



EMIRATES  
HILLS

# Secondary School Newsletter



**17 May 2024**



# Head of Secondary Message



Hello all,

We are delighted to share the highlights of a truly remarkable week at our school. On Thursday, we had the distinct honor of welcoming H.E. Fredrik Floren, the Swedish Ambassador, for a special visit. The Swedish community came together for a wonderful Q&A session where students and parents engaged in enlightening discussions with Ambassador Floren, including which car is better - Volvo or G63!

We are proud of our teams - we have been smashing it in sport recently. Our cricket and rounders teams have both secured impressive victories, showcasing their dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship against the other Innoventures schools. These wins are a testament to the hard work and commitment of our students and coaches, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all involved.

Lastly, we want to express our deepest gratitude to all the parents who have shown incredible support over the past weeks. Your contributions to the collection for our support workers have been invaluable, helping them restore our school to its full functionality after the recent storms. We also appreciate your unwavering support during the final IB examinations for our Year 11 and 13 students. Your encouragement has been instrumental, and we wish both cohorts the very best of luck as they embark on the next stage of their academic journeys. Thank you parents!

Michelle

# Key Information

Monday 20th May

## **Innovents Arts Competition - RIS**

A celebration of our talented artists - we look forward to seeing the incredible work on show

Monday 20th May and Tuesday 21st May

## **Arabic Calligraphy Exhibition**

ONE LINE HERE

Tuesday 21st May

## **MYP Graduation Rehearsal - 12pm - 3pm**

All students in Year 11 will have an opportunity to collect their gowns and rehearse for the big day!

Tuesday 21st May

## **Coffee Morning - Insights Psychology - Remo Poulsen**

We look forward to seeing you at our coffee morning focused on supporting emotional regulation.

Wednesday 22nd May

## **MYP Graduation - 5.30 - 8.30pm**

We are looking forward to celebrating our MYP Class of 2024 - arrivals from 4.45pm for refreshments in the school canteen

Thursday 23rd May

## **Job Shadowing Window Begins**

Our Year 11 students will enter the professional world of work - we look forward to hearing about their adventure!



MYP CLASS OF 2024

# GRADUATION

---

MAY 22ND 2024

---

5.30PM - 8.30PM (ARRIVALS 4.45PM)

DIA EMIRATES HILLS

CONTACT MS RUBA JESHI:

RUBAJ@DIADUBAI.COM



**inno**ventures  
education



# PREFECT INVESTITURE

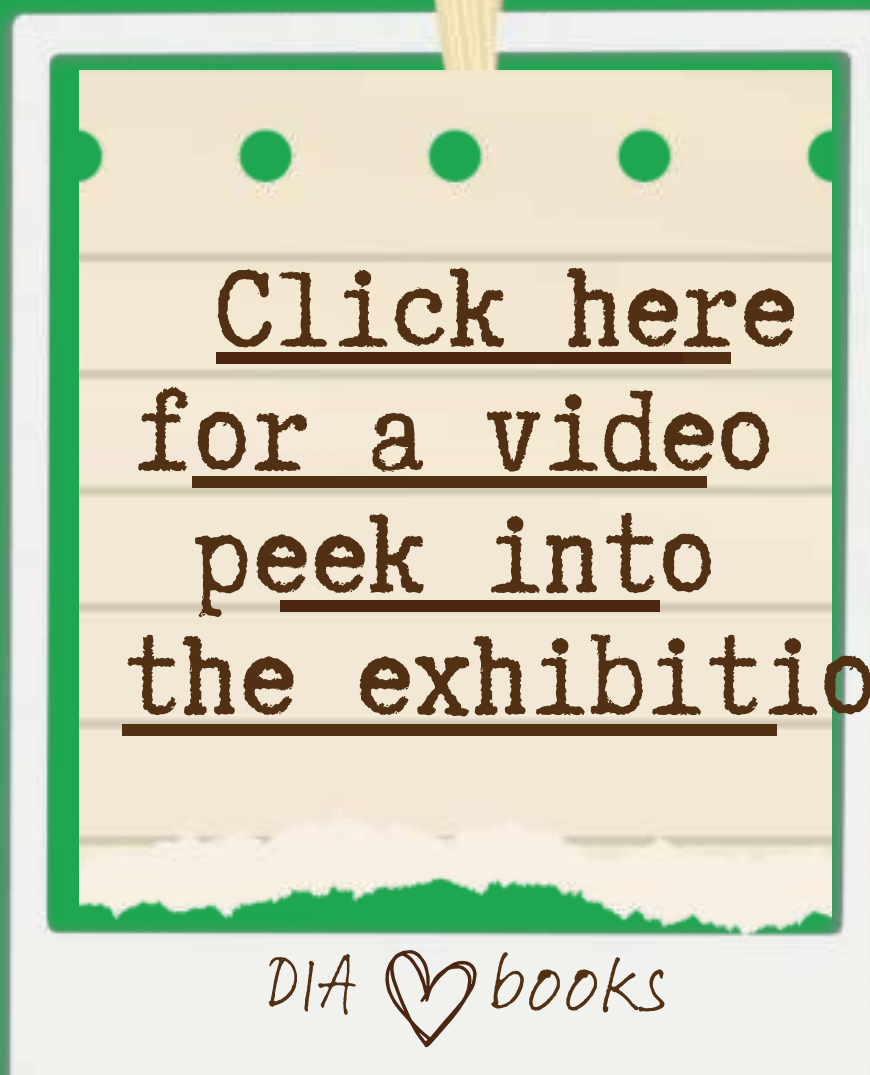




# Visit, Read, Enjoy Our Favourite Books EXHIBITION!



DIA ♡ books



[Click here](#)  
for a video  
peek into  
the exhibition

DIA ♡ books



DIA ♡ books

DEAR PARENTS,  
WE ARE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO TIME-TRAVEL WITH US TO  
THE MINI VERSIONS OF OUR SCHOOL LEADERS AND TEACHERS  
BOOKS THEY LOVED TO READ WHEN THEY WERE YOUR KID'S AND  
THE LOVE OF READING AND JOIN A DRAW FOR SOME BOOKTAS

## DIA ♡ BOOKS



DIA ♡ books



DIA ♡ books



DIA ♡ books

WHERE: The hall in front of the Library  
WHEN: Any time... PTC, drop off, pick up  
WHY: Because together we grow readers!

# WELLBEING CORNER

Dear students and parents,

As part of mental health week, and as we approach the end of the school year something that is important to acknowledge is change.

Whether you've finished your final year in DIA EH with DP or MYP or just nearing the finish for the summer months, you embark on the transition from school life from Year 7 to Year 8, MYP to DP or whether it's to the world beyond or embarking on a journey of travel, and exploring new opportunities, change becomes a central theme. Let's delve deeper into this transition and discover how to wholeheartedly embrace the changes that lie ahead.

## How to Develop Strategies for Transition and Change:

1. **Transition as a Learning Opportunity:** Embrace your new journey as a chance to learn, adapt, and grow. Every experience, whether positive or challenging, contributes to your personal development.
2. **Acknowledge Emotions:** It's natural to feel a mix of excitement and apprehension during transitions. Acknowledge your emotions and give yourself permission to feel them.
3. **Maintain Routine:** As you transition, try to maintain certain routines that ground you and provide a sense of stability.
4. **Prioritise Well-being:** Nourish your physical and mental well-being. Healthy eating, exercise, and self-care contribute to your resilience during times of change.
5. **Seek Guidance:** Whether from mentors, peers, or professionals, seeking advice and guidance can ease your transition.
6. **Focus on Positive Outcomes:** Keep a journal of the positive outcomes that arise from your new experiences. This reframing can shift your perspective and boost your confidence.

P.S. - It is also a time for change for parents as your child grows, develops, and moves forward. How will you change with them??



# PARENT PASTORAL SESSION

‘SUPPORTING EMOTIONAL REGULATION’



TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2024

PRESENTATION HALL

8AM - 9AM

REMO POULSEN

PSYCHOLOGIST - CBT SPECIALIST

---



**INSIGHTS**  
— PSYCHOLOGY —







# ASSESSMENT IN THE MYP

## ASSESSMENT FOR, OF, AS LEARNING

# 1

### CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT:

assessment is ongoing and integrated into daily classroom activities. Teachers use various methods such as questioning, class discussions, observations, and peer assessment to gauge student understanding



# 2

### INFORMATIVE FEEDBACK:

Teachers provide timely and constructive feedback to students to help them understand their strengths and areas for improvement. This feedback is personalized and focused on guiding students toward achieving their learning objectives.

# 3

### PEER ASSESSMENT AND SELF-ASSESSMENT:

Students are actively involved in assessing their own learning progress and that of their peers. This encourages reflection and metacognition, helping students take ownership of their learning process.

# 4

### CRITERION-REFERENCED ASSESSMENT

assessment in the MYP is criterion-referenced, meaning it is based on predetermined criteria and objectives outlined in the MYP subject guides. This ensures consistency and fairness in assessing student progress



# 5

### DIVERSE ASSESSMENT METHODS:

assessment in the MYP encompasses a variety of methods beyond traditional tests and quizzes. These can include projects, presentations, portfolios, essays, debates, and performances, allowing students to demonstrate their understanding in different ways.





# Internal Assessment DP

## What is an Internal Assessment ?

---

The Internal assessment (IA) is an integral part of each of the 6 courses in DP and is compulsory for both standard level (SL) and higher level (HL) courses.

It enables students to demonstrate the application of their skills and knowledge in a different setting and to pursue their personal interests without the constraints that are associated with written examinations.

These IAs are internally assessed and externally moderated by the IB.

## IAs

---

- The IA requirements vary according to each subject: Students are expected to produce an oral task in languages, or a business research project or a scientific investigation or an investigation in an area of mathematics...etc...according to subject.
- Authenticity of the work submitted is a must.
- The weightage of the IA varies according to subject and level; however, it is mainly between 20 to 30% of the final mark.
- A number of assessment criteria have been identified for each IA. Each assessment criterion has level descriptors describing specific achievement levels, together with an appropriate range of marks.

# Unstoppable: A Student's Triumph through Hard Work

Students at DIA have never ceased to wow us by their achievements, both within and beyond the school walls. Whether working quietly towards their goals or excelling in various arenas, their dedication is inspiring. Many a time the spotlight is on the final reports and academic achievement. But there are small crests of triumphs in every few weeks or months and this is a acknowledgment of these triumphs that often go unnoticed. We are excited to share stories of our students who have shown extraordinary progress in just a few months!

Throughout the last 3 months, Samaira Khanna has consistently demonstrated diligence, effort, and determination to excel in Psychology. Her commitment to her studies has been evident in her class work, formative assessments, and summative assessments. With each task, she has exhibited a strong work ethic and a genuine desire to improve. Through sheer dedication and relentless hard work, she managed to push her marks up by two grades in Psychology. This remarkable improvement is a testament to her perseverance and unyielding spirit.

**We asked Samaira about her inspiring story and she talked about her strategies and motivation:**

**Q:** Can you describe the specific strategies you implemented that you believe contributed to your significant improvement in Psychology grades?

**A:** *The specific strategies I implemented were attending all the intervention lessons where I asked the teacher questions about my next steps for improvement, cleared my doubts and consistently worked on the feedback I received. I completed all the tasks she gave us and I asked specifically for exam style questions. I also made a study plan which helped me manage my time effectively and finally I created different study habits, such as using flashcards or doing past papers*



**Samaira Khanna**  
Year 12 student

**How did you maintain your motivation and focus throughout the process of improving your grades in Psychology?**

**A:** *I could maintain my motivation because Psychology is what I want to study when I'm older, so it was important that I do well in the subject. I was able to maintain this motivation by setting clear goals and breaking it down to manageable tasks.*

**Q. Looking back, what advice would you give to other students who may be struggling academically in a subject?**

**A:** *Have confidence in yourself, manage your time effectively so that you are able to give a good amount of time to your subject and don't be afraid to ask any questions you may have to your teachers. Enjoy your journey!*

**We look forward to many more celebrations of our students' achievements and successes in the days to come.**



# YEAR 10 ASSEMBLY



# BUILDING RESILIENCE



## How a personal setback led Dubai resident Jimmy Wright to attempt cycling 600km to raise awareness on...

Printed March 2021, Jimmy and Abbie Wright had been leading lives that could be described as happy and carefree. Jimmy was a football manager for a rugby..

Khaleej Times / Sep 22, 2023

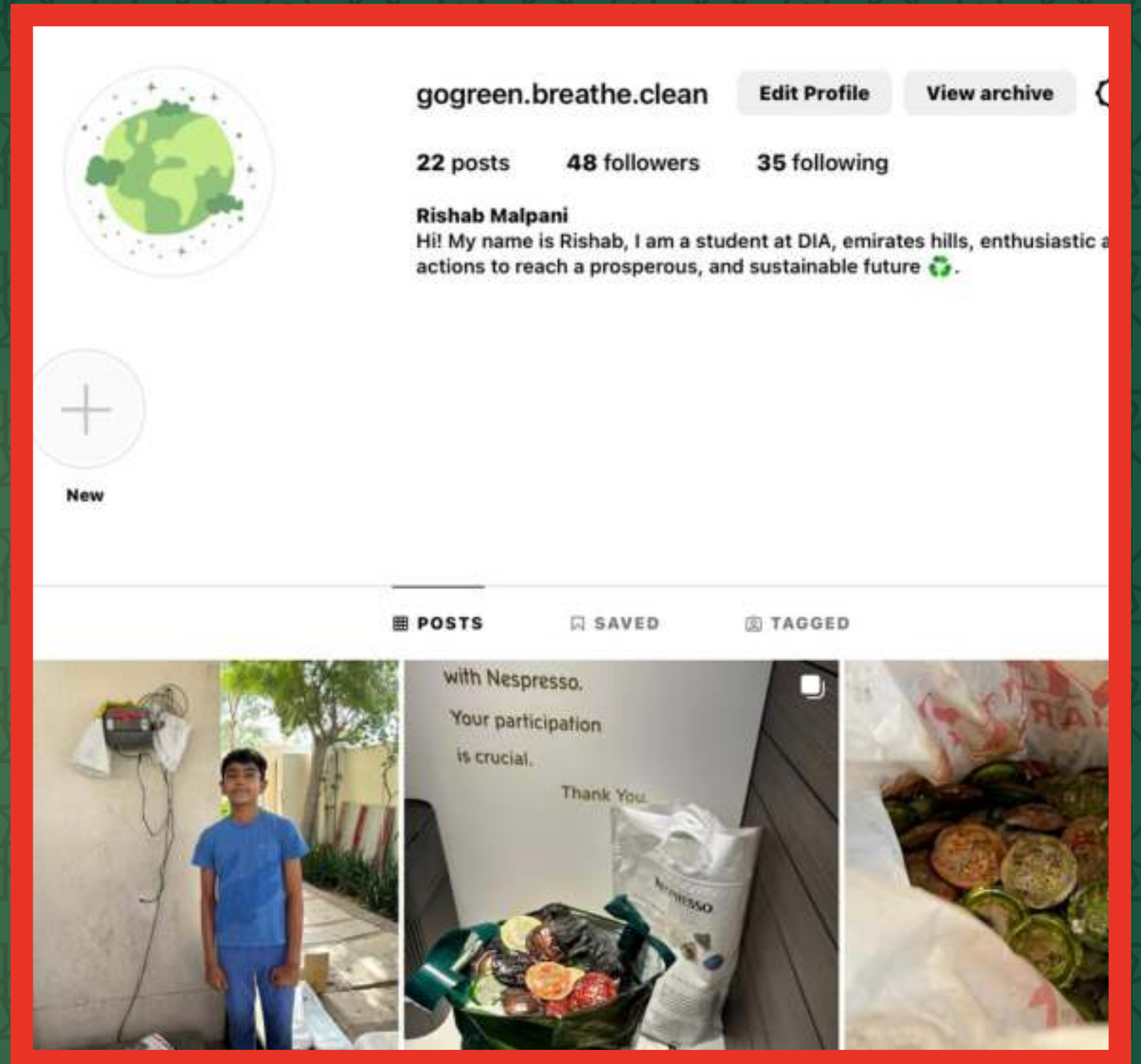
## Tuesday 21st May

On Tuesday 21st May we are excited to welcome guest speakers Abbie & Jimmy Wright who will speak to our Year 10 students on the themes of building resilience and the importance of gratitude. This assembly will be a great insight for our students which will allow them to develop their life skills to overcome challenges in the face of adversity.

Thank you to Ms. Ciara Gillespie for organising this event.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



## RISHAB MALPANI - 9E

RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FROM THE EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP FOR RECYCLING OVER 65 KGS OF PLASTIC, AND HAS RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE FROM NESPRESSO FOR RECYCLING 1000 COFFEE CAPSULES.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



## MOHAMMED HUSAIN - 11D

COLLABORATED WITH SMARTLIFE FOUNDATION TO HELP WORKERS THROUGH FACILITATING ONLINE CLASSES FOR LEARNING ENGLISH, AND HELPED THE CHILDREN OF THESE WORKERS PREPARE FOR THE IELTS TEST IN EFFORT TO SEND THEM ABROAD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.





# HOUSE SYSTEM UPDATES



## FIRE IS IN THE LEAD WITH NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS...

We're excited to bring you the latest from our House system. House Fire continues to lead, showing great spirit and teamwork for the third month in a row. They remain at the forefront of our competition.

This month, Homeroom 8G has shown exceptional effort by scoring the highest in the Secondary school with 132 House Points! They will be rewarded with a special screening of "The Minions" during Homeroom on Friday 17th May – a fun way to celebrate their hard work.

We also want to recognize the standout students from each year level who earned the highest points. These students have received a "Get Out of Homework Coupon," offering them a well-deserved break from their assignments.

Sarannya Agarwal – Year 7F

Irja Mirchandani - Year 8G

Lamar Abbas - Year 9E

Vir Singh and Keshav Anand - Year 10D

Zuhayr Ahmed – Year 12A

Congratulations to all our winners! We look forward to seeing who steps up in the coming month!





**YEAR 10**

# ASSEMBLY



## **Celebrating students who improved**

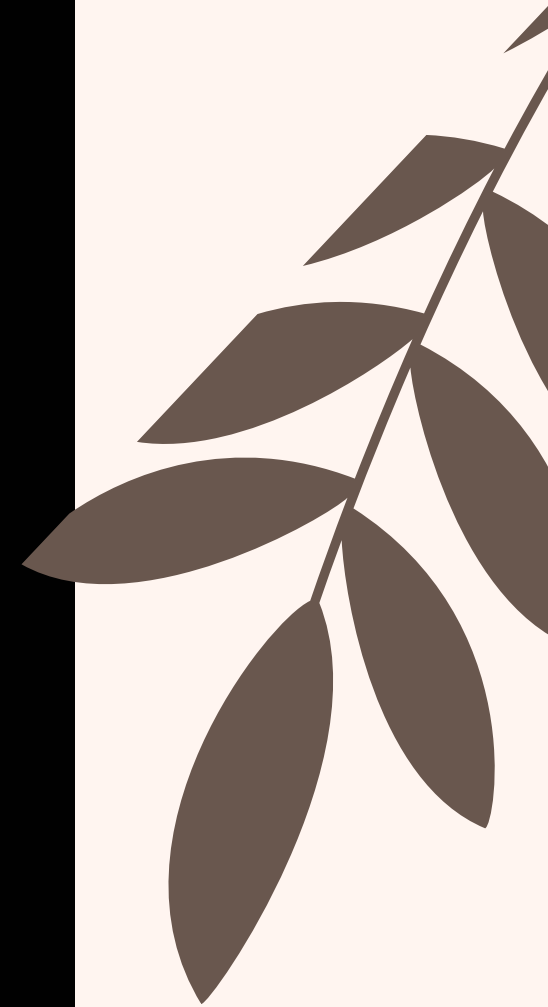
The Year 10 assembly was a momentous occasion dedicated to celebrating the remarkable progress of several students who demonstrated outstanding improvement in their academic journey. Among the students honored, those who had significantly increased their total points by 2 points from the Mid-Year Report to the CA-2 Report stood out for their dedication and hard work.





# Late Night Gaming

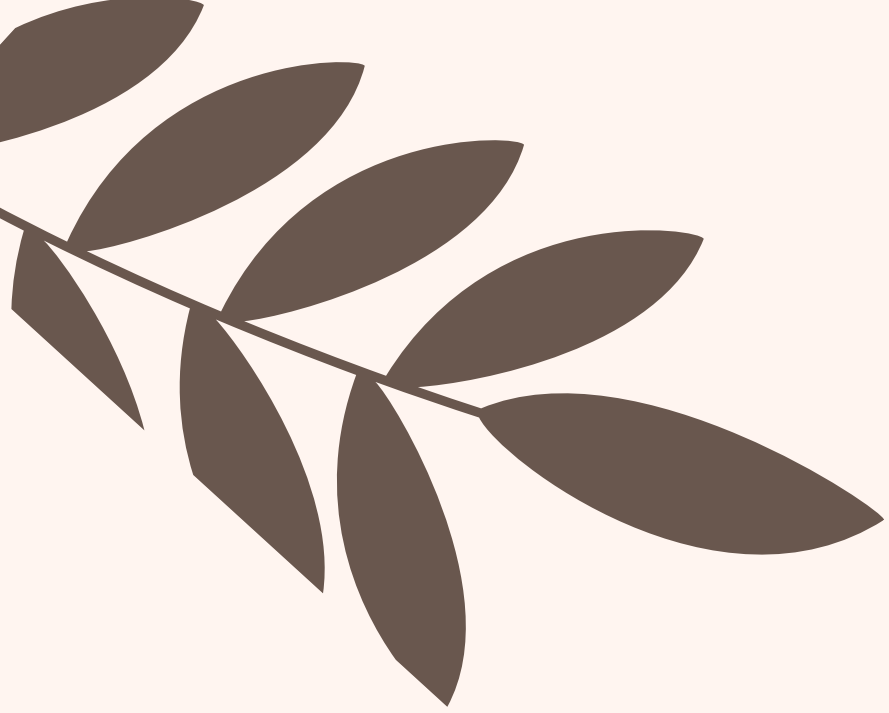
## Impacts and Parental Action



Teenagers today are increasingly drawn to the allure of video games, immersing themselves in virtual worlds that offer excitement and escape. However, the consequences of late-night gaming sessions can be detrimental to their well-being, particularly in the realm of mental health. Research has shown a clear link between excessive gaming at night and various negative impacts on teenagers, affecting their academic performance, sleep patterns, and social interactions.

### **Reduced Academic Performance**

One of the significant repercussions of late-night gaming is a decline in academic performance. Teens who prioritize gaming over sleep often find themselves struggling to focus in school, complete assignments, and prepare for exams. This lack of focus and attention can lead to lower grades, missed deadlines, and an overall decline in academic achievement. A study by the American Psychological Association found that adolescents who spent more than 3 hours per day gaming were more likely to have lower grades compared to those who spent less time gaming (Anderson & Dill, 2000).



## **Sleep Disturbances**

Late-night gaming disrupts teenagers' sleep patterns, leading to inadequate rest and difficulty falling asleep. Studies have highlighted that adolescents who engage in extensive gaming experience delayed bedtimes, shorter sleep durations, and increased fatigue during the day. This lack of quality sleep not only affects their academic performance but also contributes to mood disturbances and cognitive impairments. According to a survey conducted by the National Sleep Foundation, 95% of adolescents reported using electronic devices within an hour of bedtime, which can significantly impact their sleep quality (Cain & Gradisar, 2010).

## **Social Isolation**

Excessive gaming at night can also result in social isolation among teenagers. When gaming becomes the primary focus, teens may withdraw from face-to-face interactions with family and friends, preferring the virtual world over real-life connections. This withdrawal can strain relationships, lead to feelings of detachment, and create conflicts within the household, impacting their overall social well-being. A study by the Pew Research Center found that 58% of teenagers reported feeling closer to their online friends than their real-life friends (Lenhart et al., 2015).

## **Recommendations for Parents**

As a parent, it is crucial to be aware of the negative impacts of late-night gaming on teenagers and take proactive steps to address this issue. Setting healthy boundaries, promoting alternative leisure activities, and encouraging physical exercise are essential in mitigating the adverse effects of excessive gaming. Limiting screen time before bedtime, fostering open communication, and monitoring gaming habits can help teenagers develop responsible gaming habits and maintain a balanced approach to technology usage.

By being informed, involved, and supportive, parents can guide their teenagers towards a healthier lifestyle, ensuring that gaming remains a source of entertainment rather than a detriment to their well-being.



# THE HIVE

## THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024

You're invited to the **BIGGEST** theatre festival by and for children

**GET YOUR FREE TICKETS NOW!**

THE HIVE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024 PRESENTS **Elephant in my Kitchen!**

Date : 25th May, Saturday  
Shows : 10AM | 12PM | 2PM | 3:30PM | 5PM | 6:30PM  
Date : 26th May, Sunday  
Shows : 10AM | 12PM | 2PM | 4PM | 6PM | 7PM  
Location: Alliance Française, Oud Mehta

THE HIVE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024 PRESENTS **EVAN**

Date : 23rd June, Sunday  
Shows : 1PM | 4PM | 7PM  
Location: Alliance Française, Oud Mehta

THE HIVE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024 PRESENTS **GOLDILOCKS ON TRIAL**

Location : Alliance Française, Oud Mehta

Date: 31st May, Friday - Shows: 4PM | 6PM  
Date : 8th June, Saturday  
Shows : 10AM | 12PM | 2PM | 4PM | 6PM | 8PM  
Date : 9th June, Sunday  
Shows : 10AM | 12PM | 2PM | 4PM | 6PM | 8PM  
Date : 22nd June, Saturday - Shows: 10AM | 6PM

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)

THE HIVE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024 PRESENTS **THE WITCHES**

Date : 1st June, Saturday  
Shows : 12PM | 2PM | 4PM | 6PM  
Date : 2nd June, Sunday  
Shows : 10AM | 12PM | 2PM | 4PM | 6PM  
Location: Sima Performing Arts, Alserkal

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)

THE HIVE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024 PRESENTS **HOW TO OVERTHROW YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

Date : 22nd June, Saturday  
Shows : 12PM | 2PM | 4PM  
Location: Alliance Française, Oud Mehta

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)



SchoolsCompared.com presents The Top Schools Award for...

Best International Baccalaureate Curriculum School in the UAE 2023 - 2024

**DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY**  
EMIRATES HILLS

**WINNER**

Best

**INTERNATIONAL  
BACCALAUREATE  
CURRICULUM  
SCHOOL IN THE UAE 2023-24**



**Johnathan Westley**  
Managing Editor

**James Mullen**  
Co-Founder

**David Westley**  
Co-Founder

Awarded by the Editorial Board of **SchoolsCompared** and the **Top Schools Awards** Independent Judging Panel for consistently outstanding feedback from parents and teachers, school-wide innovation, whole child development and outstanding contribution to the quality and standards of education for children in the UAE 2023.

School Principal  
Hitesh Bhagat  
hiteshb@diadubai.com

# Secondary Communications

## Secondary School Senior Leadership

Head of Secondary  
Michelle Puxty  
michellep@diadubai.com

Deputy Head Year 7 - 11  
Jonathon Dunn  
jonathond@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  
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**