



EMIRATES  
HILLS

# Secondary School Newsletter



**1st December 2023**



# Head of Secondary Message



Hello all,

The Gaza fundraiser at our school was a remarkable testament to the power of community and compassion. Spearheaded by dedicated parents, the initiative garnered widespread support with the student body, with many creating their own stalls as part of the event. It was heartening to witness a collective commitment to making a positive impact on the lives affected by the conflict. The entire drive was a testament to the strength of unity, showcasing the potential of a community coming together for a common cause.

On the day of the fundraiser, the school exuded a peaceful vibe of solidarity. The atmosphere was filled with empathy and a shared determination to contribute to the greater good. One particularly poignant moment was the one-minute silence observed for all those involved in the conflict, irrespective of their political or cultural affiliations. The respect shown during this moment underscored the commitment to humanity and the acknowledgment that, above all else, we are interconnected as a global community. It was a moving day that transcended boundaries, bringing everyone together with a singular focus: to support and alleviate the suffering of those affected by the conflict.



The results of this collective effort were truly phenomenal, as the fundraiser successfully raised a staggering amount of AED 83,891.50. This substantial sum is a testament to the generosity and kindness of all those involved, from the parents who initiated the drive to the secondary students who ran their own stalls or volunteered and the students and families who came to take part in the event. The success of the fundraiser not only reflects the financial support gathered but also serves as a powerful reminder of the potential for positive change when a community rallies behind a cause. A heartfelt thank you goes out to each and every person who contributed, but I must say a special thank you to Rula Kafity Rawan Attereh ElBilbeisi, Matilda Jeries Gradnitzer, Naira Bhutta, Sahar Elissaoui, Rana Othman, Doaa Tahboub, Hilda Youssef, Sawsan Qassem, Summaya Engar Kara Souheir Lotfi, who are the driving force behind this event.



# Key Information

Monday 27 November - Friday 08 December

## **Year 12 Mock Examinations**

Our annual mock examinations begin with Year 12 students up first! Please see emails and TEAMS announcements.

Monday 04 December

## **National Day Holiday**

There will be no school for students and staff on this day.

Monday 05 December - Friday 12 January

## **Year 13 Mock Examinations**

Our Year 13 students will have their final set of mock examinations as they look towards the IB exams in May.

**Have a  
fantastic  
Winter Break**

# THANK YOU!!!



## HUMANITARIAN AID FOR GAZA

As a community, we raised over 80,000 AED for Gaza. We want to thank everyone, including our vendors & sponsors for making this possible.  
- The Market Day Parent Organizing Team



# IBCP: Experiential learning by BTEC Students at Habtoor City Hotels



We are thrilled to share the exciting experiential journey undertaken by our BTEC Business students to the heart of luxury and hospitality -- Habtoor City Hotels -- on the morning of November 24th, 2023. The anticipation was palpable for their second vocational visit of the term. On arrival, our cohort of 13 students were warmly welcomed by none other than Mr. Charbel El Khoury, the Director of Learning and Development. Mr. Khoury's personalized welcome set the stage for an unforgettable day of immersive and enriching learning experiences.



The agenda was meticulously designed by the Habtoor City Hotel group to offer students a comprehensive understanding of various aspects of HR. The learning commenced at the prestigious Habtoor HQ Training Centre, where Mr. El Khoury guided the students to a specially tailored Human Resources session, that aligned seamlessly with their upcoming Unit 8: Human Resource Assignment. Mr. Ziwa Htun, the Complex Director of Human Resources & Training, captivated the students with an excellent presentation on the intricacies of recruitment and selection processes at the Habtoor Group. Aryan's query on the ethical dimensions of recruitment in the UAE and Francisco's insightful questions on outsourcing and legal regulations showcased the students' keen engagement.



Mr. El Khoury's expertise and unique approach transformed a session where he challenged the students to delve into the essence of effective Learning and Development, leaving an indelible mark on their understanding. The curated presentations were not only enlightening but also equipped the students with a wealth of information crucial for their impending assignments. More importantly, they were extremely engaging and fun! The day continued with Mr. El Khoury leading the students on an exclusive guided tour of all three hotels within the group. From the chic Lifestyle hotels to the opulent grandeur of Habtoor Palace, the students were treated to an immersive exploration of luxury and hospitality.

Following the enriching tour, the day reached its conclusion with a wrap-up session and a sumptuous business breakfast at the Market Restaurant. Ved and Sivang certainly enjoyed their breakfast as we saw the amount of plates mounted high! The convivial atmosphere of the breakfast provided the students with an ideal setting to reflect on the day's learnings and experiences, fostering a sense of camaraderie and satisfaction among all participants.

As a teacher from DIA Emirates Hills, I extend heartfelt gratitude to the entire Habtoor team for their kindness and unwavering support of the International BTEC students. The students left with not just knowledge but with a profound appreciation for the intricacies of the business world, thanks to the generosity and expertise of the Habtoor City team. I now look forward to seeing where the course takes us in January. Hopefully to the Omega Desert Classic!

**Warmest Regards,**

**Peter Stoddart - BTEC Coordinator**



# DIA students pick up medals at the WSC Tournament of Champions at Yale University!

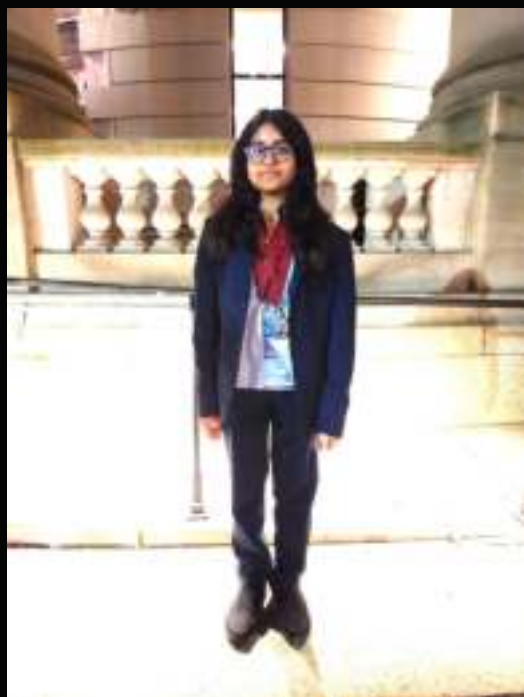
DIA has had wonderful success in the World Scholars Cup for the past few years and this year was no exception. Five exceptional students from our school recently travelled to Yale University in Boston, USA, at the beginning of November to participate in the prestigious World Scholars Cup competition and brought home the medals! Their commitment, hard work, and intellectual prowess were truly commendable as they represented our school on the international stage.



**Nikunj Garg, Avni Dixit and Divyanshi Kulshrestha** did brilliantly overall in the Senior Division, including a 51st in the World in WSC debating and 77th in WSC Team Bowl. Incredible positions out of over 1000 World teams.



**Shanay and Shanaya Shah** also travelled and participated in the WSC Junior Division winning 3 gold medals and 3 silver medals each. Another outstanding result from our students. Both teams also used the time abroad to visit some prospective universities including Yale, Harvard and MIT.



It's worth noting that another team qualified for Yale but couldn't make the journey. This achievement underscores the depth of talent within our WSC community, suggesting that many more could have secured a spot on this prestigious stage. We strongly believe that many more of our talented students possess the potential to qualify and excel in such prestigious competitions. We anticipate even greater success in the future.

As we look forward to the 2024 World Scholars Cup season, details will be released by WSC in January. This is an opportunity for aspiring scholars to embark on a journey of discovery, critical thinking, and collaboration. The CCA teams are gearing up for the Dubai round in March, and we extend an invitation to all interested students. If you envision your son or daughter becoming a part of this remarkable journey, please connect with Ms. Das or Mr. Hanlon for further information and registration.

Once again, congratulations to our Tournament of Champions Scholars!





Showcasing  
students'

storytelling talents

# YEAR 7 ENGLISH EXHIBITION: THE FABRIC OF MEMORY

We are proud of the confident displays of creativity and communication skills from our Year 7 students at the English Exhibition: The Fabric of Memory, on Thursday 23rd November. It was inspiring to hear them share their stories to Year 6 pupils, DP TOK students, and visiting parents. This was an enriching end to their MYP work on autobiographies.







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# CYBER SAFETY

Cyber safety refers to staying safe and secure while using technology, particularly the internet. Here are some tips for practicing cyber safety:

Use strong passwords and change them frequently. Use a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.

Never share your address, phone number, or other sensitive information.

Tell a trusted adult if someone online makes you uncomfortable or says something that worries you.

Never click on links or download files from people you don't know.

Be wary of messages or emails asking for money or personal information.



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# CYBER CONDUCT

Here at DIA Emirates Hills every student should use their devices, tablets and phones responsibly.

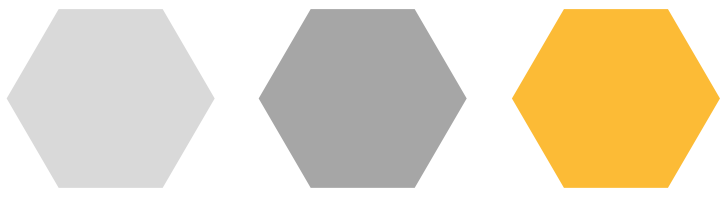
Devices should only be used in classrooms and in situations where staff member has given permission for devices to be used.

Without staff permission for subjects such as Media, Art, Product Design, students should NOT use phones to take pictures or videos.

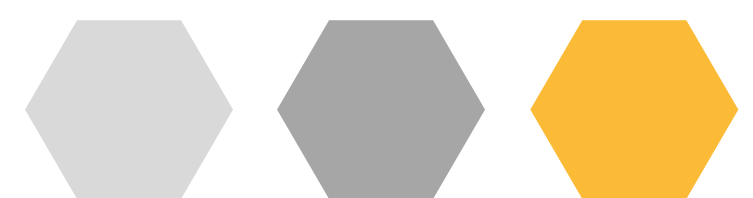
DIA students are to use social media responsibly outside of school. Social media should NOT be used in school grounds at any time.

If you have been subjected to any online or cyber bullying please inform your Head of Year who will follow up any incidents.

DIA students found to be using devices and/or social media inappropriately will be reprimanded.



Innovents  
Got  
Talent



# Careers & College Counselling

Higher MYP & DP/CP: Yr 10, 11, 12 & 13

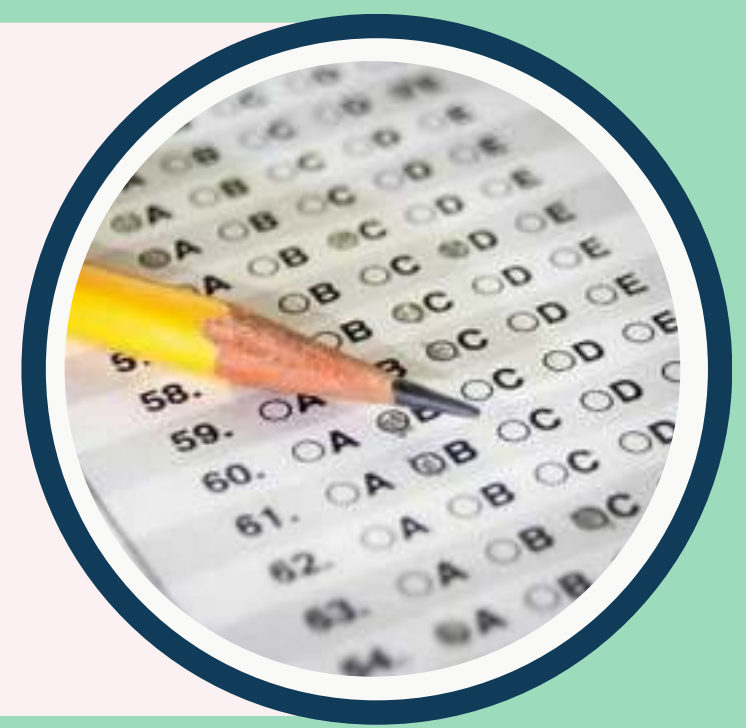
## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENTS



### ENTRANCE TESTS

#### (SAT/ACT/MAT/UCAT)

- Country (sometimes uni) specific
- Still used to distinguish top candidates
- Often used in Math, Science & English proficiency



### ADMISSIONS INTERVIEW

- Opportunity to express your personality
- Looking for authentic, curious learners
- Practice and communicate clearly

### PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION

- Prepare well in advance
- Know the evaluation marks
- Develop authentic creativity
- Trust yourself and your "vision"



**PSAT**  
**Results Out NOW**

Check your child's school email or contact [stewartp@diadubai.com](mailto:stewartp@diadubai.com)



# LEGAL HORIZONS EVENT



**THE CLUB LEGAL HORIZONS HOSTED DIA'S INAUGURAL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION, OFFERING STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE SCHOOL THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN HEATED DEBATES, PRACTICE THE ART OF SKILLFULLY QUESTIONING WITNESSES, AND TRULY FOSTER THEIR INTEREST IN THE REALM OF LAW. THIS OPPORTUNITY AIMED TO CULTIVATE QUICK THINKING, PERSUASIVE, AND ADVOCACY SKILLS AMONGST ALL PARTICIPANTS**

**DURING THE COMPETITION, EACH STUDENT TOOK THE ROLE OF AN ATTORNEY, WITNESS, COURT REPORTER, OR A JUDGE IN ONE OF OUR COURTROOMS. THEY WERE ABLE TO THEN DEMONSTRATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR MOCK TRIAL PROCEDURE, ANALYSIS OF THE CASE PACKET PROVIDED, AND UNDERSTANDING OF EACH AND EVERY PARTY INVOLVED IN THE CASE. WE COULD NOT BE MORE PROUD OF EVERY STUDENT WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR MOCK TRIAL AND CANNOT WAIT FOR FUTURE EVENTS HOSTED BY LEGAL HORIZONS!**





# ANAPANA MEDITATION WORKSHOP



ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, YEAR 8 STUDENTS AT DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY EXPERIENCED A REJUVENATING ANAPANA MEDITATION WORKSHOP. THIS EVENT WAS ORGANIZED BY MAULI GHANDI AS PART OF OUR WELLBEING WEEK. MAULI'S THOUGHTFUL INITIATIVE AIMED TO INTRODUCE MEDITATION AS A TOOL FOR CULTIVATING INNER PEACE AND MINDFULNESS. THE WORKSHOP, DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE STRESS AND ENHANCE WELL-BEING, PROVIDED STUDENTS WITH VALUABLE SKILLS. WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE VIPASSANA TEAM, DUBAI, FOR DELIVERING THIS SESSION, AND TO MAULI FOR HER DEDICATED LEADERSHIP WHICH CREATED A POSITIVE AND NURTURING ATMOSPHERE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.



# Teaching and Learning

## Launch of Monday Sways

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of our 'Monday Sways' initiative at the beginning of this month, aimed at elevating the Teaching and Learning experience for your child. As we embark on this innovative journey, we want to keep you informed about the positive changes taking place.



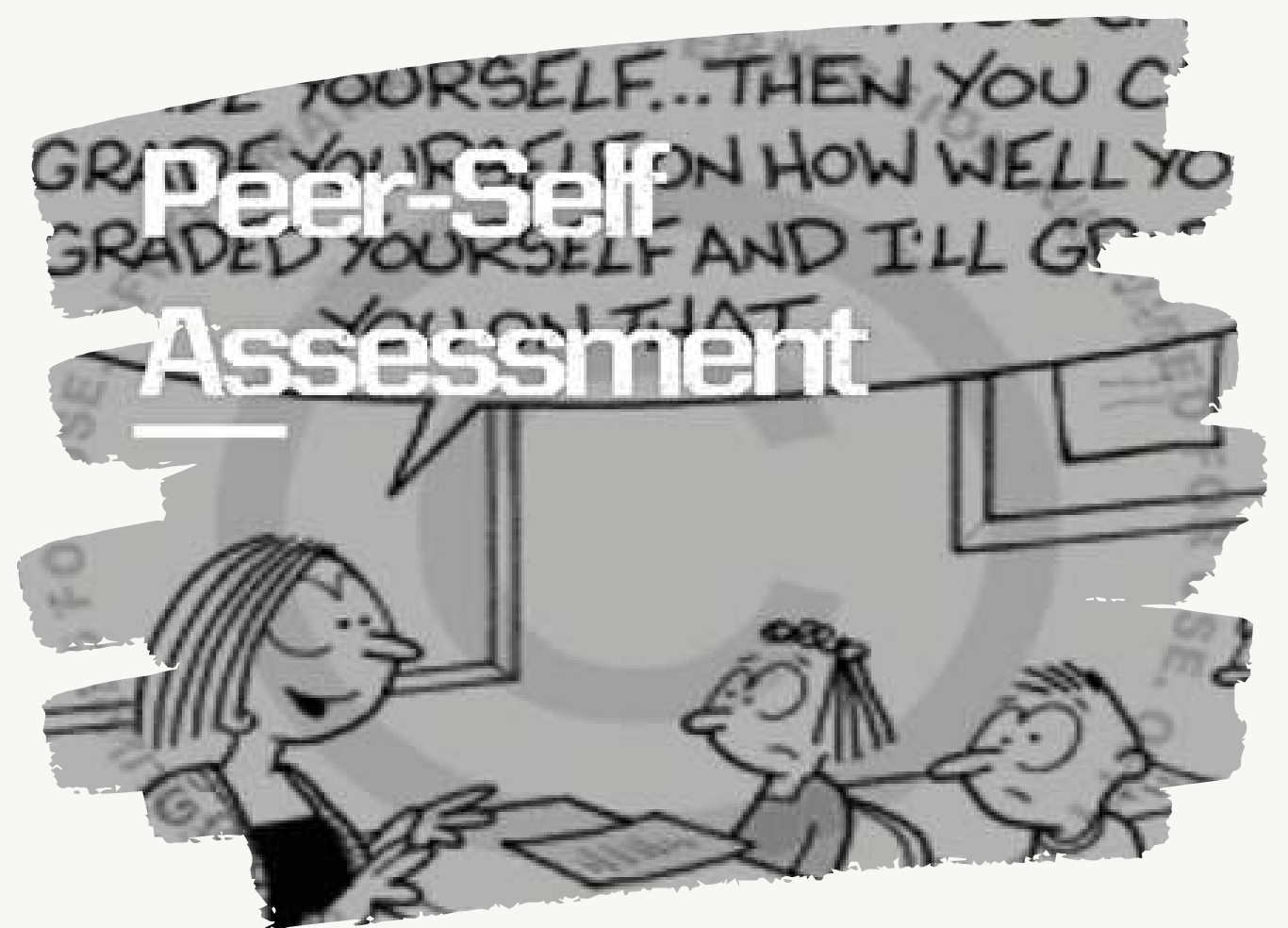
## Authentic Assessments

This groundbreaking approach aims not only to empower our teachers with valuable tools but also to create a more dynamic and collaborative teaching environment. By engaging in discussions and implementing innovative ideas, our educators are making a positive impact on your child's learning experience.

To give you a glimpse into the exciting launch of 'Monday Sways,' press on the [link](#). We encourage you to take a look and witness the commitment of our teachers to continuous improvement.

Every Monday, our dedicated teachers receive a brief email containing valuable tips and tricks to enhance their teaching practices. The format includes:

- A Source of Information: We share a curated source of information designed to inspire and inform our teachers' methods.
- Key Takeaways: A concise list of key takeaways ensures that our educators can quickly apply new insights in the classroom.
- Additional Resources: For those seeking more in-depth knowledge, we provide up to three additional sources of information, allowing teachers to explore further at their own pace.



Thank you for your ongoing support in making our school community a hub of excellence in education.



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DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
EMIRATES HILLS

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Best

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CURRICULUM  
SCHOOL IN THE UAE 2023-24



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# Sport & PHE

*Passion For Sport*



## Secondary School Term 2 Sports trials

Dear Students,

Term 2 sports trials are just around the corner. This is your chance to showcase your athletic skills and join our school's sports teams. Whether you're an experienced athlete or a beginner, we encourage everyone to participate.

Trials will be held for Volleyball, Netball and Tennis.

Trial Details: Trials will be conducted next week between December 5 and 8, 2023. All trials details can be viewed here: <https://linktr.ee/diadubaisport> (schedule of trials and sign-ups)

Please **SIGN-UP** here: <https://forms.office.com/r/RNYD1ZLQnx>

NOTE: Athletics (Track & Field) trials will be in early January 2024, and details on dates, times, and venues will be shared then.

Please ensure that you wear appropriate sportswear and bring any necessary equipment. If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach out.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Yours in Sport, Mr Mihail  
email: [mihailk@diadubai.com](mailto:mihailk@diadubai.com)

[www.diadubaisport.com](http://www.diadubaisport.com)



### TRIALS SIGN-UP:





**U16 GIRLS CHAMPIONS  
2023**



**U16 BOYS CHAMPIONS  
2023**

## World School Games Basketball

*Passion For Sport*

### Unity's Victory: A School's Triumph

In a season where dreams meet determination, the U16 Girls and Boys teams of our school created a remarkable narrative at the World School Games. Their journey, full of rigorous training and personal growth, was a testament to unity and shared purpose.

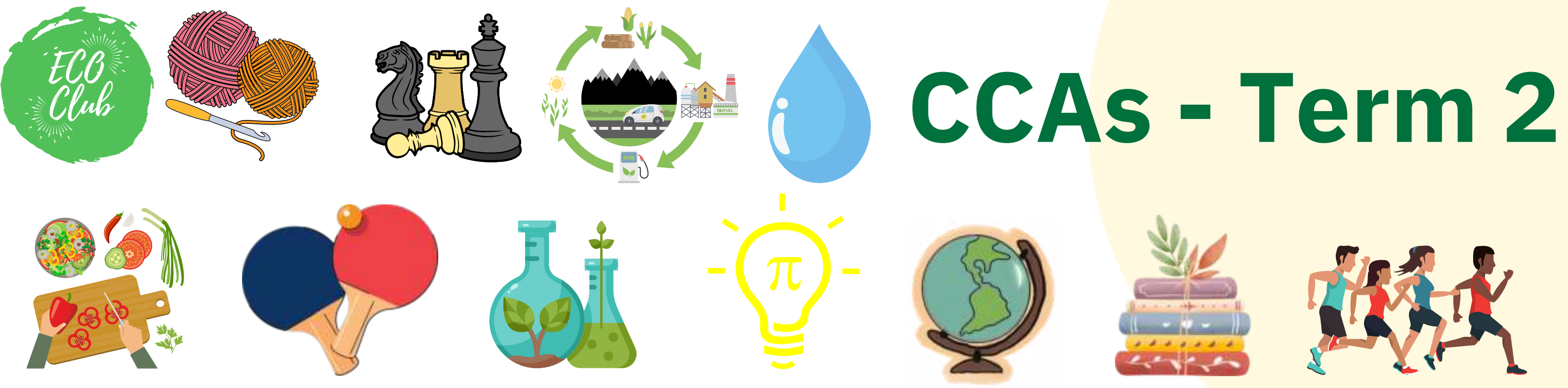
The Girls team, with their dynamic energy and tactical brilliance, enthralled onlookers, moving in seamless synergy. The Boys team, characterized by their agility and precise coordination, dominated with a composed intensity.

In the finals, both teams faced formidable challenges. The Girls, through unyielding spirit and teamwork, clinched a spectacular victory. The Boys, in a tense match, showcased their resilience, securing triumph in critical moments.

Their joint success on the podium, medals shining, symbolized more than victories; they embodied the power of unity and perseverance. Their story, now an inspiring legacy, echoes through our school community, proving that together, we can conquer challenges and reach new heights.

Congratulations Teams, Congratulations DIA Community!  
#SportsExcellence

Full article here: [WSG website](#)



## Co-Curricular Activities Term 2

Dear Parents and Students,



We are pleased to announce the start of sign-ups for our Term 2 Secondary School Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs). These activities are a vital aspect of our school's dedication to holistic education, as they provide students with a variety of opportunities to pursue their interests, learn new skills, and broaden their learning experience outside of the classroom.

We have increased our CCA opportunities this semester to include a variety of new and exciting activities that cater to a wide range of interests and age groups. There is something for everyone, whether your love is sports, arts, music, drama, technology, or academics. Our teacher-led CCA programmes are specifically designed to foster creativity, collaboration, leadership, and personal development.

### How to sign up:

- Sign-Up Date and Time: The online link will open on Monday 4 December at 19:00 and close on Thursday 7 December at 19:00.

- To sign up, please follow this link: <https://www.diadubai.com/learning/co-curricular-activities>

\*A maximum of three (3) activities per week per student

We recommend students take advantage of these enriching opportunities.

In addition to the teacher-led CCAs, on Wednesday 3 January, 2024, from 1:00pm until 3:30pm we will host the Paid CCAs EXPO on the 5-aside football field next to the PS PE Hall. There, you will be able to meet our sports partners and learn about the additional activities and opportunities available for your child after school hours here at DIA.

Both programmes will then commence on Monday 8 January 2024.

Thank you and we are looking forward to an exciting and fulfilling CCAs Term 2 with you all!

# Family Sports Day

The recent DIA Family Sports Day was a vibrant testament to the community's commitment to health and happiness.

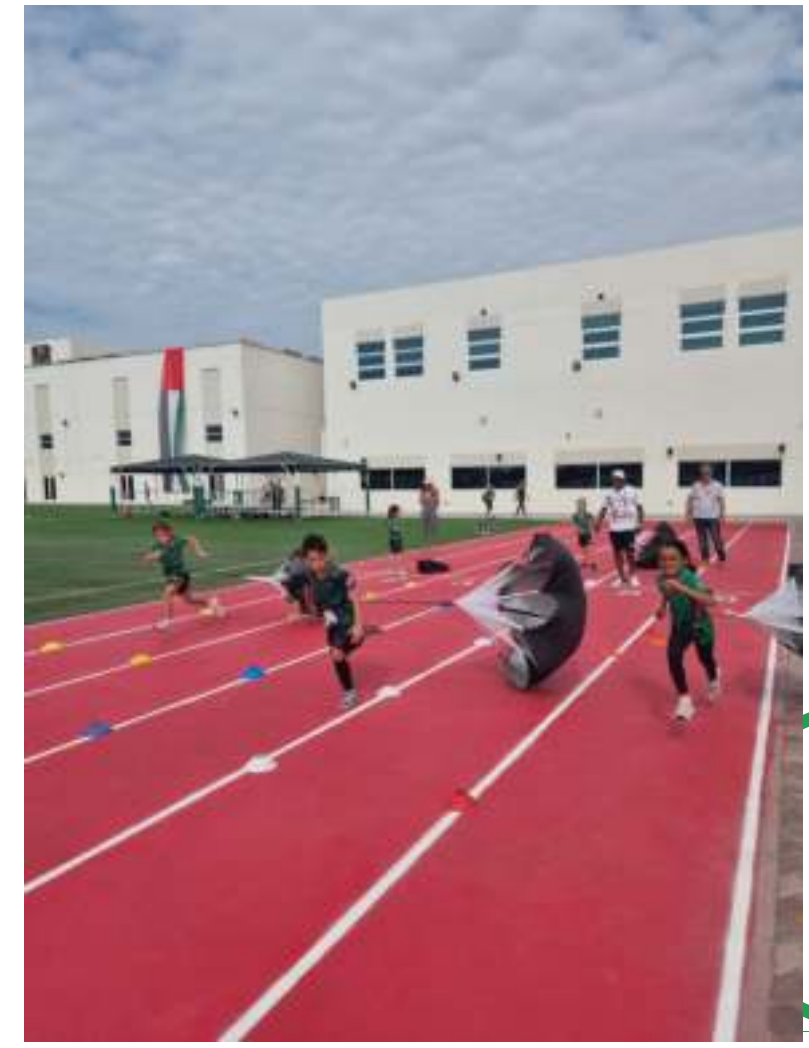
Families came together, engaging in various sports activities, showcasing the joy of staying active.

Children and adults alike participated in friendly competitions, demonstrating the importance of physical fitness in our daily lives.

This event not only strengthened community bonds but also highlighted the significance of integrating healthy habits as a fundamental part of our lifestyle. It was a delightful display of energy and enthusiasm, reinforcing the idea that a healthy community is a happy community.

Thank you everyone who took part!

#DIADubai30x30 #Health #Wellbeing



School Principal  
Hitesh Bhagat  
hiteshb@diadubai.com

# Secondary Communications

## Secondary School Senior Leadership

Head of Secondary  
Michelle Puxty  
michellep@diadubai.com

Deputy Head Years 7 - 11  
Michael Norton  
michaeln@diadubai.com

Deputy Head Year 12 -13  
Claire Inglis  
clairei@diadubai.com

Director of Sports  
Mihail Kouzev  
mihailk@diadubai.com

Deputy Head Pastoral  
Colin Leacy  
colinl@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Pastoral  
Daniel Murphy  
danielm@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Years 7 - 9  
Susan McMechan  
susanm@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Years 10 - 13  
Gerhard Van Der Wal  
gerhardv@diadubai.com

## IB Coordinators

MYP Coordinator  
Ruba Jeshi  
rubaj@diadubai.com

DP Coordinator  
Mona Khreis  
monak@diadubai.com

CP Coordinator  
Kanchi Das  
kanchid@diadubai.com

Head of Inclusion  
Asha Karam  
ashak@diadubai.com

## Heads of Year

HoY 7  
Shannon Meehan  
shannonm@diadubai.com

HoY 8  
Donna Campbell  
donnac@diadubai.com

HoY 9  
Amy Dowling  
amyd@diadubai.com

HoY Year 10  
Stephen Cleary  
stephenc@diadubai.com

Assistant HoY Year 10  
Srishti Jain  
srishtij@diadubai.com

HoY 11  
Assistant HoY 11  
Naveen Tyagi  
naveent@diadubai.com

Assistant HoY 11  
Jennifer Agacy  
jennifers@diadubai.com

HoY 12  
John Aboaja  
johna@diadubai.com

HoY 13  
Dollour Toma  
dollourt@diadubai.com

## Heads of Department

Arabic A  
Reda Al Ashmawey  
redaa@diadubai.com

Arabic B  
Mohamed Nasr  
mohamedn@diadubai.com

Islamic  
Waleed Ahmed  
waleeda@diadubai.com

English MYP  
Maha Zaouil  
mahaz@diadubai.com

English DP  
Iain Davies  
iaind@diadubai.com

Maths MYP  
Asha Kumar  
ashas@diadubai.com

Maths DP  
Vidya Shriram  
vidyas@diadubai.com

Science MYP  
Nemanja Dordevic  
nemanjad@diadubai.com

Science DP  
Barbara Timlin  
barbarat@diadubai.com

Humanities MYP  
Mahua Paul  
mahuap@diadubai.com

Humanities DP  
Reena Tikku  
reenat@diadubai.com

Language B MYP  
Blanca Gonzales  
blancag@diadubai.com

Language B DP  
Yolaine Siko  
yolaines@diadubai.com

Design MYP  
Somya Jajor  
somyaj@diadubai.com

Design DP  
Faryal Arsalan  
faryala@diadubai.com

Performing Arts  
Jill Martin  
jillm@diadubai.com

Visual Arts  
Veronica Richards  
veronicar@diadubai.com

Media  
Seon Lewis  
seonl@diadubai.com

PHE  
VFiona Turnbull  
fionat@diadubai.com

## Important Contacts

College Counsellor 12-13  
Rachana Sippy  
rachanas@diadubai.com

College Counsellor 7-11  
Stewart Pinkerton  
stewartp@diadubai.com

Attendance Officer  
Evelyn Pakatan  
evelynp@diadubai.com

Secondary Secretary  
Marian Steyn  
marians@diadubai.com

IT Support  
helpdesk@diadubai.com

Accounts Department  
accounts@diadubai.com



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**Dream - Inspire - Achieve**