



EMIRATES
HILLS

Secondary School Newsletter



06 October 2023



Head of Secondary Message



Hi all,

We hope this message finds you well. First off, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the wonderful parents who made Teachers' Day extra special by providing such a delicious lunch for our hardworking teachers and staff. Your support and generosity truly warmed our hearts, and it was a delightful treat for our staff. They all truly appreciated this.

Another personal highlight of the week was the school unity to raise awareness for dyslexia on Dyslexia Awareness Day by wearing red. It was such a sight to see the school community dressed in red, symbolizing our commitment to understanding and supporting those with dyslexia.

Again, the following weeks are busy with many events taking place, so please check the key information below with the dates and times.

Michelle



Key Information

Tuesday 10 October

MYP Assessment Parent Session (at 7.45am and 5.00pm)

Join us in the Presentation Hall to explore our approaches to assessment in the MYP. Parents will explore our grading criteria and our development of summative tasks in a hands-on way! The session will be repeated - no need to attend twice!

Wednesday 11 October

Year 11 & 12 Study in the USA & Canada Coffee Morning

Join us at 9.00am in the Presentation Hall to hear from our College and Careers team and to further explore the requirements and pathways for study in North America.

Friday 13 October

DIA COP28

Our EcoClub will be hosting their own ceremonies and activities to build towards this exciting UN event in December. All activities will begin in the afternoon on Friday.

Monday 16 October

DELE Parent Session

Join us in the Canteen Extension at 7.45am to learn more about DIA's approach to the DELE exam, which is an official diploma of Spanish as a foreign language.

Wednesday 18 October

Pink Day @ DIA

All students and staff are encouraged to wear pink on this day to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There will be activities and awareness information throughout the day.

Wednesday 18 October

Year 11 & 12 Study in Australia & GCC Coffee Morning

Join us at 9.00am in the Presentation Hall to hear from our College and Careers team and to further explore the requirements and pathways for study in these locations.

Thursday 19 October & Friday 20 October

Mid-term Break for Staff and Students

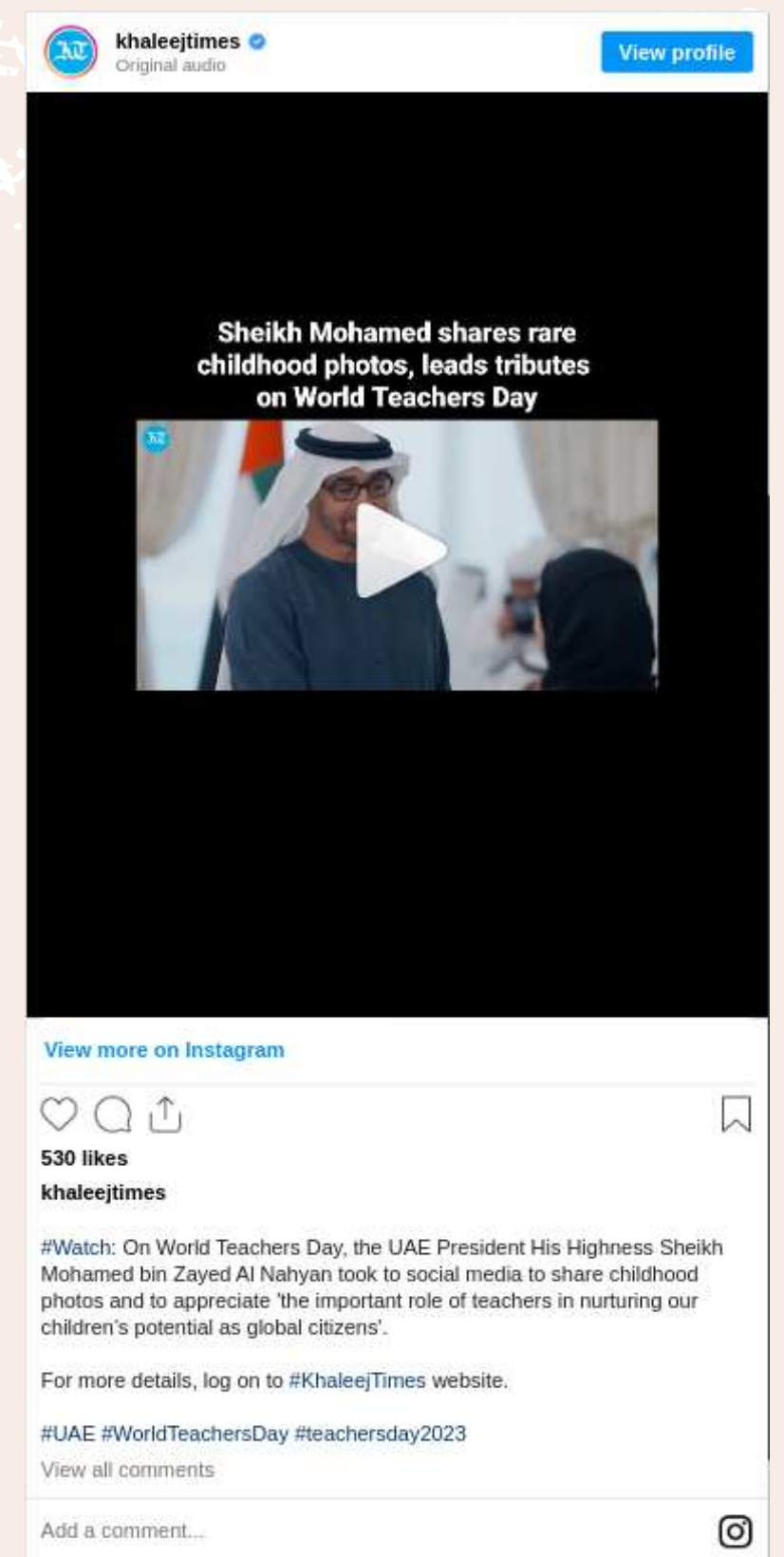
There will be no school for staff or students on these days.

#Teaching & Learning

UAE Outstanding Educator



On the occasion of World Teachers' Day, the UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan celebrated the role teachers play in the development of students as global citizens. DIA-EH is very proud to announce Dr. Nemanja Dordevic, Head of MYP Science, has been selected as one of the UAE's Outstanding Educators.



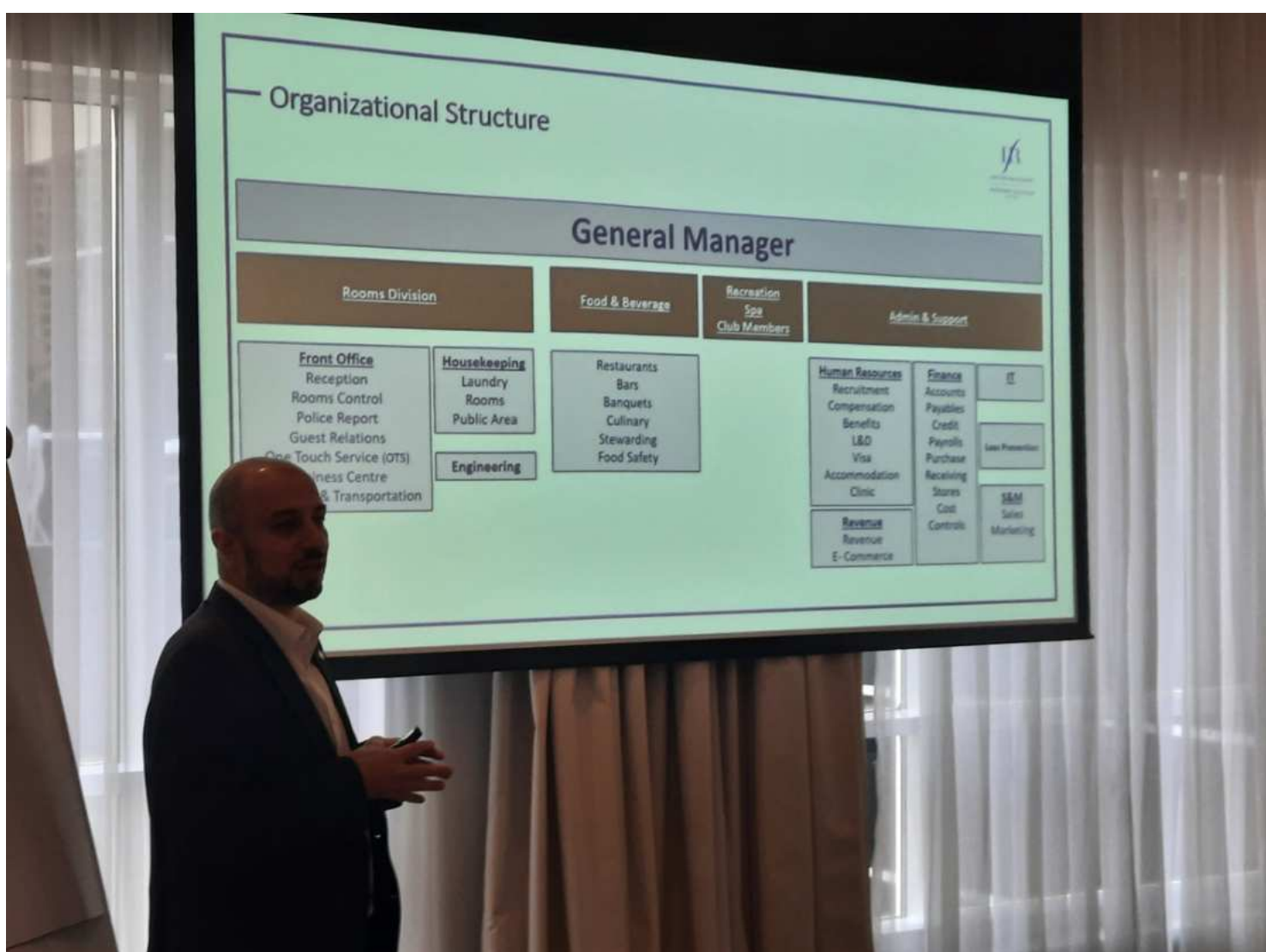
BTEC- Experiential learning opportunities

On September 28th, our thirteen YR12 IBCP students embarked on their first experiential learning journey of the year, marking the beginning of their BTEC Business Unit 1: Exploring Business coursework. Their mission: to delve into the intricate world of international and multinational organizations while gaining practical insights into the pivotal elements of organizational structure, communication, and departmental interdependence, led them to the Habtoor Grand Hotel and Resort, JBR.



The highlight of the day was an exclusive invitation extended by Mr. Khalid Saeed, General Manager of the prestigious Hotel Group. The unique privilege of a private audience with Mr. Khalid and several members of the senior leadership team, including Mr. Nalaka Dissanyake, HR Director, Mr. Imran, Finance Director and Ms. Maria, Marketing Executive, among others.

During this remarkable encounter, our students displayed their intellectual curiosity by posing insightful questions, setting the stage for an enriching dialogue that will undoubtedly enhance their forthcoming reports. This is the power of these visits! From Pavlos' discussion about how management strategy benefits employees to Sivang's question about communication methods to internal and external stakeholders, the conversation flowed and will certainly help develop student understanding.



BTEC- Experiential learning opportunities

The day continued with a guided tour of the hotel property, which provided our students with a firsthand look at the logistical intricacies and daily operational decisions that shape the guest experience. This included private tours of the Club Lounge, The recreation facilities and the restaurants and hospitality venues.

To cap off the visit, our students met with Chef Kayce, who cooked a wonderful array of dishes for them and underscored the significance of hospitality and supply chain management within the business. This emphasized the importance of quality standards and exceptional customer service in enhancing the guest experience. This is one of the Habtoor Hotels key objectives



As aforementioned, the day concluded with a sumptuous 5-star lunch at Sause Café, where our students engaged in a reflective discussion about their enlightening experiences. Their feedback was insightful and nearly all positive!

To conclude, it was a privilege and an honor to partner with the Habtoor Group for this remarkable learning opportunity. We now eagerly anticipate future collaborations that will further enrich our students' educational journeys.



Where will we visit next month???

School Events - Year Assemblies

Week 2nd - 6th October

Over the past week most of our Year groups have come together with Mr Leacy, Mr Murphy, and Heads of Year and taken stock of the first 6 weeks so far... has it really only been 6 weeks?



There were celebratory mentions, leaders of House Points announced, and ALPHA certificates handed out - thank you to Ms. McKeogh for these. Times like these where the Year group come together are most definitely needed so we can reflect on what has gone well, and areas that need a little work.



There were also some notices of upcoming initiatives, new systems being implemented in school, and some positive reinforcement regarding certain issues such as Technology usage etc. We hope that all students took something from this.

School Events - Music Showcase

Wednesday 27th September



Wednesday last week the Quad was abuzz with excitement as the Performing Arts Department and Year 11 students performed a number of tracks from the past few decades including memorable hits from Arctic Monkeys among others. Thank you to Mr O'Sullivan, Mr McCabe and Ms. Martin for this.



Lower MYP Years 7 - 9

Spotlight on Theatre Production!

As part of our Friday curriculum, Years 7 and 8 have been enjoying various activities and learning fantastic new skills on their Future Skills courses. Some of our Year 7 students have been treading the boards (and making the costumes and effects) in Theatre Production.



The first two weeks of the programme consisted of a carousel of hands-on learning activities, including: sound and lighting; costume design and making; acting; directing (as assistant directors working with Ms. Martin); and marketing, creating a programme and posters.

The first play they created and performed was 'The Haunted House', followed this week with 'Rumplestiltskin'. During the course, the students will work on four different plays, then vote on their favourite to polish for a performance that will be recorded and showcased during homeroom time for all of Year 7 to enjoy!



These are a few snapshots of their work so far. Ms. Martin is extremely impressed by their enthusiasm and collective engagement. We look forward to seeing your final showcase!



MEET THE ENGLISH TEAM



About Us

The English team is a dedicated, experienced group of teachers who love helping students, inspiring them to be creative, and most importantly, educating them with the critical and leadership skills needed for their future.

Contact

MYP Head of

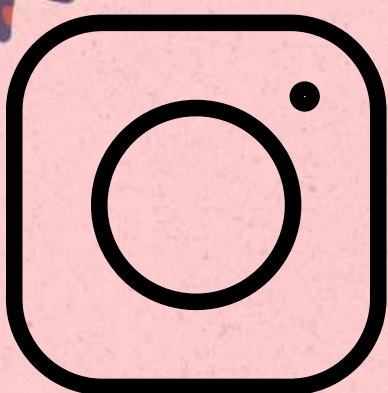


Department

mahaz@diadubai.com

DP Head of Department

Iaind@diadubai.com



Follow us on our Instagram page **diaeh_english** to get a glimpse of our classroom teaching and hear about upcoming events and competitions.

ARABIC & ISLAMIC

اللغة العربية والتربية الإسلامية



ISLAMIC

The Islamic A&B Department at DIA,EH school is dedicated to providing a comprehensive education that emphasizes Islamic culture and values. We have a committed team of educators who promote respect, tolerance, and intercultural understanding. Our program aligns seamlessly with the IB curriculum, focusing on inquiry-based learning and critical thinking. Through Islamic studies, we aim to instill strong ethics and a moral compass in our students.

ARABIC A

The Arabic A Department at DIA school is dedicated to providing a comprehensive Arabic language and culture education. Our team of passionate educators focuses on fostering linguistic proficiency, cultural understanding, and global competence. We prioritize diversity and aim to equip our students with valuable skills for success in an interconnected world.

ARABIC B

We are thrilled to present the dynamic Arabic B department at DIA, EH, where we prioritize a comprehensive education fostering cultural diversity and essential skills. Our dedicated team of experienced instructors ensures students excel in language learning. Our program aligns seamlessly with the IB curriculum, promoting inquiry-based learning, critical thinking, and intercultural awareness. We accommodate various student needs through three proficiency-based phases

Inclusion news



The Inclusion coffee morning held for parents turned into a wonderful information sharing session with our parent community. Attending parents were keen to understand the inclusion provision and were appreciative of our efforts as a school to build and nurture an inclusive culture of support and wellbeing. A great discussion followed through about teenage behavior and the changes in the brain that may be causing these. This was followed by knowledge sharing strategies to maintain routines and rituals to support our children collaboratively.



Careers & College Counselling

Lower MYP: Years 7, 8 & 9



How can students explore & expand their interests?



Read
Volunteer & mentorship
Join competitions or clubs
Job-shadow
Internships
Online learning (classes or videos)
Phone apps related to student interests



Conversation Starters: Use these helpful questions to open communication between parents and teens.



MYP: Can you think of a skill or hobby that you'd like to explore further?



DP/CP: What skills or experiences do you want to gain before graduating high school?

Careers & College Counselling

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

How can teens align academic choices with future careers?



Self-Assessment

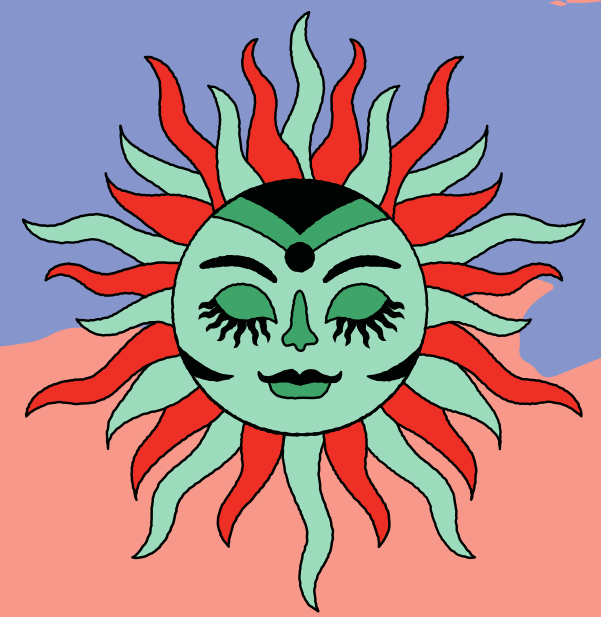
Research Career Pathways

Meet with Teachers & Counsellors

Internships/Job-shadow

Industry Associations

Networking



FUTURE FOCUS

Up-and-Coming trends and opportunities!



PADIA

TEACHER DAY

Thank you to PADIA & Parents for the wonderful lunch to celebrate our teachers





2022-2023

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 7 communication.

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Kevin Johnson	kevink@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Shannon Meehan	shannonm@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Shannon Meehan	shannonm@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Asha Karam	ashak@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including standardized tests.	Susan McMechan	susanm@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Stewart Pinkerton	stewartp@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Shannon Meehan	shannonm@diadubai.com
Transition from Year 6 - Year 7	Shannon Meehan	shannonm@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	TBC	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com





2022-2023

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 8 communication.

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Kevin Johnson	kevink@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Donna Campbell	donnac@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Donna Campbell	donnac@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Asha Karam	ashak@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including standardized tests.	Susan McMechan	susanm@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Stewart Pinkerton	stewartp@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Donna Campbell	donnac@diadubai.com
Transition from Year 7 - Year 8	Donna Campbell	donnac@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	TBC	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com





2022-2023

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 9 communication.

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Kevin Johnson	kevink@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Amy Dowling	amyd@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
Year 10 Subject Options	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Asha Karam	ashak@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including standardized tests.	Susan McMechan	susanm@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Stewart Pinkerton	stewartp@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Amy Dowling	amyd@diadubai.com
Future transition into Year 10	Amy Dowling	amyd@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	TBC	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com





2022-2023

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 10 communication.

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Kevin Johnson	kevink@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Stephen Cleary	stephenc@diadubai.com
The Middle Years Programme.	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Stewart Pinkerton	stewartp@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Asha Karam	ashak@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including eAssessment	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Stephen Cleary	stephenc@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Stephen Cleary	stephenc@diadubai.com
Future transition into Year 11	Stephen Cleary	stephenc@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	TBC	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com





2022-2023

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 11 communication.

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Kevin Johnson	kevink@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Naveen Tyagi	naveent@diadubai.com
The Diploma Programme.	Mona Khreis	monak@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC	Kanchi Das	kanchid@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Asha Karam	ashak@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, including eAssessment	Ruba Jeshi	rubaj@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Stewart Pinkerton	stewartp@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Naveen Tyagi	naveent@diadubai.com
Aim High Programme	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	TBC	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com





2022-2023

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 12 communication.

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Kevin Johnson	kevink@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	John Aboaja	johna@diadubai.com
The Diploma Programme.	Mona Khreis	monak@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC	Kanchi Das	kanchid@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Asha Karam	ashak@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, either internal or IB.	Mona Khreis	monak@diadubai.com
University Counselling.	Rachana Sippy	rachanas@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	John Aboaja	johna@diadubai.com
Aim High Programme	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	TBC	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com





2022-2023

Who should I contact?

A guide to help streamline Year 13 communication.

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Kevin Johnson	kevink@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Dollour Toma	dollourt@diadubai.com
The Diploma Programme.	Mona Khreis	monak@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC	Kanchi Das	kanchid@diadubai.com
I want to contact a teacher of a specific subject.	Identify your child's subject teacher on his/her timetable.	first name + first letter of surname @diadubai.com
Inclusion / EAL / Alpha	Asha Karam	ashak@diadubai.com
Assessment questions, either internal or IB.	Mona Khreis	monak@diadubai.com
University Counselling.	Rachana Sippy	rachanas@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Dollour Toma	dollourt@diadubai.com
Aim High Programme	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	TBC	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com



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



EMIRATES
HILLS



Dream - Inspire - Achieve