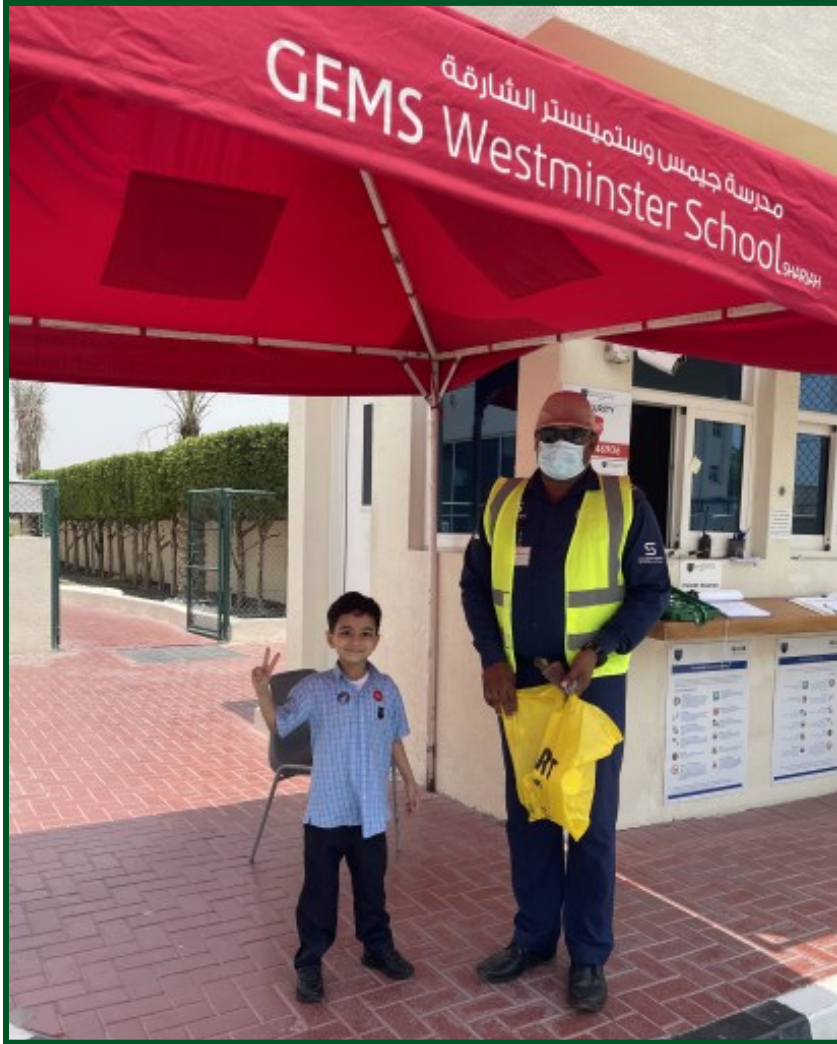
Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Whole School News; Week 4 ECA Report!



Whole School News; Values, Kindness & Character!



Well done to Umer (FS2F1) who wanted to appreciate our security guards by giving them cold beverages as they are standing in the hot weather and supporting the arrivals and dispersals of our students. Thank you Umer!



Thank you so much for the thoughtful Hajj treat.



Happy Birthdays!



Thank you Haya for bringing in such a beautiful, healthy treat to share with your classmates! Well done for supporting our 'Healthy Lifestyle' policy.

WSS Junior Section 'Stage Bloom' Competition Superstar Champions!

Emirates American School hosted 'Stage Bloom', an Oratory competition promoted by SPEA. Some of our Junior students participated & won prizes in 'D Alphabetizers':

- Rimaas (Y1F2) won 3rd place in the KG category
- Sasha (Y1D1) won 2nd place
- Sheniya (Y1S1) won 2nd place in the Primary category

Thank you to the teachers for supporting over their weekend.



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



LEADING WITH ADAPTABILITY
AQUAMARINE
Helps students embrace change with resilience and flexibility.

“ Being flexible in how you solve problems makes you stronger. ”

MESSAGE: Leaders who are open to new ways of doing things can help their team grow. Sticking to just one way of thinking can stop progress.

REFLECT: How can I try new methods while staying true to my goals? What new ideas could help me and my team solve problems better?

This week's Leadership GEMStone

Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!

Y1D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna

Learning about absorbent/ non-absorbent materials



ICT lesson



Congratulations



Exploring @ OLA



Maths lesson



Y1 D1 @ free play centre



Y1D2 with MS Sadiqa and Ms Asma



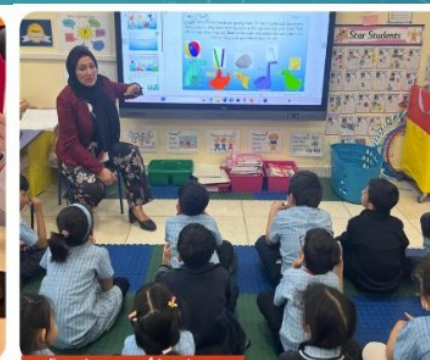
Learning, exploring knowledge through curiosity and creativity at their finger tips



Well done ! Earned marble sticker for hard work !!!



Healthy treat for friends



Exploring float or sink .



Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!

Y1F1 WITH MS. AYSHA AND MS. JAMILA



Y1F2 WITH MS. ANEEZA AND MS. GURPREET



Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!

Y1H1 WITH MS. AAFREIN AND MS. FIZZA



This week in Y1H1, we dove into science—literally! From sinking rocks to floating bits and testing what soaks or shrugs off water, our little scientists had a splash-tastic time with sink, float, and absorb-it-all fun!



Y1H2 WITH MS. KISHWAR AND MS. MANI



Sustainability activity Y1 H2



Guided Reading Lesson



Reading Time



Guided Reading Time

Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!

Y1S1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadiya



Well done!



ICT Lesson



Science experiment



Science Experiment on materials.



Y1S2 with Ms. Rajina and Ms. Foumy



ICT Lesson



Learning about conjunction 'and, but, so, or'



Free play centre



Home learning activities



Learning in OLA is fun

Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!

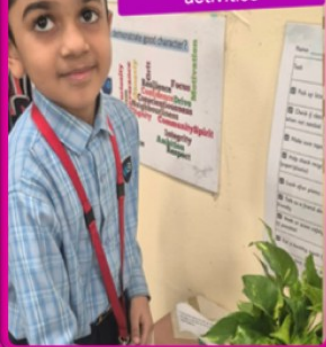


Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2F2 Learning Activities!

Y2F2-With Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Benil



Y2F2-With Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Benil



Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!

Miss Jinitra and Miss Maryam



Sustainability



Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!

Y2H2 MS.ROOMANA AND MS.AQUEEN

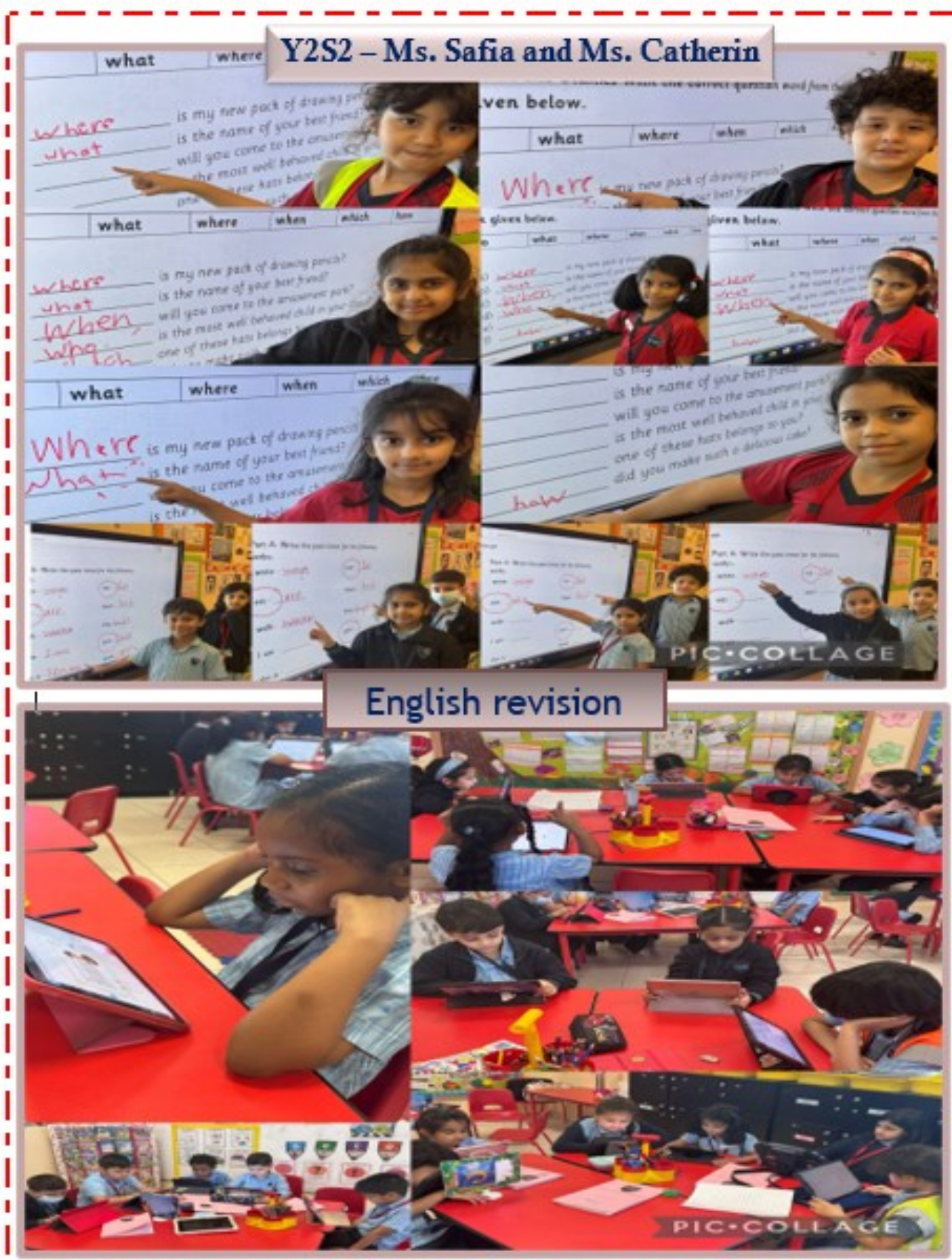


Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!

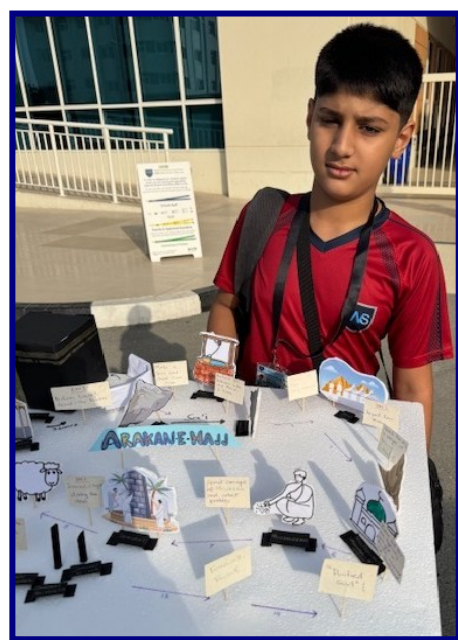
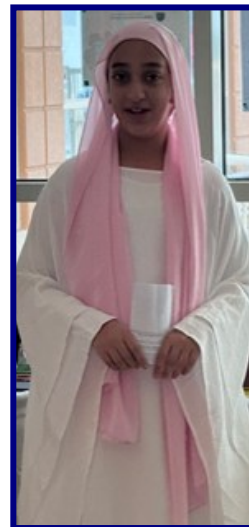
Y2S1 with Ms. Sara & Ms. Fiza



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!



Whole School Learning; Hajj Exhibitions!



Junior & Primary Hajj Exhibition, 20/5/25!



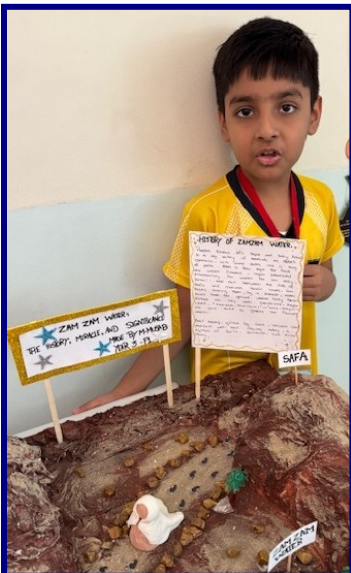
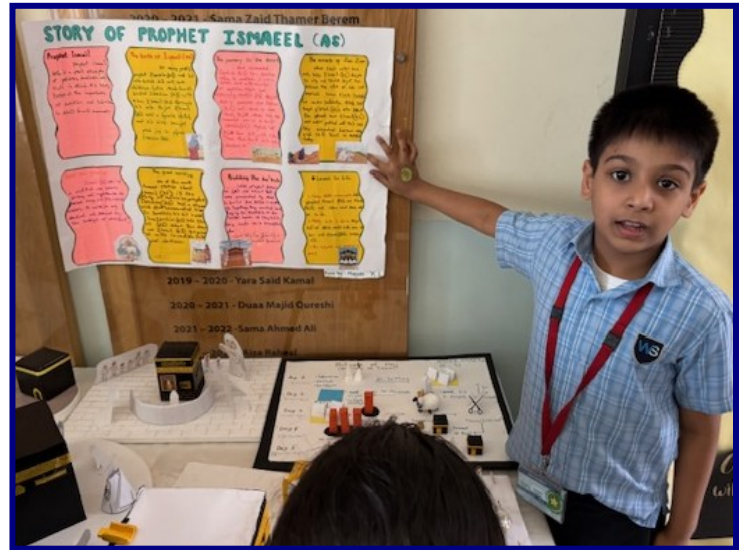
Junior & Primary Hajj Exhibition, 20/5/25!



Junior & Primary Hajj Exhibition, 20/5/25!



Whole School News; Hajj Exhibition, 20/5/25 & 21/5/25!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

Good morning 🌞 Gems west minster school and amazing teachers , everyone who connected with the Gems west minster school. Thank you for creating a warm and nurturing environment where my child feels safe and encouraged to learn every day. Sharing some memories with you .
New journey new adventures and yes
"Every exit is an entry somewhere else".
Nabia and family very lucky ,we are blessed with the best and we feel always proud that we are the part of Gems west minster school. Have a blessed day
Best regards
Nabia and Nabia's mother Syeda



Congratulations to Nabia & all our Y6 Graduates! We wish you every continuing success in the next stage of your learning journey in Secondary Section.

Primary Section News; Y5 Radio Station Broadcast, 22/5/25!



Our fabulously confident Y5 Radio Presenters discussed about 'Climate Change' & what we can do to support the environment. We learnt that, "Every Little helps!"

Primary Section News; Y3 Hajj Projects!

Year 3 F1 students participated in the Hajj Exhibition, enriching their understanding of the pilgrimage through engaging and interactive experiences.



Whole School News; Y4 Family First Breakfast, 19/5/25!



Whole School News; Y4 Family First Breakfast, 19/5/25!



Whole School News; Y4 Family First Breakfast, 19/5/25!



Family, Food, and Fellowship – the perfect start to our day! Y4F1's Family First Breakfast





Respected teacher, thank you for organizing such a lovely event and giving us the opportunity to connect with the children and fellow parents. I truly enjoyed spending the time with my child in the breakfast activity.

Appreciate all the efforts put in by the WSS team to make it a memorable experience.

Regards,
Parent Syed Talha Y4S1

Family First Breakfast at Y4H1

Our classroom was filled with love, laughter, and the delicious aroma of an amazing food spread brought by our wonderful parents! The students were overjoyed, sharing stories, smiles, and creating beautiful memories that will last a lifetime.



Family First Breakfast at Y4 D2

Year 4 D2 had a wonderful **Breakfast Morning with Parents**, filled with warmth, smiles, and meaningful conversations. It was heartwarming to see parents and children sharing laughter and enjoying special moments together over a delicious breakfast.



Y4F2 Family First Breakfast



Whole School News; Y4 Family First Breakfast, 19/5/25!

Y4 S1 Family First Breakfast



A nourishing breakfast with mummies and daddies sets the tone for a productive day. Y4 S1 enjoyed a sumptuous meal with the parents.

Y5 Family First Breakfast, 19/5/25!



Whole School News; Y5 Family First Breakfast, 21/5/25!







Secondary Section Arabic Superstar Champions!



Here we have photos from the recent recognition of outstanding students in the Arabic Department. These students, from Years 6 to 9, were acknowledged for their participation in the Arabic Assembly. Thank you to the Y13 Arabic Club girls for designing the lovely certificates.



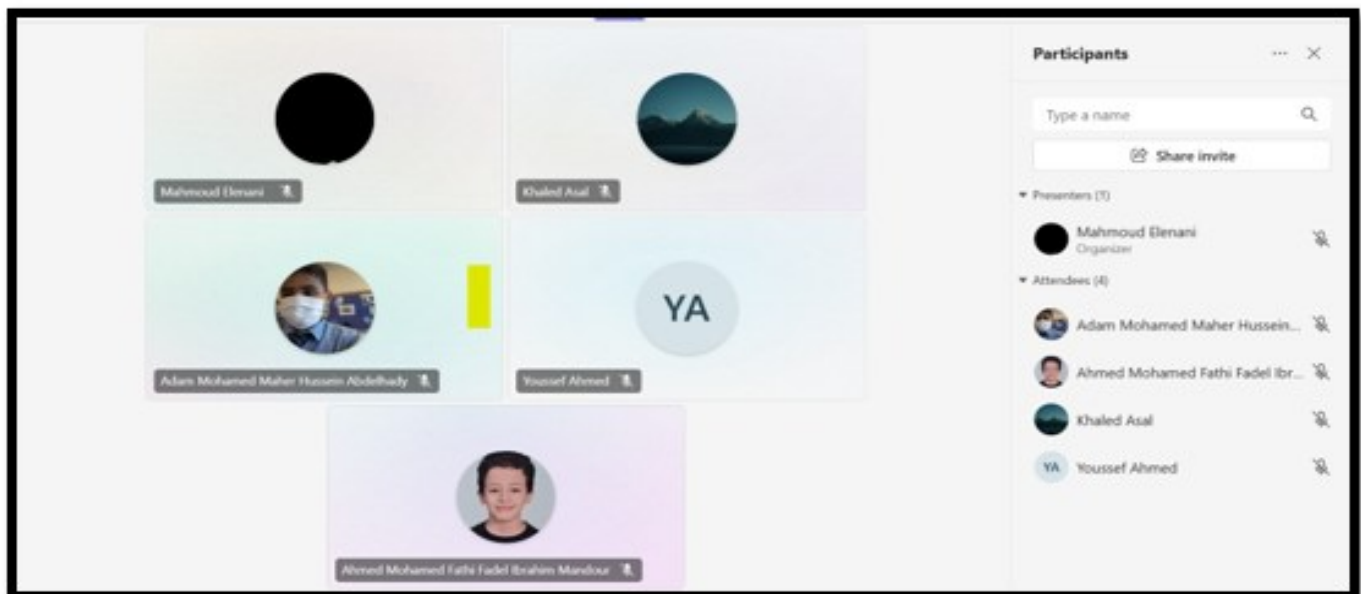
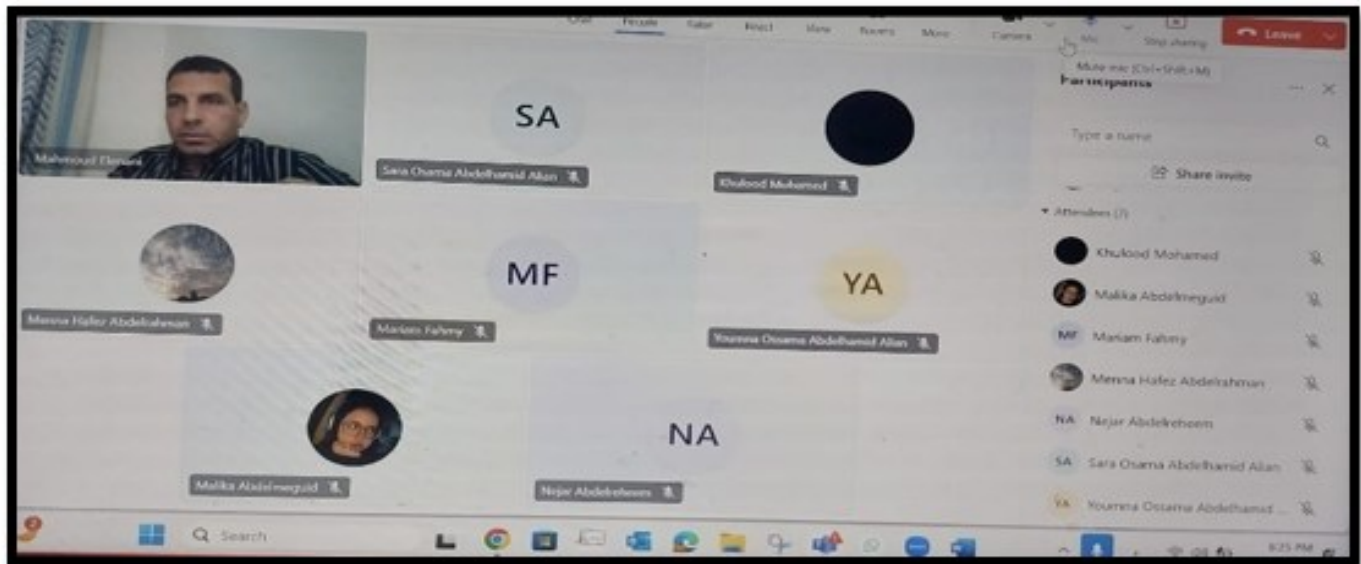
Secondary Section Arabic Superstar Champions!



Secondary Section Arabic Superstar Champions!

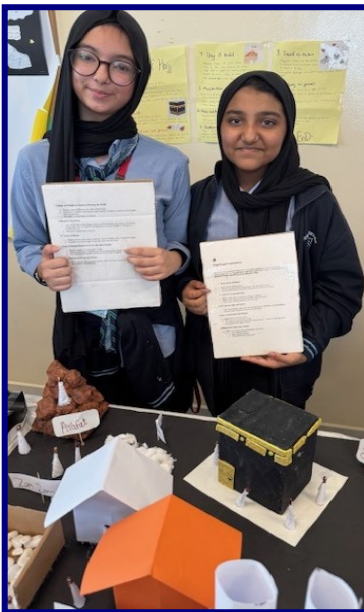
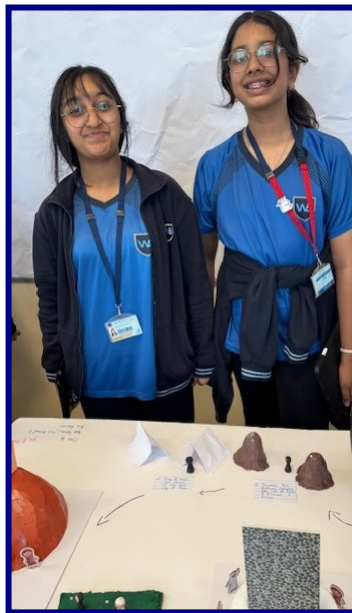


Secondary Section News; Y11 & Y12 Arabic Intervention Classes!

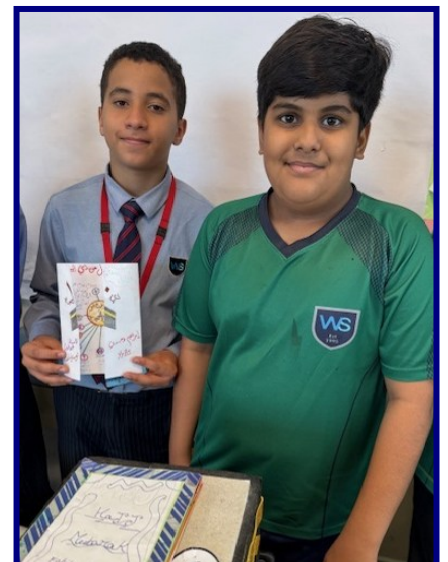
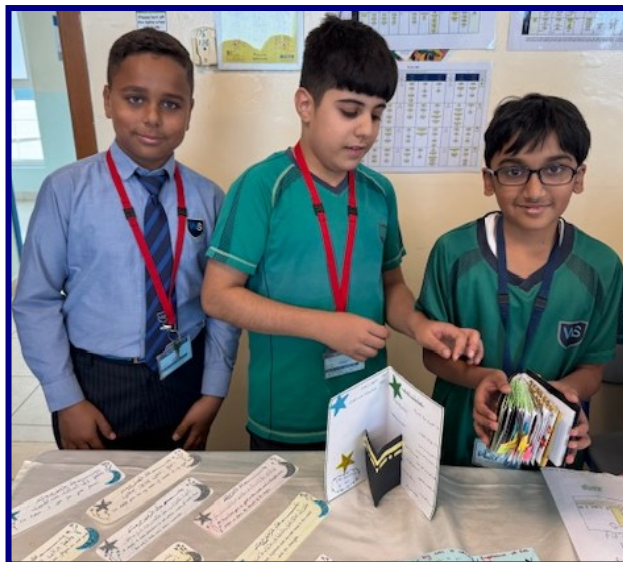


As part of our ongoing support for our students, and at the request of parents and students, we have conducted additional intervention classes on Microsoft Teams to support preparing students for their international Arabic language exams, with the aim of ensuring high scores.

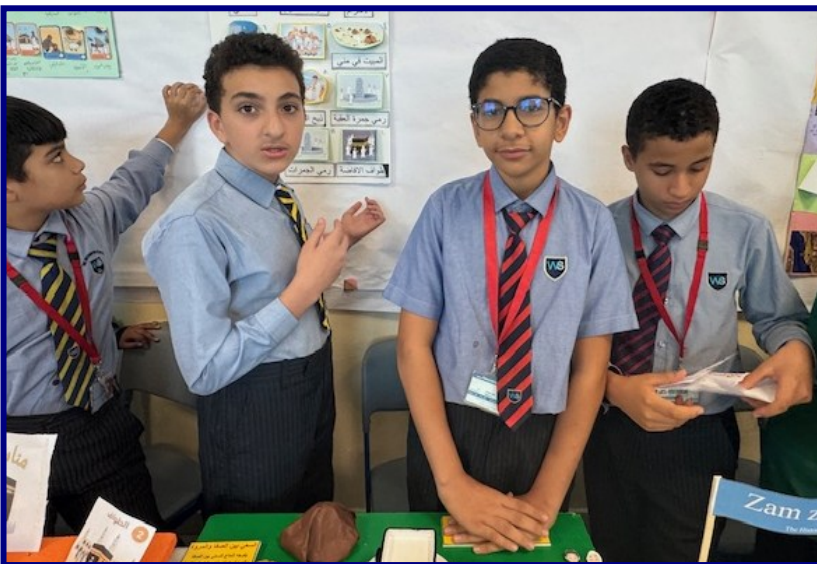
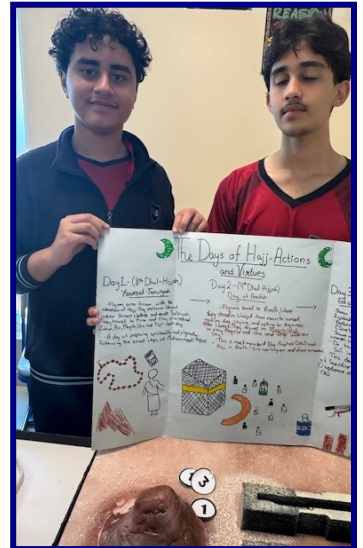
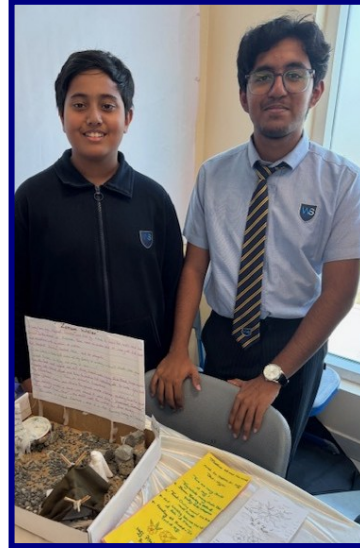
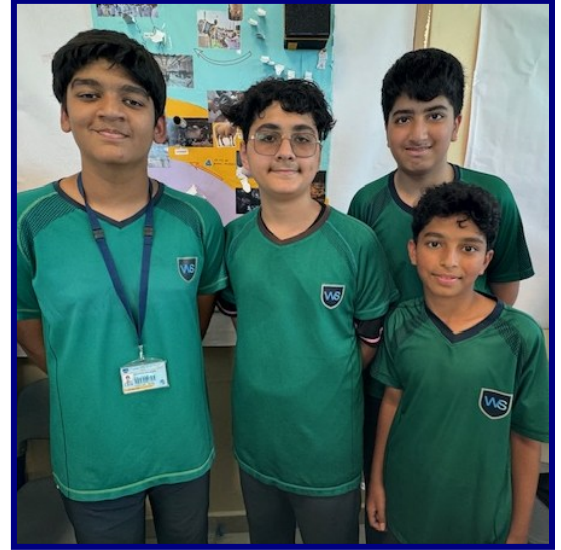
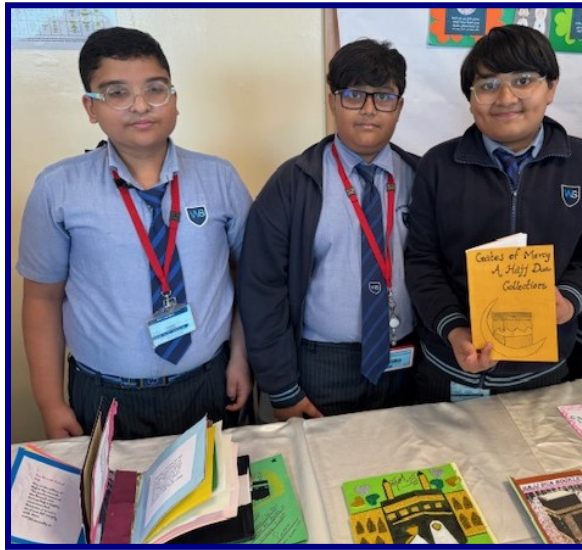
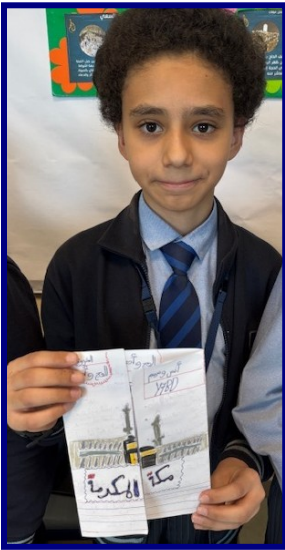
Secondary Section; Hajj Exhibition, 21/5/25!



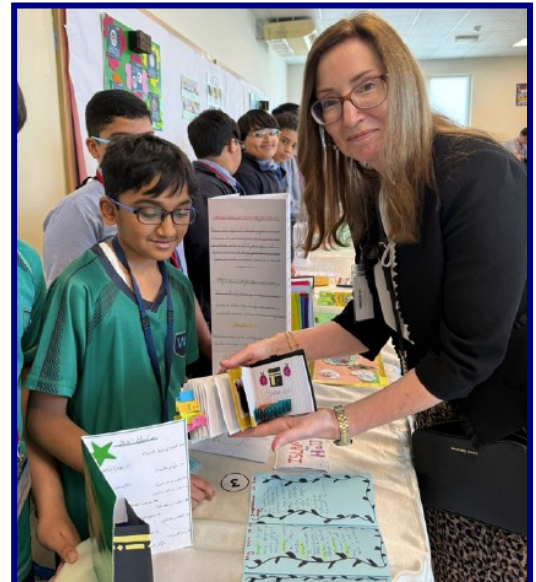
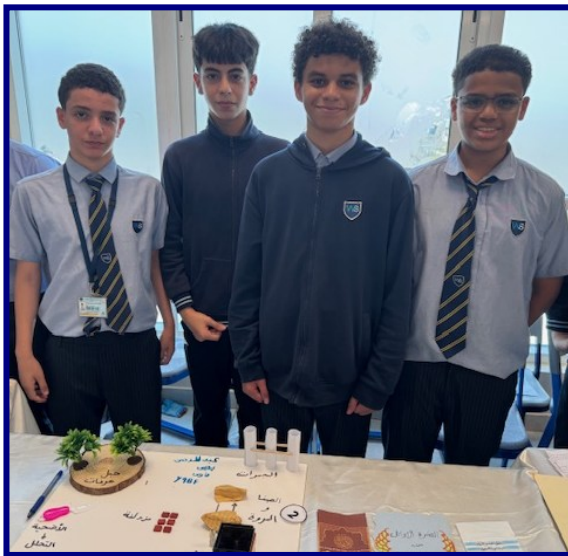
Secondary Section; Hajj Exhibition, 21/5/25!



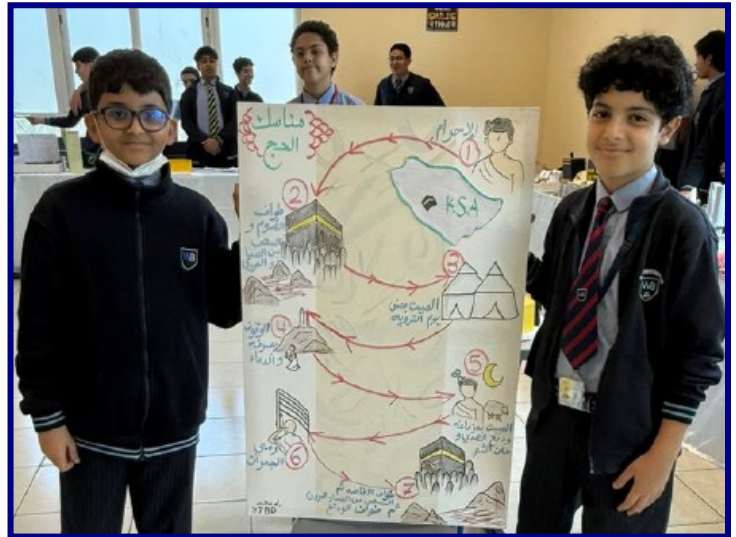
Secondary Section; Hajj Exhibition, 21/5/25!



Secondary Section; Hajj Exhibition, 21/5/25!



Secondary Section; Hajj Exhibition, 21/5/25!



Secondary Section; Y10 Hajj Symposium!

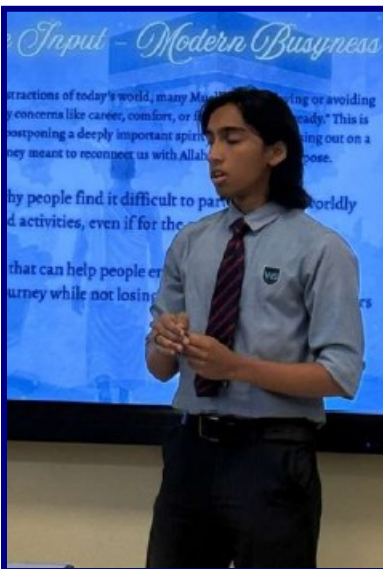
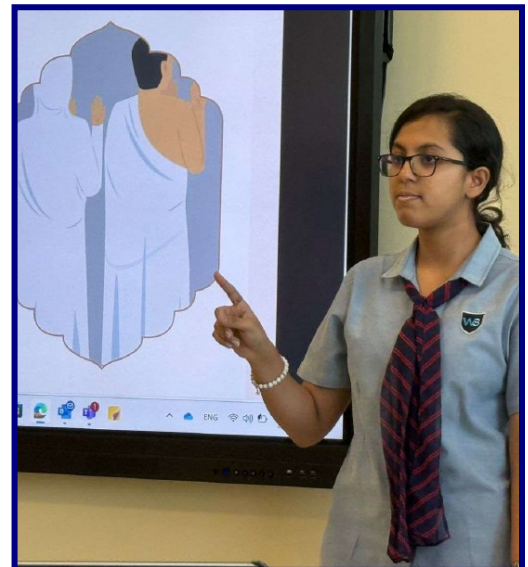
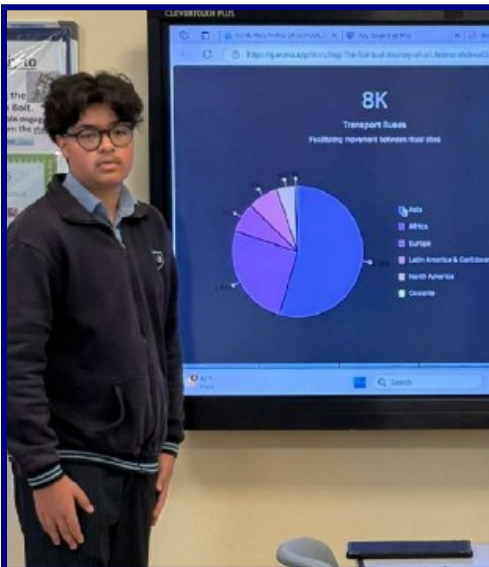
Hajj Symposium

🎓 **Year 10 Students** Shine in Hajj Symposium 🎓

Our talented Year 10 boys and girls successfully hosted an enlightening Hajj Symposium, where they led insightful discussions on the significance and spiritual journey of Hajj. Their presentations were thoughtful and inspiring, showcasing their dedication and deep understanding. A big thank you to the students for their hard work and to everyone who participated! 🏆 📖 🏠



Secondary Section; Y10 Hajj Symposium!



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KS4 International Family Day



International Family Day 2025 was celebrated with a heartfelt parenting session, *'Parent Decode: Unplugging the Teen Years – Together We Raise'* on Thursday, 15th May. Parents and students engaged in open discussions on teenage challenges and bonding strategies. A vibrant cultural showcase and potluck lunch added warmth and diversity to the event. It was a meaningful step in strengthening our school community.

