

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #40
3rd July, 2025



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

Dear WSS Parents,

We have finally reached the end of a long, busy & learning-rich academic year. Together as a team we have overcome challenges, embraced new initiatives, problem-solved & worked hard to meet the individual learning needs of all our children so that each could flourish in their own unique way. It is time to take a break, relax, enjoy some quality time with friends & family, & refresh to be ready for the bright new academic year ahead.

We sincerely thank all our dear parents, students & staff for each & every contribution to our children's progress & achievement & wish you every success & blessings in the year ahead.

Dates for Your Diary

| Date | Details |
|---|--|
| Mon. 23/6/25 to Thurs. 3/7/25 inclusive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student timings; 7:15am-12:15pm (12:30pm bus departure) Activity programme for students in school from 23/6/25 to 3/7/25 inclusive. |
| 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. |



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 40
3 يوليو 2025



رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومبسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

لقد وصلنا أخيرًا إلى نهاية عام
دراسي طويل ومزدحم وغني
بالتعلم. بالتعاون معاً كفريق واحد،
تغلينا على التحديات، واحتضنا
مبادرات جديدة، وحلنا المشاكل،
وعملنا بجد لتلبية احتياجات التعلم
الفريدة لجميع أطفالنا حتى يتمكن

كل منهم من الازدهار بطريقته الفريدة. لقد حان الوقت لأخذ
قسط من الراحة والاسترخاء والاستمتاع ببعض الوقت الجيد
مع الأصدقاء والعائلة والاستعداد للقراءة للعام الدراسي
الجديد المشرق القادم.

نتقدم بخالص الشكر لجميع أولياء الأمور والطلاب
والموظفين الأعزاء على كل مساهمة في تقدم أطفالنا
وإنجازاتهم ونتمنى لكم كل النجاح والبركة في العام المقبل.

المواعيد

| التفاصيل | التاريخ |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> مواعيد الطلاب: 7:15 صباحاً - 12:15 ظهراً (مغادرة الحافلة 12:30 ظهراً) برنامج الأنشطة للطلاب في المدرسة من 23/6/25 إلى 7/3/25 شامل. آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> من الاثنين 23/6/25 إلى الخميس 3/7/25 الخميس 3 يوليو 2025 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> اليوم الأول من T1 للمنتظمين 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> الاثنين 25 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 وفقاً لذلك. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> الثلاثاء 26 أغسطس |



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

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Parent Handbook Access QR Code

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



Whole School News; Book Distribution Arrangements for August 2025

Updated 26/6/25

| WSS Book & Digital Resource Delivery | | | August 2025 |
|---|---|---|--|
| Section | Dates | Arrangements | Comments |
| Junior Section (FS1-Y2) | From Monday 25th August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Books will <u>distributed</u> to the children in class by the class teacher as per the T1 paid class list. Parents wishing to cover books can take them from the class teacher from Monday August 25th | <p>Textbooks & Digital Resources will be provided subject to clearance of full T1 fees for all year groups.</p> <p>Any required digital resource access will be <u>provided from 26/8/25</u></p> |
| Primary (Y3-6) | Monday 18th August to Thursday 21st August (time 8am to 2pm) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents to collect from the East Lobby (Boys' Waiting Area) Only Primary books will be available Please show your T1 fee payment receipt In case of late fee payment or books not collected on 18th-21st August, the books will be handed to the Form Tutor for direct distribution once T1 fees have been paid. | <p>Any required digital resource access will be provided from 26/8/25</p> |
| Secondary Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 | Tuesday 26th August to Thursday 28th August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Books will be handed over to the Form Tutor for direct distribution to paid T1 class list children. | <p>Textbooks & digital resources already provided last year for a 2-year course will not be provided again</p> <p>Any required digital resource access will be <u>provided from 26/8/25</u></p> |
| Secondary Y10 & Y12 | Starting from Tuesday 26th August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students on the T1 paid class list will collect their individual options books from the <u>book store</u> | <p>Any required digital resource access will be provided from 26/8/25</p> |

Whole School News; Uniform for August 2025!



We are training our students to become successful, professional 'business people', so enforce a smart uniform code to reinforce self-discipline, professionalism, equality, personal pride & a sense of belonging to a team. We request that parents support our uniform code.

- **Wearing full uniform & ID badge is compulsory.** Full school uniform including ID Badge should be worn to school daily. Not wearing proper school uniform is a disciplinary issue.
- **Proper school uniform (not PE uniform) should be worn on exam days,** unless otherwise informed in writing by school.
- **If due to some unavoidable reason your child is not in proper uniform, please write a Planner note/send an email to your child's Class/Form Teacher.**
- On PE days, the PE Uniform may be worn to school (with ID Badge).
- Birthday children may wear non-uniform clothes to school for that day.



Whole School News; Uniform for August 2025!

- Smart school uniform should be worn for trips, unless otherwise informed by the Teacher.
- Parents can purchase approved uniform from Threads. Threads Contact is Tel: 8008473237, www.threadsme.com.
- The school Bookstore keeps a stock of ties & scarves for convenient replacement.
- Replacement ID cards can be purchased from the BBT office



Please note our uniform policy (see also Threads Uniform poster below):

- Abaya: A plain dark blue or black Abaya may be worn if required for religious or cultural reasons (no decoration)
- Art overall: It is recommended to bring an art overall for Art lessons.
- Bags: **Wheeled trolley bags are not allowed**
Junior students need to bring a small, cubby-hole sized backpack.
- Belt: A uniform belt is available if required
- Blazer: Optional
- Headscarf/shehla: Students may wear the uniform version (pale blue), plain white or plain black (absolutely no decoration).
- Hair: Long hair (touching the shoulder & longer) should be **tied back with uniform ties**
- ID Card: **Wearing the WSS ID card is compulsory**. Cost of a replacement WSS ID Card is AED25/- (order from the BBT office)
- Junior Uniform: Junior students should also come to school in full, smart uniform (including plain (dark) blue tights/socks & black shoes)
- Makeup: **Makeup & nail varnish are not allowed**. Students wearing these will be sent to the clinic for their removal
- Mishaps: It is recommended to send a named set of spare clothes for FS children in case of a washroom mishap. These clothes are returned home at the end of the year.
- Pants/Trousers: Uniform pants/Trousers may be worn by girls (optional) as well as boys
- PE Kit: Uniform PE kit should be worn to school on PE days only. For Break time matches, sports activities, PE kit should be brought to school in a bag & changed into before the activity.
- Scarf: **Y3-13 girls wear a neck scarf (compulsory)**
- Shirts: **Y3-13 boys' shirts should be tucked in**. Girls may opt for untucked shirt, if they wish.
- Skirts: **Skirts must reach below the knee (mid-calf) or lower**. Secondary girls wearing a skirt above the calf (mid-lower leg) should also wear leggings/tights.
- Shoes: Plain, black leather shoes.
Plain white trainers for PE.
- Socks/tights: Plain dark blue socks, plain dark blue leggings or plain dark blue tights.
White socks for PE.
- Tie: **Y3-13 boys wear a tie (compulsory)**
- Winter sweater: Uniform winter sweater
- No Uniform: If due to some unavoidable reason a child is not in proper uniform, parent please email the Teacher

Whole School News; Uniform for August 2025!

**GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL**
SHARJAH







Shoes Bags Stationery Labels Swimwear Food Container Drinkware Uniforms

Your One-Stop Shop for Back-to-School Essentials!

Threads make back-to-school shopping simple and stress-free. From approved uniforms to accessories, find everything you need in one convenient place.

Shop Early & Avoid the Rush!



Shop Now – Uniforms Available

Uniforms for GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL - SHARJAH are available at the Threads retail stores located at

- Ramez Mall - Sharjah
- Burjuman Mall - Dubai

PRE-BOOKING IS MANDATORY

Order Online

Shop uniforms conveniently at www.threadsme.com

**Delivery in 3-5 working days.*



Whole School News; Uniform for August 2025!

Order Online

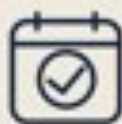
Shop uniforms conveniently at www.threadsme.com

*Delivery in 3-5 working days.



Step 1

Pre-book your appointment online at
www.threadsme.com



Step 2

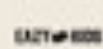
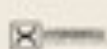
Present your appointment confirmation
(QR code) at the entrance when you arrive.



Our Brand Partners



WATCHDOG



Whole School News; Backpack-Style Bags for August 2025!

Bags

- Our school bag policy is based on safety needs. Trolley bags are not allowed at all. Parents are requested to **provide a Backpack-style bag**.
- We avoid trolley bags for the following reasons:
 - **Trolley bags are a serious trip hazard**, especially on stairs & in crowded corridors. School is too busy & crowded for bigger trolley bags.
 - Trolley bags are especially unsafe during busy times, such as morning entry school & at the end of the day, when 3,100 students are moving in & out of school at the same time
 - There is limited storage space in classes & on corridor hooks– there is no safe place to store larger trolley bags
- Y3-13 students may opt for a **locker** in school to store books & other items to reduce bag weight. The Locker comes with a small charge to cover the cost of the key.
- If your child uses bus transport, please be aware that there is limited space for bags, so please keep the bag as small as possible.
- There would be a **charge for damaged lockers (such as graffiti) & key replacement**.



THANK YOU

FS2 S1

Whole School News; Staff CPD— Preparing for the New Academic Year!



Congratulations to lifelong-learner Guidance Counsellor Ms. Anisha, who has earned this Times Higher Education Accredited Counseling certification.



***Whole School News; SPEA-Required External Benchmarking
Assessment—Cost to Parents for 2025-2026
(assessments are subject to SPEA change)***

| SPEA-Required Compulsory External Benchmarking Assessments 2025-2026 | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------------|
| | CAT4 | PTE | PTM | PTS | Etqaan | Total Cost |
| Year 1 | | | | | √ | 90 |
| Year 2 | | | | | √ | 90 |
| Year 3 | | | | | √ | 90 |
| Year 4 | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 200 |
| Year 5 | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 200 |
| Year 6 | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 200 |
| Year 7 | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 200 |
| Year 8 | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 200 |
| Year 9 | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 200 |
| Year 10 | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 200 |
| Year 11 | √ | | | | √ | 150 |
| Year 12 | | | | | √ | 90 |

TC Extraction Directly From Daleel 2

Please note that this message is intended **only for parents who have submitted a Transfer Certificate (TC) request**.

Kindly be advised that parents are required to wait for an official communication from the school regarding the timing and process for obtaining the Transfer Certificate through the "Daleel" platform.

This is because, following the entry of final grades into the system, the relevant Authority must first review and approve the results, after which students will be officially promoted to the next academic level.

Requesting or downloading the TC before receiving detailed instructions from the school may result in errors on the document. Your cooperation is essential in ensuring the accuracy of student records.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

WSS

Whole School News; Updated Bus Fees for 2025-2026

Message from BBT

Dear Parents,

Following a careful review of Bus Fees, a modest adjustment to school transport fees, effective from September 2025 has been decided. This decision has been made to ensure we continue providing a safe, reliable, and high-quality service for our community. A small increase of AED 15 per student per month will be introduced, equivalent to approximately 0.75 fils per day. This adjustment will support ongoing investment in:

- Safety and compliance standards
- Recruitment and retention of experienced drivers and staff
- Maintenance and reliability of our bus fleet
- Integration of smart transport and tracking technologies

We appreciate your continued support and understanding. Please find the updated bus fee table below for your reference.

| Sr No | Area Name | Annual Bus Fee 2025-2026 (AED) | Bus Fee Per Term (AED) | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Term 1 (Sep-Dec) | Term 2 (Jan - Mar) | Term 3 (Apr - Jun) |
| 1. | Sharjah – Muwaila | 4,880 | 1,952 | 1,464 | 1,464 |
| 2. | Sharjah – 1000 Villa, Abu Shagara, Al Azra, Al Darari, Al Fisht, Al Ghurair, Al Ghuwair Market, Al Gulayaah, Al Jazzat, Al Khan, Al Majara Souk, Al Manak, Al Mareejah, Al Marijah, Al Nahda 1, Qasba, Qasimia, Qurain, Al Ramla, Al Riqqa, Al Sharqan, Al Soor, Al Tawoon, Al Wahda, Buheira Corniche, Buteena, Dasman, Gafiya, Gubaiba, Hazana, Industrial Area 4, Industrial Area 6, Jamal Abdul Nasar Street, Maisaloon, Majaz Area, Mega Mall, Mina Road, Musalla, Nabba, Naseriya, National Paints, Qadisiya, Rolla, Samnan, Umm Al Tharafa, University City, Yarmook | 5,350 | 2,140 | 1,605 | 1,605 |
| 3 | Ajman – Al Bustan, Emirates City, Hamidiya, Jurf, Karama Main Street, New Industrial Area, Nuyamia, Rashidiya, Rumailah, Immigration Road Dubai – Al Qusais, Muhaisnah, Oud Al Muteena | 5,870 | 2,348 | 1,761 | 1,761 |
| 4 | Al Warqa'a 1, Al Warqa'a 2, Mirdif | 6,440 | 2,576 | 1,932 | 1,932 |

WSS Superstar Champions; Sultan's Wisdom; Empowering Minds' Competition Participants!



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

شهادة شكر وتقدير

Sharjah Private Education Authority extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to

يسر هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص أن تتقدم بخالص الشكر وفائق التقدير إلى

Mariam Mohamed Hossameldin
Gems Westminster School Sharjah

الطالبة/ مريم محمد حسام الدين
مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

for her participation in the "Sultan's Wisdom: Empowering Minds" Initiative First Edition 2024 - 2025

وذلك لمشاركتها في مبادرة "من فكر سلطان" الدورة الأولى 2024 - 2025

Wishing you best of luck in upcoming contests

مع تمنياتنا بالتوفيق في المسابقات القادمة



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علي الحوسني
مدير عام هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص
Ali Al Hosani
Director General of the Sharjah Private Education Authority



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Talia Tarig Ahmed Suliman
Gems Westminster School Sharjah

الطالبة/ تاليا طارق أحمد سليمان
مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

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علي الحوسني
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WSS Superstar Champions; Sultan's Wisdom; Empowering Minds' Competition Participants!



Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

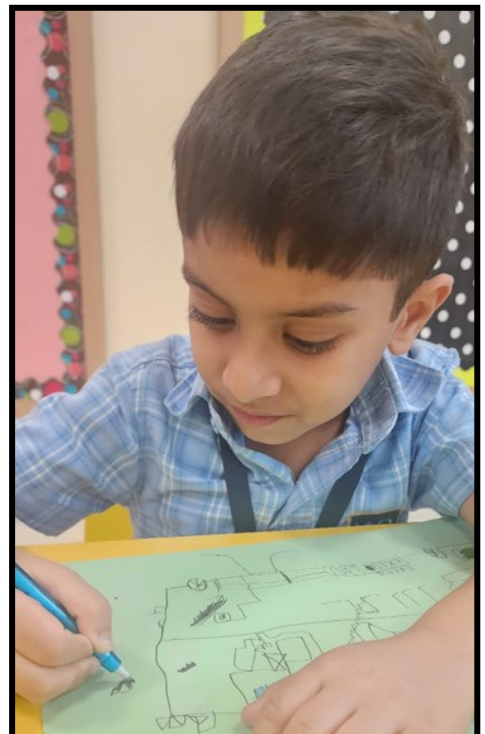
WSS received the prestigious Green Flag Award plaque on 2/7/25. It will be displayed proudly along with our Board Examination Accreditation Plaques. Huge thanks to our dedicated Sustainability Team, Ms. Laneetha, Ms. Indira, Ms. Saranya, Ms. Jinitra & Ms. Beena for their commitment to making WSS a greener, more environmentally aware environment.



Junior Section News; Activity Programme!



Junior Section News; Activity Programme!



Junior Section News; Activity Programme!



What a fantastic day at our Children's Dental Care Workshop and Check-up! We had so much fun learning about healthy teeth with Grumpy and Bubbly. The students especially loved Bubbly and are now committed to keeping their smiles sparkling clean.



What a fantastic day at our Children's Dental Care Workshop and Check-up! We had so much fun learning about healthy teeth with Grumpy and Bubbly. The kids especially loved Bubbly and are now committed to keeping their smiles sparkling clean.



Junior Section News; Activity Programme!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



The Principal Ms. Valerie, Assistant Principal, Primary Ms. Sonia & Teacher Ms. Iram were overjoyed to visit miracle student Mohamed Bilal Khalil (Y6BS) on 1/7/25. He has made a remarkable recovery from a serious car accident, showing all the resilience & positive attitude that he is known for. We were proud to award him his Graduation Certificate.

Thank you to the many WSS parents, students & staff who shared prayers, well-wishes & visits with the family through this difficult time.



Dear Ms. Lavita,

Hope this email finds you well

I want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for your dedication and wonderful support for my son Saad Saeid.

Your patience and encouragement have made a real discrepancy. I have noticed many positive changes in Saad, and he has built confidence.

Thank you for creating a supportive and engaging learning environment where Saad feels comfortable to learn and growing. I'm truly grateful for your hard work and commitment ❤️

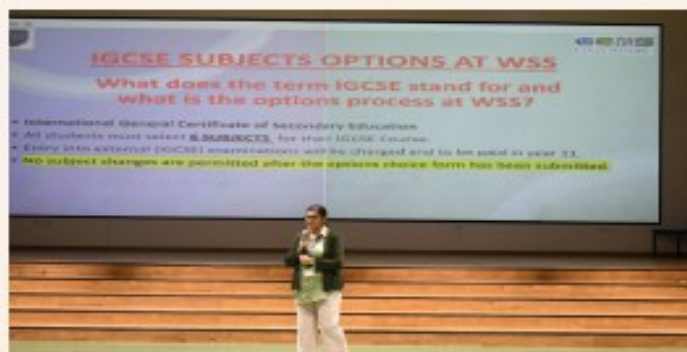
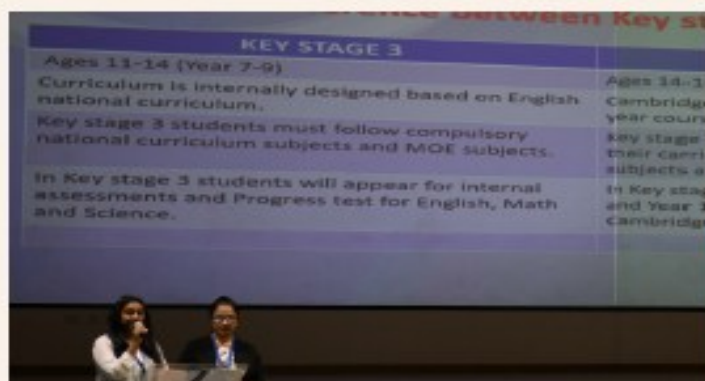
Sincerely
Fathma - Mother of Saad Saeid (Y4 / D2)

Primary Section News; Activity Programme!



Secondary Section News; KS3-KS4 Transition Meeting, 23/6/25!

KS3 - KS4 TRANSITION MEETING



The KS3 to KS4 transition meeting on 23rd June 2025 was a fantastic success! Students gained valuable insights into IGCSE courses, asked thoughtful questions, and left feeling prepared and motivated for the next stage of their education. A smooth and inspiring start to their KS4 journey.

