

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #7  
5th October, 2023



Message from the  
Principal/CEO  
Ms. Valerie Thompson

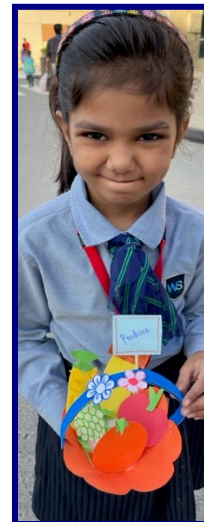
Dear WSS Parents,

## Punctuality & Lost Learning Time

Many thanks to all those parents who are ensuring that their children arrive in school by 7:20am for Registration, so that they avoid missing learning time. This is so important for our student's progress & attainment. However, we still have students arriving after 7:30am (the start of Lesson 1). This means they are missing valuable learning time, which adds up to a lot of missed learning over the year! Parents, please support your children to **arrive in school daily by latest 7:20am**. Thank you.

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Mon. 9th Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration for September 2024 will open (Enrollment Assessments will start from January 2024 for the September). Places are limited, so if you want new admission sibling seats, we recommend that you Register early.</li> </ul>
Wed. 18th- Thurs. 19th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid-Term Break. School closed for students.</li> <li>School opens on Monday 23rd October</li> </ul>
Mon. 18th Dec— Monday 1st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School closed for Winter Break.</li> <li>School opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.</li> <li>T2 Fees due by 2/1/24. Thank you.</li> </ul>



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



# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 7  
5 أكتوبر 2023



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي  
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس  
ويستمينستر الشارقة الأعزاء،

## الالتزام بالمواعيد ووقت التعلم الضائع

شكراً جزيلاً لجميع أولياء الأمور الذين  
حرصوا على ضمان وصول أطفالهم إلى  
المدرسة بحلول الساعة 7:20 صباحاً  
للتسجيل، حتى يتجنبوا ضياع وقت  
التعلم. وهذا مهم جداً لتقديم طلابنا  
وتحصيلهم الدراسي. ومع ذلك، لا يزال لدينا طلاب يصلون بعد الساعة  
7:30 صباحاً (بداية الدرس الأول).  
وهذا يعني أنهم يفقدون وقتاً ثميناً للتعلم، مما يضيف إلى الكثير من  
التعلم الضائع على مدار العام! يرجى من أولياء الأمور دعم أطفالكم  
للوصول إلى المدرسة يومياً بحلول الساعة 7:20 صباحاً.  
شكراً لك.

## المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الاثنين 9 أكتوبر	سيتم فتح التسجيل لشهر سبتمبر 2024 (ستبدأ تقييمات التسجيل من يناير 2024 لشهر سبتمبر). الأماكن محدودة، لذا إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على مقاعد جديدة للأخوة، فنوصيك بالتسجيل مبكراً.
الأربعاء 18- الخميس 19 أكتوبر	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>استراحة منتصف المدة. المدرسة مغلقة أمام الطلاب.</li> <li>تفتح المدرسة يوم الاثنين 23 أكتوبر</li> </ul>
الاثنين 18 ديسمبر - الاثنين 1 يناير	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>المدرسة مغلقة لحلة الشتاء.</li> <li>تفتح المدرسة يوم الثلاثاء 2 يناير 2024.</li> <li>رسوم T2 مستحقة بحلول 2/1/24. شكراً لك.</li> </ul>



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



Find our updated **Parent Hand-  
book** through this QR code.  
Check-out school policies & pro-  
cedures to be familiar & com-  
fortable with our system.



## Whole School News

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16 17 18 19-21 22 23 24-25	<b>Junior Section News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Junior Section Superstar Champions</li> <li>Assembly Time with Y2S2 on Healthy Eating</li> <li>Assembly Time with Y1D2 on the 5 Senses</li> <li>Junior Section News; General</li> <li>Learning Activities in FS2</li> <li>Learning Activities in Y1</li> <li>Learning Activities in Y2</li> </ul>
26 27-28 29-30 31	<b>Primary Section News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Section Superstar Champions &amp; General Learning Activities</li> <li>Vocabulary Dress-up Day, 2/10/23</li> <li>Y3 Learning Activities</li> <li>Y4 Learning Activities</li> </ul>
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39	<b>Secondary Section News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary Section Superstar Champions</li> <li>Assembly Time with Y9GH on 'Integrity'</li> <li>Assembly Time with Y7BS on 'Respect'</li> <li>Sociology Club Investiture, 4/10/23</li> <li>General Learning Activities</li> <li>Preparing Students for their Future—Power Club &amp; Y13 Students Sharing IGCSE Study Tips</li> <li>Student-Led Leadership Sessions</li> <li>Student-Led Lesson, 5/10/23</li> </ul>



# Whole School News

## Safeguarding

Child Safeguarding is our #1 priority! Safeguarding, which includes Health & safety & Wellbeing, is the responsibility of all the WSS community. Please note the following:

## Banned Dangerous Items

For Health & Safety reasons, please **do not allow your child to bring in any of the following, or similar items.** Bringing such items is dangerous, so is a disciplinary issue.

Sharps	Allergies	Hazzardous	Other
Knives, Sharp scissors, Paper cutters	Nuts (due to possible fatal allergies)	Glass items, Flamable items such as matches, candles or lighters, Poisonous chemicals, Perfume, sprays, foam sprays, or any other chemical that could get into the children's eyes & hurt them.	Tiny items that could be a choking hazzard, Pets & other animals Caps, poppers, fireworks etc

For our children's safety, please note p55 of your Parent Handbook (published on the website & accessible through the QR code on p3 of this Newsletter) & remind your children to avoid brining in the above items to school. Thank you.

Sharjah Private Education Authority is pleased to extend its warmest greetings to you.

We would like to inform you that the Child Safety Department, which is an affiliate of the Supreme Council For Family Affairs, is currently organizing an awareness workshop titled " How to Safeguard Our Children from Bullying". This workshop aims to contribute to creating a psychologically safe school environment and providing healthy mechanisms to combat various forms of bullying in schools. Therefore, we are pleased to invite teachers, supervisors, and parents to attend the workshop on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/459KCpn>

Note:

- The workshop will be conducted in Arabic language.
- Participation certificates will be provided to attendees.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best Regards,

For contact & query:

Child Safety Department  
Thuraya Abdullah al-Marzoki  
06-5065500

يطيب لهيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص أن تهديكم أطيب التحيات وصادق الأمنيات...

بالإشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه، نحيطكم علماً بأن إدارة سلامة الطفل التابعة للمجلس الأعلى لشؤون الأسرة بصدد تنظيم ورشة توعوية تحت عنوان "كيف نحكي أبناءنا من التنمر" والتي تسهم في خلق بيئة مدرسة آمنة نفسياً، وتقديم آليات صحية للحد من التنمر بأنواعه في المدرسة لذا يسرنا دعوة المعلمين و المشرفين وأولياء الأمور لحضور الورشة يوم الخميس الموافق : 2023-10-5 على الرابط التالي:

<https://bit.ly/459KCpn>

ملاحظة:

- الورشة باللغة العربية
  - توجد شهادات مشاركة للحضور
- شاكرين حسن تعاونكم  
وتفضلوا بقبول فائق التقدير والاحترام

للتواصل والاستفسار:

إدارة سلامة الطفل  
ثريا عبد الله المرزوقي  
06-5065500



## *Whole School News; Student Leave Policy*

Leave applications for your children will now be online through your Parent Portal. Please note the student Leave Policy as published in your Parent Handbook, p43-46:

### Leave

- The Authorities requires that students attend school for a minimum number of school days. **As per SPEA, it is not allowed to be promoted to the next year group if the student is absent for more than 15 consecutive days, or more than 30 days throughout the year.**

#### For 1-4 Working Days' Leave

43

- Please apply online through your Parents Portal for all leave of 1-4 working days.
- **Leave would be approved for the following reasons (with valid evidence):**
  - Medical Leave of child (evidence – Medical Leave Certificate)
  - Bereavement of a close family member (evidence – Death Certificate)
  - Umrah /Haj (evidence Visa or flight tickets)
  - Authority appointment (passport, visa etc) (evidence - Appointment letter/card)
- Leave applications with this valid evidence will be approved by school on the system & will not be counted towards the 'Absence Record'.
- All other reasons for leave would count towards the child's annual allocation of leave days.


#### For more than 4 Working Days' Leave

- Extended leave during Term-time would be approved on a case-by-case basis, such as for medical reasons or extreme family emergencies.
- **Leave with valid, approved evidence would be approved & would not count toward a child's 'Absence Record'.**
- **Please complete & submit 1) a Leave Application Form (from PRE) & 2) the valid evidence.**
- A Medical Fitness Certificate (safe to attend class) should be submitted to the school Clinic in the case of joining back after any serious injury, operation, or infectious disease.
- Leave forms would only be processed by school subject to the clearance of all pending fees.
- All other types of extended leave would count towards the child's annual allocation of leave days.

#### Leave Without Informing School

- Students who take uninformed Leave for more than one month risk losing their seat through being 'Struck Off' the school & SPEA system (S/O).
- It is very critical that school is informed about all leave.

## Whole School News; Student Leave Application Form (for more than 4-days)

	<b>WSS Student Mid-Term Emergency Leave Application</b>	<i>Format updated: 12/6/23</i>		
Student name	Class	ID:	Leave from (date):	Will return to school on (date):
<b>Reason for leave:</b>				

Dear WSS Principal,

Due to emergency, unavoidable reasons, we request Term-time leave for our child/children as above, as a special case. **We understand that:**

- Insufficient attendance is a disciplinary issue.** Leave during Term time is only be approved in special cases (eg. medical reason, death in the family, Haj, etc.). A **Medical Certificate/valid evidence** needs to be provided along with the Leave Application.
- Missed Term exams** (except with student's Medical Leave Certificate) **would be given '0' marks towards the Term Report**, which would therefore be a Pass mark only. If the child has a Medical Certificate for missed exams, then a Continuous Assessment mark will be given on the Term Report. **As per SPEA, attendance of T3 Promotional exams is compulsory.**
- School will process this Leave form subject to no pending school fees.**

Parent sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent contact: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Cashier/Accounts Officer sign:</b> <i>(there are no pending fees for the leave period as above):</i>	<b>Date:</b>
--	--------------

✓	<b>Principal comments:</b>				
<b>Leave is Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give continuous assessment mark for Report Grades</li> <li>Assessment may be rescheduled subject to Section SLT approval</li> </ul>	<b>Leave is <u>not</u> Approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student to be given '0' marks for exams &amp; pass grade (50%) for Report Grades</li> <li>Assessments not to be rescheduled</li> <li><b>This is for information only</b></li> </ul>	To be failed in T3 SPEA & Report data if continuous assessment grades are Fail	✓	Inform Section SLT if absence continues beyond approved date, or if a FD	
Medical Leave Certificate attached	Not Medical Leave. No MC for student attached	<b>Comments:</b>			
Other valid evidence attached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Evidence attached</li> <li>Evidence attached is inadequate.</li> </ul>				
<b>Sign:</b>		<b>Date:</b>			



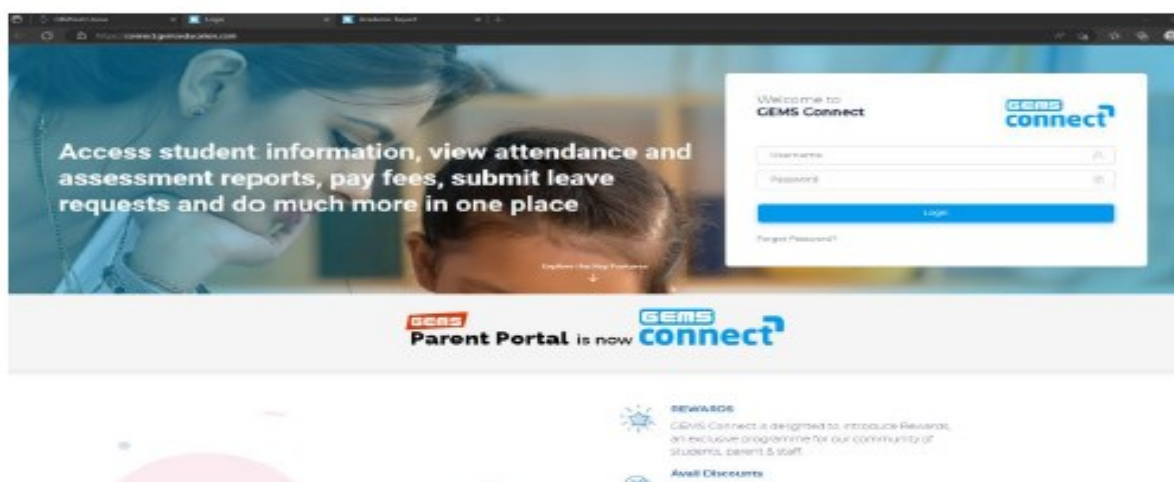
# Whole School News; Online Leave Application Parent Guide



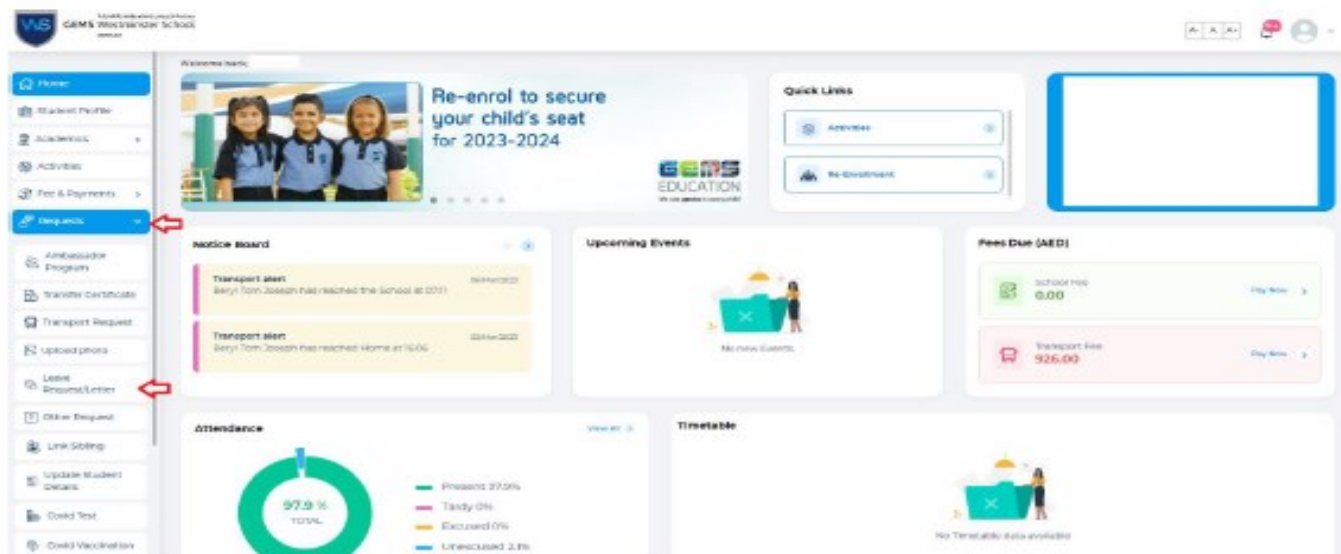
مدرسة جيمس وستمنستر الشارقة  
GEMS Westminster School  
SHARJAH

## STEPS FOR PARENTS TO APPLY FOR STUDENT LEAVE:

1. Go to URL: [Login \(gemseducation.com\)](https://login.gemseducation.com)
2. Log in to the parent portal using your username and password (not students).



3. Click on the "Requests" drop down and choose "Leave Request/Letter".



## Whole School News; Online Leave Application Parent Guide



مدرسة جيمس وستمنستر الشارقة  
GEMS Westminister School  
SHARJAH

4. Click on “Apply Leave”.

5. Provide the leave details: duration of leave, reason for leave with a comment. Also, if required, any supporting document can be attached.

6. Click on “Save”.

- Now the request can be visible with status “Applied”.
- Once the respective teacher approves/reject the leave request, status will be changed to “Approved” or “Rejected”.
- **NB:** Any leave application of *more than 4 days (1 week)*, must be processed through the *PRE* and all forms must be completed.



# Whole School News; Online Trip & ASP Payment!



## Online Trip Payment Parent Guide

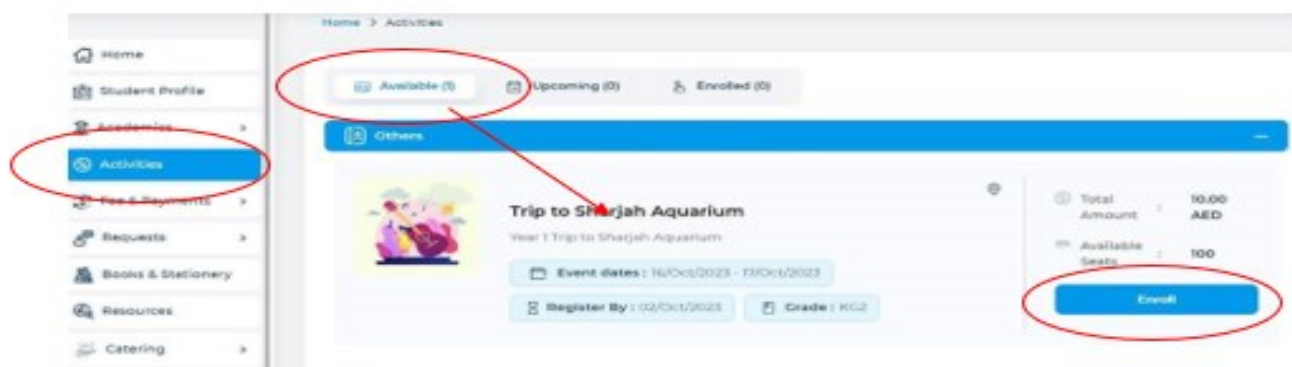
### How to access the online trip payment through your GEMS Connect Parent Portal

1. Go to the website of GEMS parent portal or click the link below and enter your school-issued username and password, then click the login button.

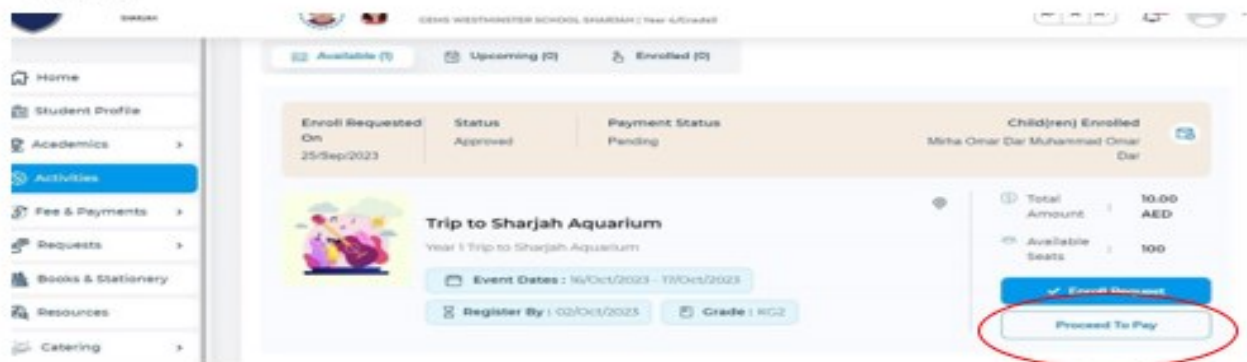
Link: <https://connect.gemseducation.com/>



2. On the home page, click the **Activities** option, select the **Available** fee and click **Enroll** button.

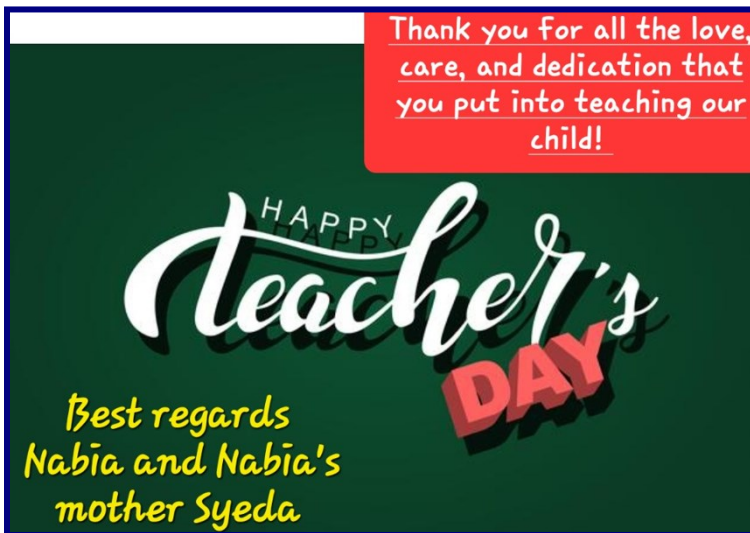
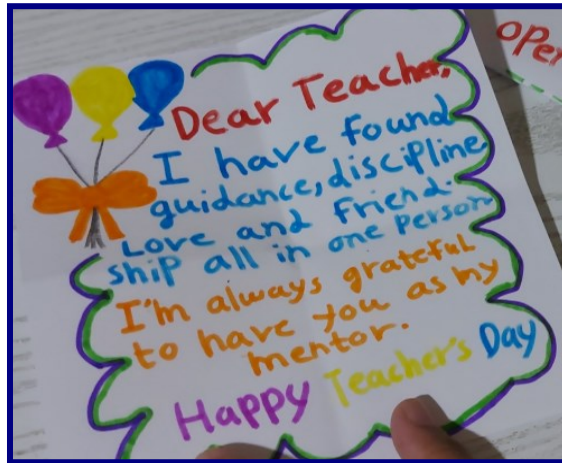


3. Then click **Proceed to Pay** button for the payment of the trip. Provide your card details and confirm the payment.





## Whole School News; Celebrating World Teachers' Day, 5/10/23!

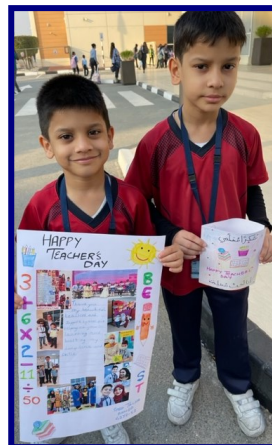


Dear Parents & Students, we really appreciated the way you made Teachers' Day on Thursday 5/10/23 so special, filled with kind, thoughtful messages, lots of love & treats. Your WSS Staff Team felt very special & appreciated. Thank you so much!





## Whole School News; Celebrating World Teachers' Day, 5/10/23!



Good morning Ma'am 😊

On this splendid day I would like to express my gratitude for all the efforts , dedication and hardwork of unwavering support system and devoted teachers in learning growth and academic guidance of young minds. Truly appreciate the tremendous efforts of all dedicated teachers and support system.

Happy Teacher's Day ❤️

Regards,

Mother,  
Syed Taha Ahmed Y5S2  
Syed Talha Ahmed Y3S1



## *Whole School News; Celebrating World Teachers' Day, 5/10/23!*



Thank you for the token of love you gave us. Happy Teacher's Day Y3H1 with Ms. Sarada



Dear Teacher Mariam

Happy teachers day to you

It's such a pleasure to have you as sheinyas class teacher.  
We are extremely grateful to you for helping her to develop her skills and knowledge.

Thank you for all the support . We see Sheinya improving and grooming each day passes.

We are so happy feeling she's in good hands and she will surely develop her self more with you .

And it's relieving to get such quick response from you for all emails .

God bless you always ❤️  
Thank you

Sheinyas parents



## Environment & Recycling Superstar Champions!



## WSS Superstar Champions!

Dear

Mr Arvie

We hope this email finds you well. We wanted to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the incredible work you do as our child's teacher. Your dedication to our child's education has not gone unnoticed, and we believe it's important to let you know just how much your efforts mean to us as parents.

Since the beginning of the school year, we have witnessed a remarkable transformation in our child's academic progress and overall enthusiasm for learning. Your passion for teaching, patience, and ability to inspire have played a significant role in creating such a positive impact.

We understand that teaching is not just a profession but a calling, and we are fortunate that you have answered that call with such dedication and enthusiasm. You have not only imparted knowledge but also instilled a sense of curiosity, a thirst for learning, and a belief in our child's potential.

As parents, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the positive impact you've had on our child's life and education. Your role in shaping her future is immeasurable, and we are truly grateful to have you as her teacher.

We look forward to the rest of the school year and the continued growth and development of Abrish under your guidance.

Thank you once again for everything you do.

Happy Teachers Day

Warm regards,

Abrish Parents

Happy Teachers day!!!

You are kind and dedicative Teacher,  
It's not just the word, we really felt from our experience and my son's willingness to come to school.  
He really loves his teachers and he is ready to stay in the school for the whole day 😊😊😊

This miracle happened because of your unconditional love, care and fairness to the Kids. I can't thank you enough.

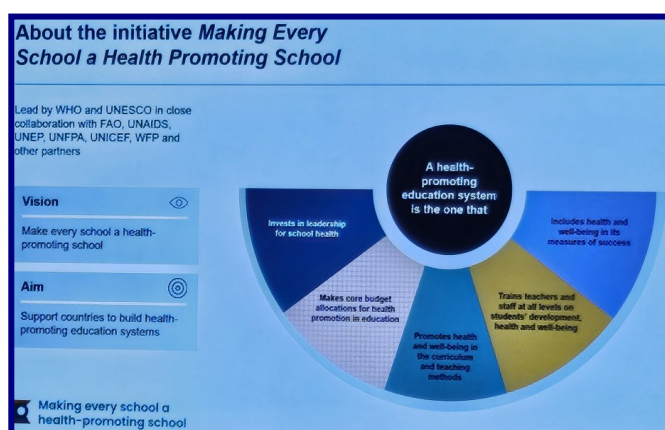
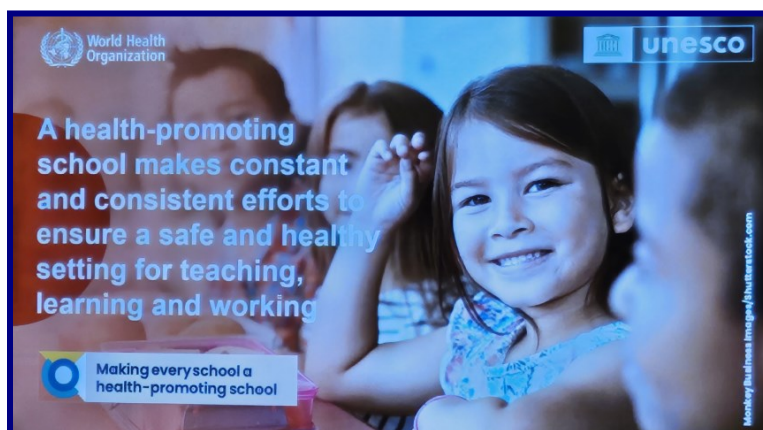
Please ask my son what motivates him to come to school and concentrate on studies. He will explain since he explained to us, trust me he is wholeheartedly and voluntarily coming to the school and studying.

You are an considerable asset to the Gems Organization and also for my son's future as another mother 🙏🙏🙏

## Whole School News; CPD—Challenge & Questioning!



Teachers joined Ms. Christine for an after-school CPD (training) session on 2/10/23 on 'Challenge & Questioning'. Teachers reflected on their classroom practice & explored strategies to deepen skills through the application of Blooms Taxonomy.

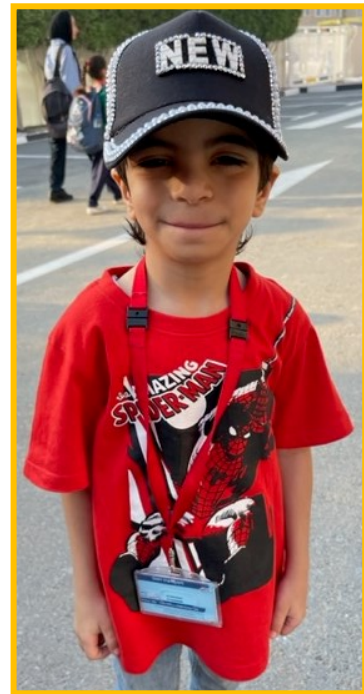


WSS Medical team attended a World Health Organisation (WHO) CPD session led by Dr. Sara Elfeky on establishing and understanding the Health Promoting School (HPS) standards and requirements. The HPS Program is an initiative lead by WHO, UNESCO and other organizations to make every school a health promoting school. In UAE, the HPS program is organized with the collaboration with the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA) in Sharjah and SPEA.

The aim of the HPS is to invest in the leadership of school health, makes core budget allocation for health promotion in education, promote health and wellbeing in the curriculum and teaching methods, training teachers and staff of all levels on students' development, health and wellbeing, & include health and wellbeing in each measure of success.



## Happy Birthdays!



FS2D1

Happy birthday 🍰



:) Loving the healthy fruit treat!

Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday 🥰





## WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



"Our children are a gift from God, and we are responsible for every aspect of their lives. We strive to create a bright future for them and also cultivate a generation that excels beyond the future. Since our children are our top priority, and their future is our ultimate goal, there is no path to a bright future except through education. That's why I was careful and diligent in choosing the school that will shape my children's future, and I have a great confidence in GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL and its teachers. Indeed, the noticeable improvement in my son's skills in all aspects encouraged me to continue with them for another year and to submit his sibling's application to the same school, GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, due to my complete trust in the school administrators and teachers. I want to express my gratitude, especially to Mrs. Uzma, the Y2 F1 class teacher, for the support she has provided, and to Mrs. class teacher assistant Happy teacher day."

Best regards!  
Fathi Shehata



## *Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2S2, 5/10/23!*



Y2S2 lead a very confident & informative Assembly about healthy eating. They had learnt their lines so beautifully & used many 'WOW!' words.

Many parents attended - thank you!





## *Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y1D2, 5/10/23!*



Y1D2's super Assembly was about the 5 Senses.

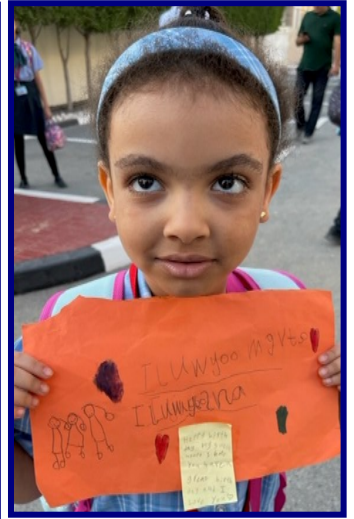
They shared their information so confidently!

Many parents attended - thank you!





## Junior Section News





## Junior Section News



### Y2 students enjoyed a 'Health is my Wealth' workshop on 4/10/23

On this special TEACHERS DAY I want to thank you for helping Rayaan in learning and growing. I have full trust on you. I can see your hard work your dedication towards your students. You are showing so much confidence in Rayaan and that's what I need the most as a parent. Rayaan loves you so much. He enjoys in the class. Rayaan loves to go to school everyday because he has one of the best teachers like you. You are not only helping Rayaan in reading and learning but you are also helping in building his character his personality which is the most important and helpful thing for his future. Once again a big THANK YOU to you and all the teachers.

Regards

A satisfied and happy parent.

Rushna Syed.



## Junior Section News



Y2 students enjoyed a 'Health is my Wealth' workshop on 4/10/23





## Junior Section News; Learning Activities in FS2!



FS2HI Learning about Balancing with Ms. Sheema.



FS2HI learning about "a" sound in Creative Station with Ms. Christine & Ms. Maria



PIC-COLLEGE

### Busy in OLA 2 with Ms. Nikhat and Ms. Afroz



### FS2D1



Busy in OLA 2 with Ms. Nikhat and Ms. Afroz

### FS2D1



Homelearning



FS2D1 Busy in OLA 2



### FS2D1

Learning all about number "3" with Ms. Nikhat and Ms. Afroz

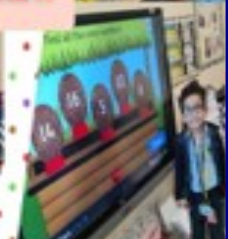


## *Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1!*

### **Story Time**



### **Using Technology to learn**



### **Learning about odd and even numbers**



### **Sorting of odd & even numbers**





# Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!

Y2D1 Class activity Picture

TR: Jinitra Rajesh

TA: Asma Mohamed

Group discussion about what was prophet Mohammed like



Learning the sounds of each instrument



Y2H1 with Ms. Roomana and Ms. Aqueen



Constructing 3D shapes



Constructing 3D shapes



Exploring 3D shapes

Y2S2 Class Activities



ENGLISH LESSON



E-WASTE COLLECTION



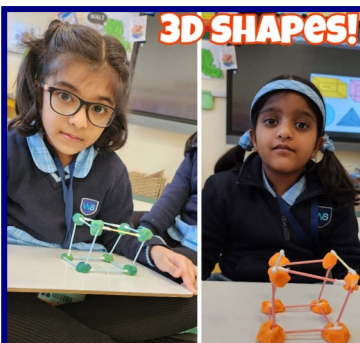
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MS RACHI



3D SHAPES



## *Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!*





## Primary Section News; Learning Activities!

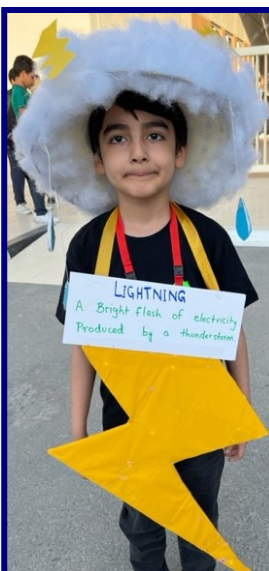
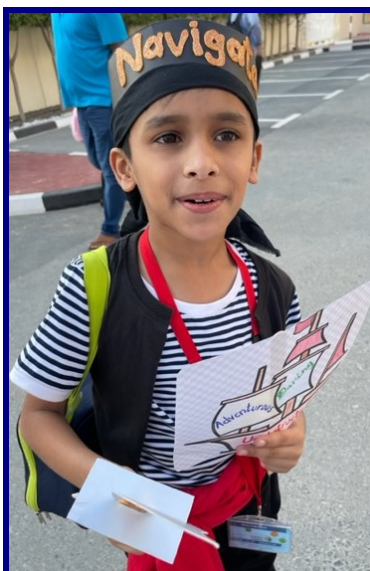
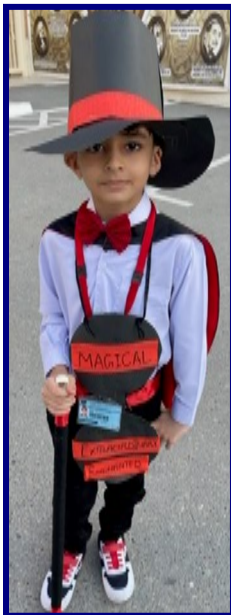


## WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



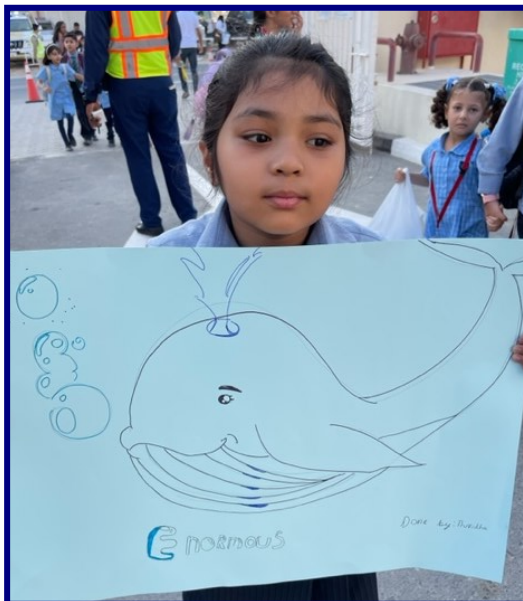


## Primary Section News; Vocabulary Dress-up, 2/10/23!





## Primary Section News; Vocabulary Dress-up, 2/10/23!





## *Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities!*

### Reading Week-Vocabulary Parade Y3H1 with Ms. Sarada





## Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities!





*Primary Section News; Y4 Learning Activities!*

Y4 H2 READING WEEK

Presentation Page

A collage of 20 photographs showing Year 4 students participating in a H2 Vocab Parade. The students are dressed in various costumes and holding signs related to their vocabulary words.



## WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

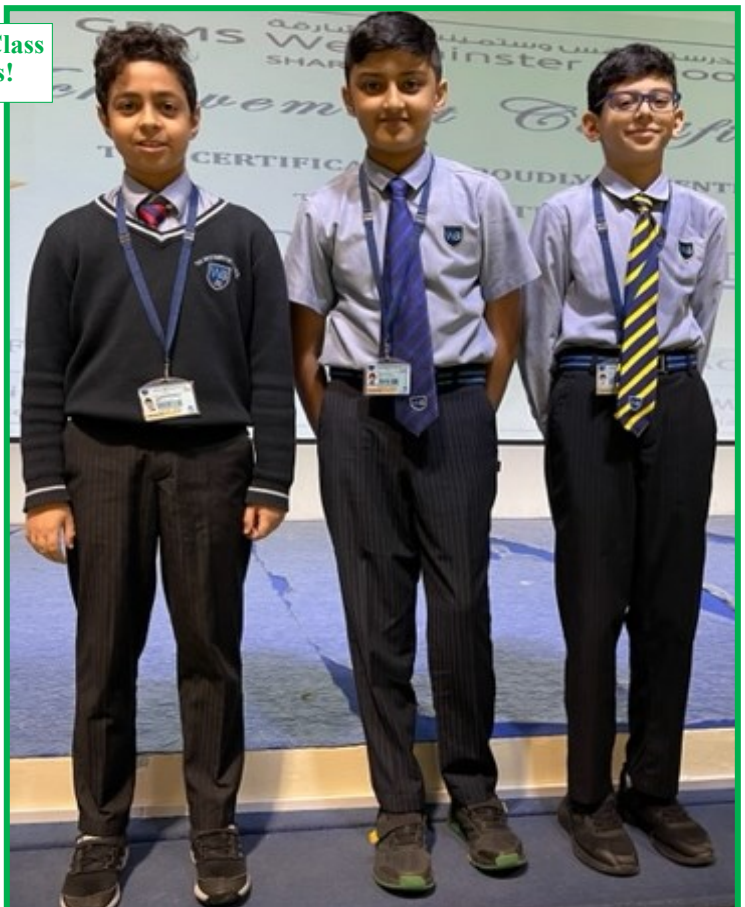


KS3 Class Superstars!

Y7B Class Superstars!

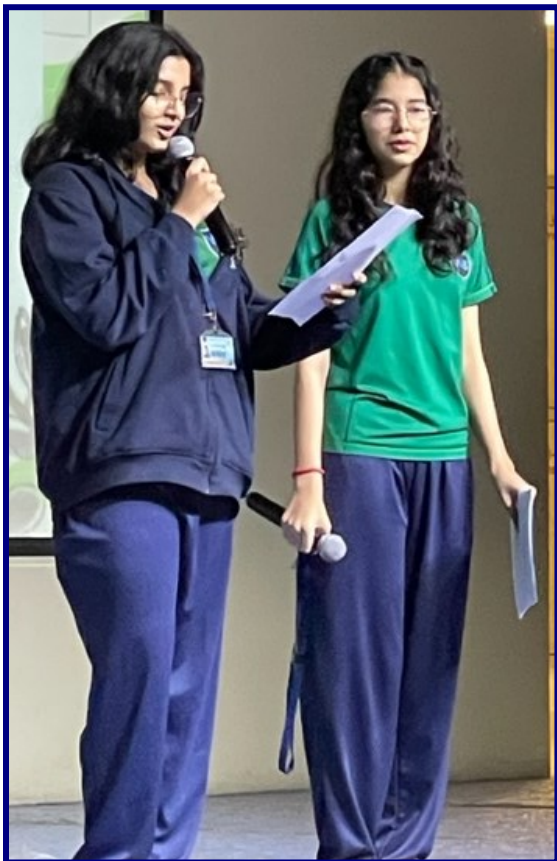


Congratulations to Josh Franklin for winning the Digital Poster Competition!





*Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9GH on 'Integrity', 2/10/23!*

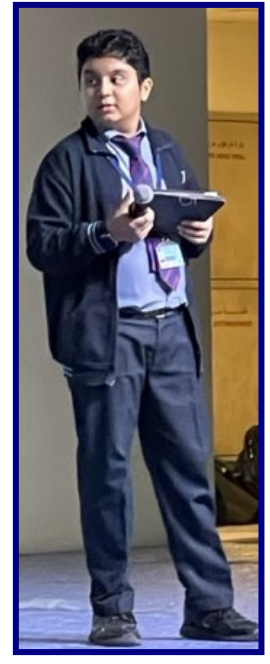


Y9GH led an important Assembly on Integrity. We reflected on which character traits allowed us to be socially successful, develop trust between self & our peers & community, & help us to be respected through the most honest choices.





*Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y7BS on 'Respect', 3/10/23!*



Y7BS led a very well-prepared & important Assembly on 'Respect'. We learnt about why Respect is important & how we can show respectful behaviours showing our good character. We also reflected on some of the barriers to showing respect & how we can be mindful of our barriers & work on them.



## *Secondary Section News; Sociology Club Investiture, 4/10/23!*

Ms. Ghousia, Sociology Club in-charge said, “The sociology club is not just an ordinary club, it's a community dedicated to understanding the world around us through a sociological lens. Our club's mission is to explore and conduct successful events tied to contemporary social issues, by contributing to society by creating awareness and positive impact. We aim to foster a sense of empathy, critical thinking, and social awareness among our members.”

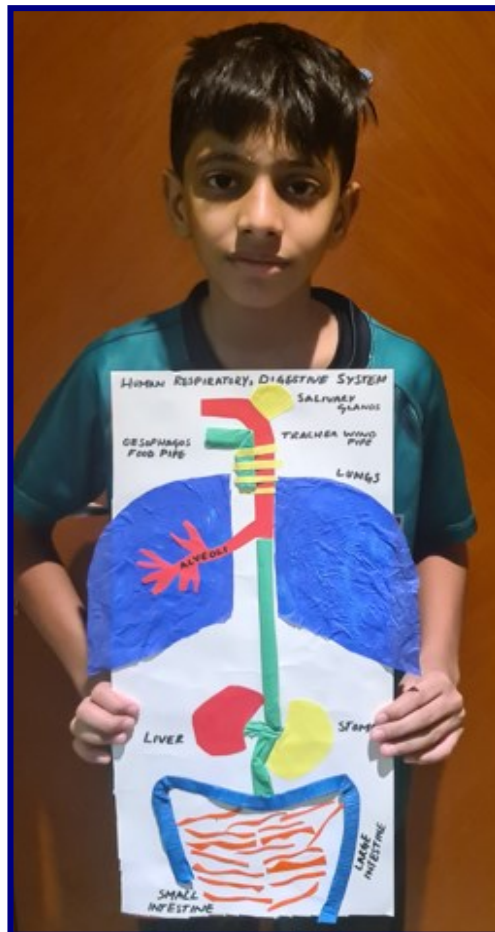




## Secondary Section News; Learning Activities!



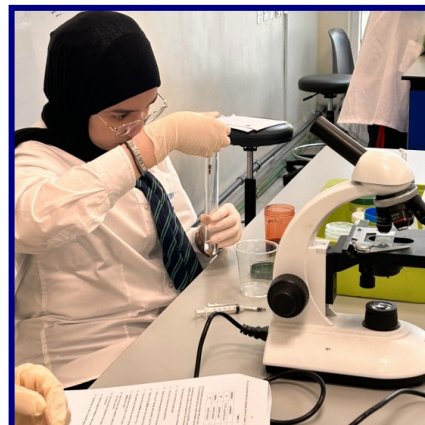
Mr. Franklin & Ms Sreeja shared a presentation about the Global Career Accelerator programme coming soon for Secondary students.



A wonderful Science project by Mustafa (Y7BH1) on the human digestive system



Ms. Saritha, Biology teacher, shared: A/S practicals help students to apply their theoretical knowledge in real life scenarios. This develops skills which add value for the chosen career path.





## Secondary Section News; Preparing Students for their Future—Power Club!

 powerclub  
**The Global Career  
Accelerator for  
AMBITIOUS TEENS!**

This week Secondary SLT ran a 'Power Club' session for Year 10 and 11 girls.

The programme's aim is to support Years 7-11 students to plan for the right career decisions and build an excellent profile aligned with their interests and strengths for top colleges/University application in the future.

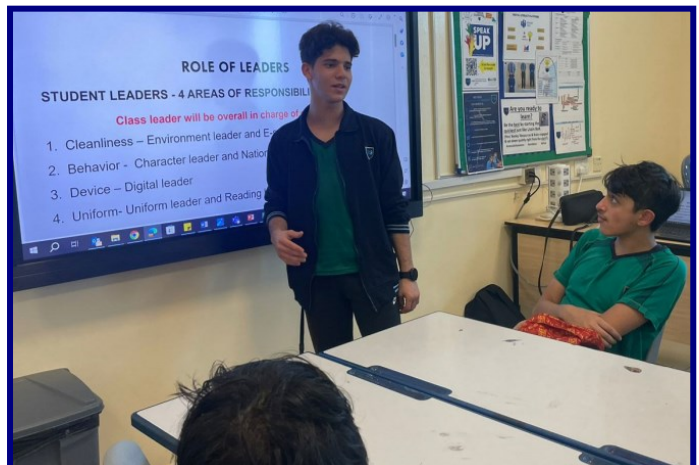
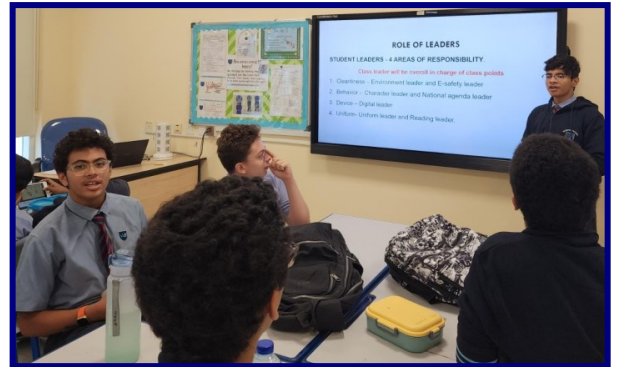
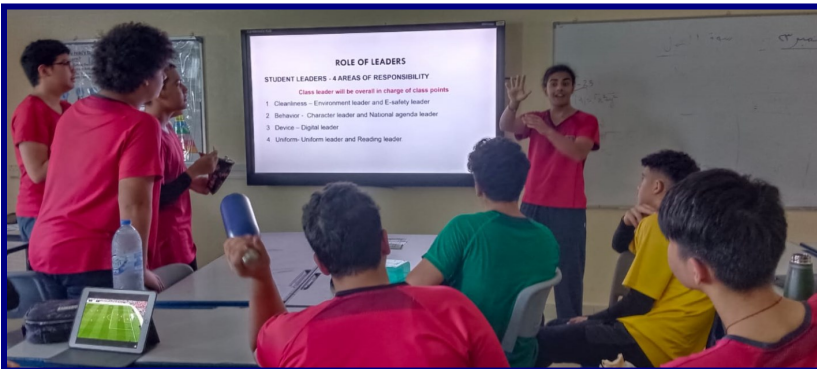


Year 13 students sharing strategies and tips for successful IGCSE exam preparation.





## Secondary Section News; Student-led Leadership Session!

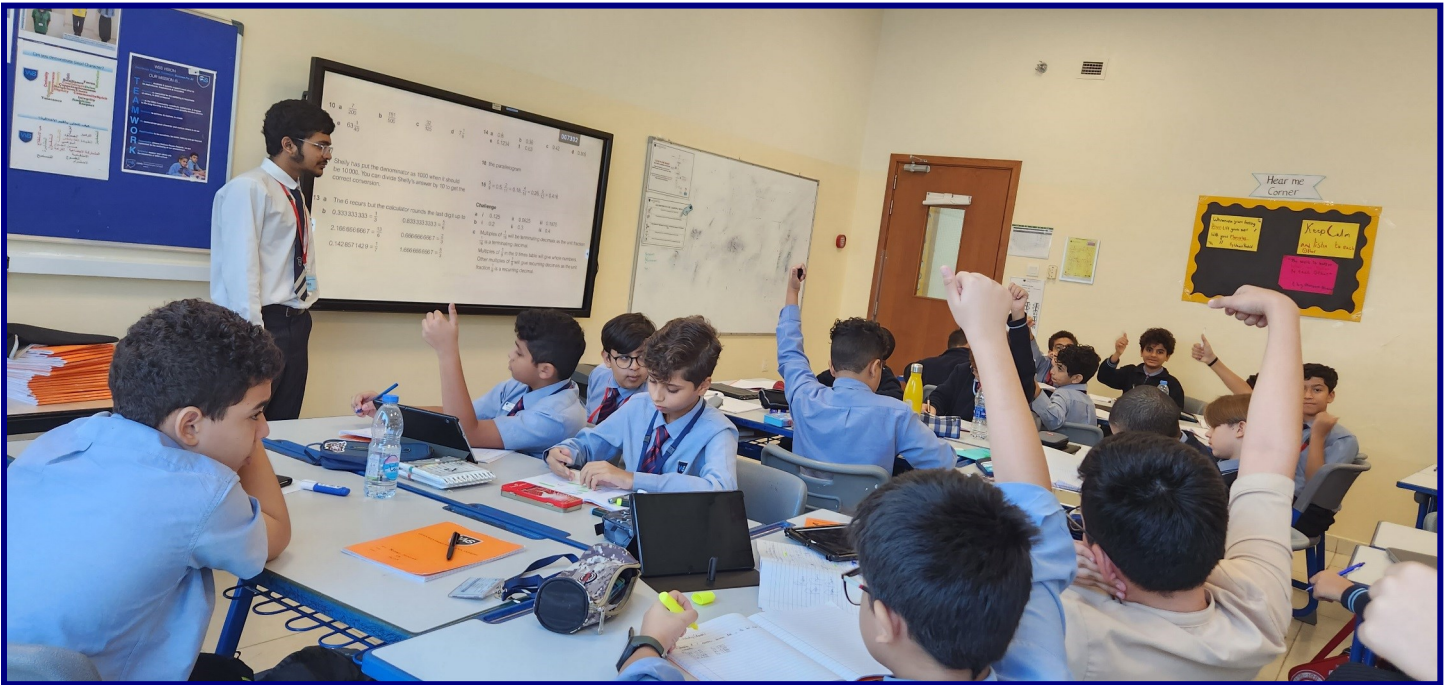


Student representatives elucidating on the responsibilities and functions of each student leader role.





## Secondary Section News; Student-led Lesson, 5/10/23!



Umer Fakher (Y13) leading a class in Y8BS1 on 5/10/23 as part of a Teachers' Day Special. Thank you Umer!

