



EMIRATES  
HILLS

# Secondary School Newsletter



14 October 2022

2022-2023

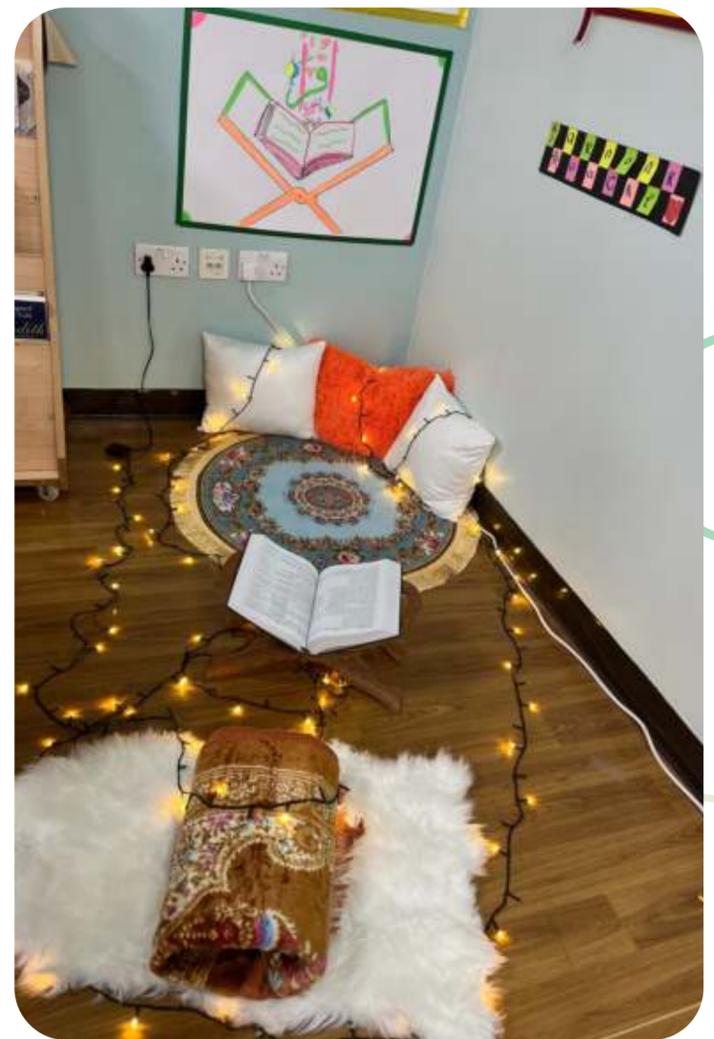
# Head of Secondary Message



Dear all,

Another fun packed few weeks, with a plethora of events, activities and opportunities taking place. From Parent Focus groups, University Sessions, Student Music Bands, Competitive sports games, Financial Literacy sessions and so much more. Really has been a busy place. This newsletter includes more opportunities to come.

Part of our performance management and appraisal processes involves leaders going into lessons and observing teaching. This is one of my favourite parts of my job where I get to see the students and teachers in action. Seeing how the teachers have taken pride in their own space and really gone the extra mile to make the learning environment a warm and inviting place.



To update you on the movement around school and transition between lessons, our prefects have been doing a great job in supporting us with this.

Happy Reading

Kind Regards, Michelle





# Phones & Social Media



## WHEN SHOULD YOU GET YOUR KID A PHONE?

It's not just a question of the right age.

[Click here to read more.](#)



## WHEN ARE KIDS READY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA?

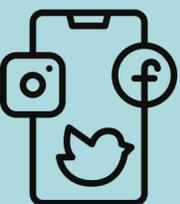
And how to monitor social media use when kids are starting out.

[Click here to read more](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND SELF-DOUBT



Take control of how companies use your data by enabling privacy features. [Click here to read more](#)



## DOES SOCIAL MEDIA USE CAUSE DEPRESSION?

How heavy Instagram and Facebook use may be affecting kids negatively. [Click here to read more](#)

## MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Tips for making sure your children's screen time is healthy.

[Click here to read more](#)



# Competitive Sport & PHE

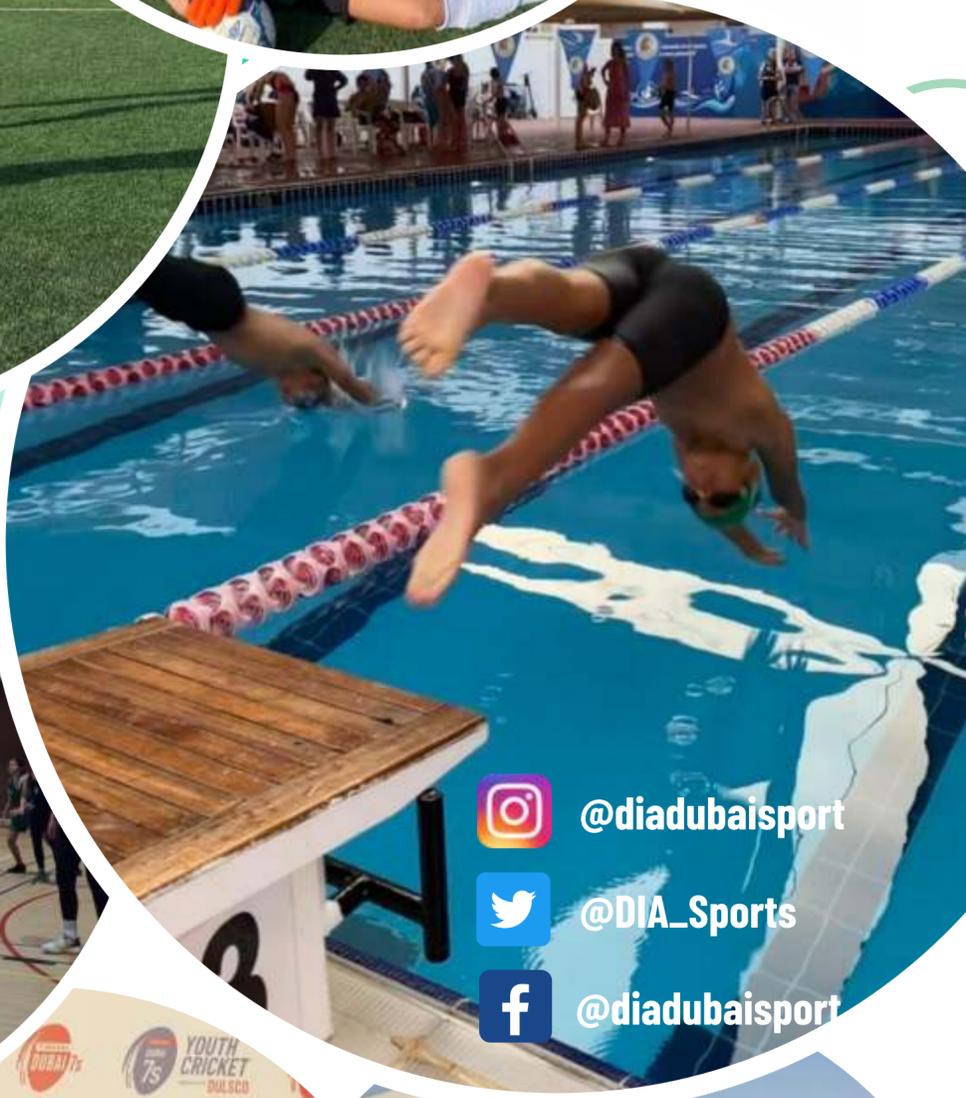


Another fantastic week of sport with some great victories for our teams  
Please visit the DIA Sport Portal for all the results  
[www.diadubaisport.com](http://www.diadubaisport.com)

 @diadubaisport

 @DIA\_Sports

 @diadubaisport



 @diadubaisport

 @DIA\_Sports

 @diadubaisport



# Visa + Edfundo | Financial Football Launch Event



Our students participated in the official launch of Visa's Financial Football game @Visa Headquarters



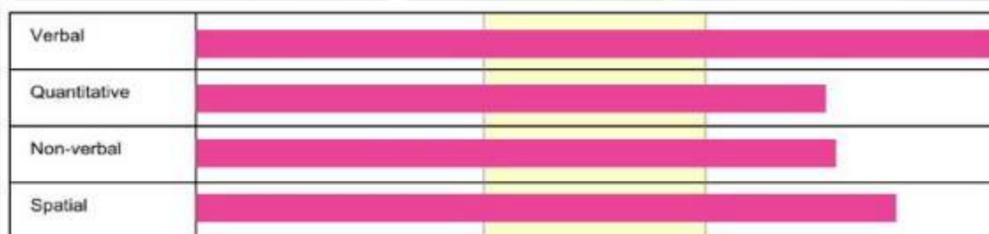
# Guidance for Parents

## CAT4: Cognitive Abilities Test

**CAT4 assesses a student's abilities across four different reasoning batteries:**

- Verbal reasoning – thinking with words
- Quantitative reasoning – thinking with numbers
- Non-Verbal reasoning – thinking with shape
- Spatial reasoning – thinking with space and shape

### Understanding the Reports



The yellow band highlights where the "average" scores lie.

This student has scored above average in every battery. This tells us that this student may be highly able across all four reasoning skills.

The summary provides commentary on the results from the CAT4 assessment and gives some guidance about strategies you can use at home to support your child.

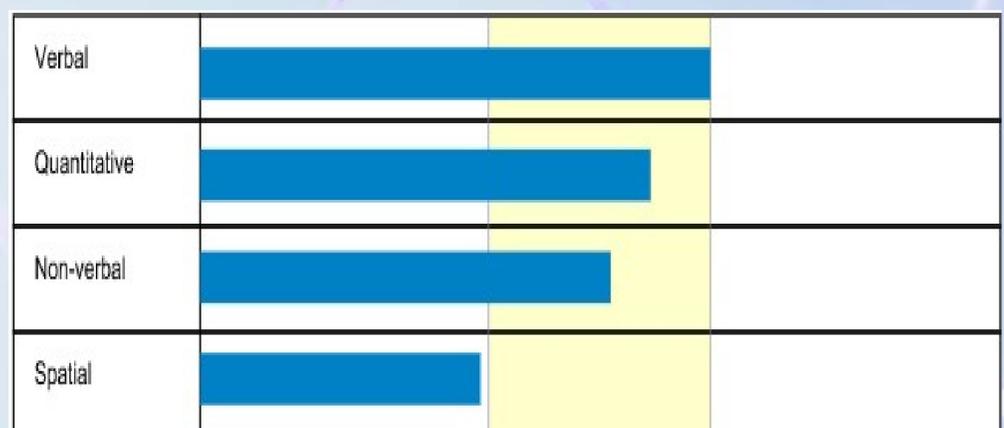
#### Summary

Jessica's profile of scores from CAT4 shows she has a clear preference for learning by reading, writing and talking about topics but her spatial skills will mean that she can learn effectively in a number of different ways.

- Jessica may find that she gets ahead very quickly in some subjects and so needs extra work that allows her to do more research or read around a subject or follow her own interests. As some students may be reluctant to ask for this, do encourage Jessica to approach the teachers.
- Jessica will learn best when working step-by-step through a subject or task.
- Encourage Jessica to read widely outside school. Reading from a range of different types of books will add to her knowledge and skills.
- Think about activities outside school that build on her abilities, for example debating, drama or science club. She may enjoy these if she is not already taking part.

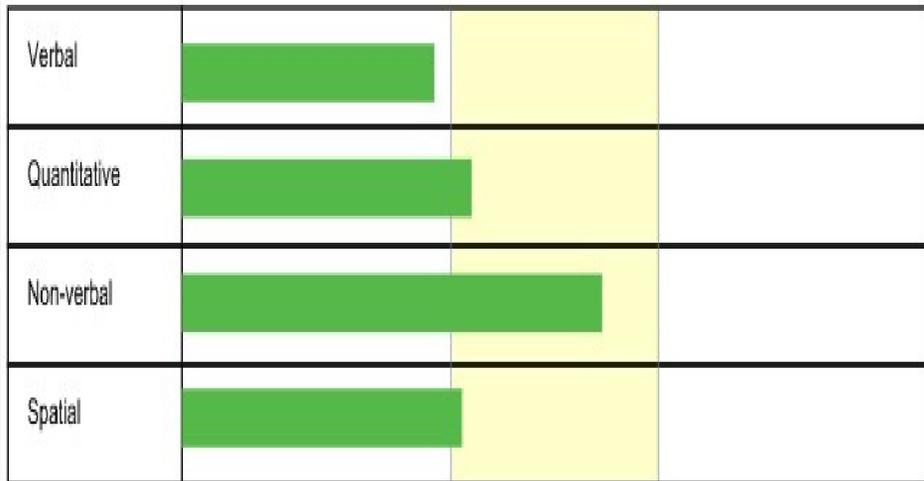
### What does it mean when the score is not within the yellow band?

If the batteries are evenly placed one below the other and have one area falling significantly behind, the student learns better with modes of learning using his/her more strengthened abilities. In this case, the student learns better with verbal instruction, number activities and shapes.



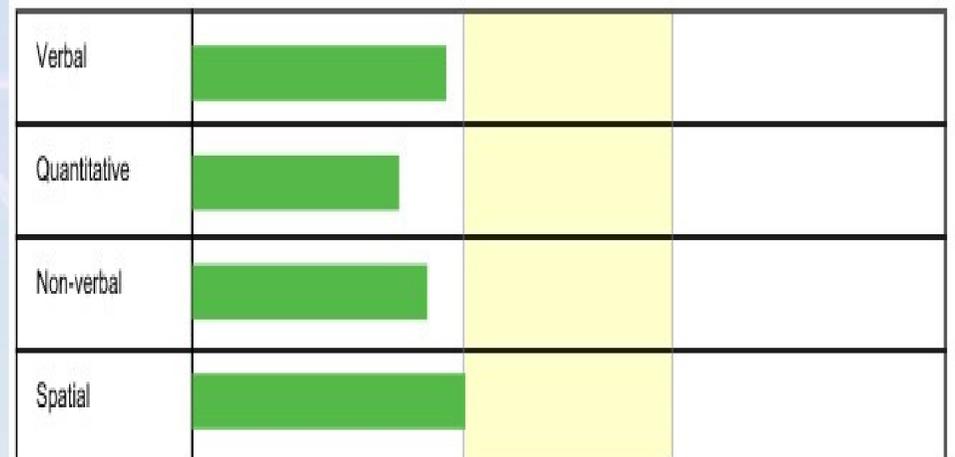
# Guidance for Parents

## CAT4: Cognitive Abilities Test



If the batteries are evenly placed one below the other with one area significantly ahead of the others, the student learns better with modes of learning using this more strengthened ability. In this case, the student may learn better with shapes, practical examples and hands on activities when compared to other modes of learning.

If the indicative scores are on the lower end or further behind the yellow line but evenly spaced one below the other for each battery, the student has an even profile and is able to learn with different modes of teaching. The student may require support; however, this is determined alongside attainment data, classroom observations and teacher feedback.



### It is important to remember

CAT 4 is an indicator of student learning preferences for teaching and learning purposes and not a prescriptive reference point of student ability.

CAT 4 is a test and as with any test student performance may be impacted on the day due to many recent or previous environmental and/or social factors and may not always be a true reflection of student ability. All psychometric assessments have room for bias.



Join our exclusive presentation from NASA Astronaut Cdr Susan Kilrain & NASA Scientist Dr Michaela Musilova about their time in NASA, space & much more.

# WELCOME TO THE SPACE PROGRAM



**CDR SUSAN KILRAIN**  
NASA Astronaut



**DR. MICHAELA  
MUSILOVA**  
NASA Scientist

**THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 20TH  
4.30PM-5.15PM**

**1 FREE PLACE EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
PARENTS FOR EVERY STUDENT  
SIGNED UP TO SPACE 2101. TICKETS  
ARE EMAILED AUTOMATICALLY AFTER  
STUDENTS ENROLLMENT**

**BOOK NOW**



**SCAN ME**

# Local Camps



**#DIAopportunity**

- **Local Camps (28 – 30 Nov, 2022): Open to all students in Years 7 to 11**
- **IB retreat (28 – 30 Nov, 2022): Open to all students in Years 12 and 13**



[Click here](#)  
[for the link](#)



HAT  
ENTERTAINMENT



Fontana

THE FIRST TRAVELING WATER CIRCUS  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Years 7 & 8 are invited to attend the Fontana Circus, an incredible immersive water experience currently showing in Festival City. The trip will take place during school hours, leaving after registration and returning before lunch.

Link to sign up:

<https://payment.innoventureseducation.com/diaeh/online/>

**#DIAopportunity**

1. Refine and improve your math skills
2. Showcase your abilities



Mathletes

# CARIBOU CONTEST 2022



Scan to Sign-Up  
<https://tinyurl.com/Caribou-Reg>

#DIAopportunity



HAPPY  
**Diwali**

The Festival Of Lights  
Monday, October 24, 2022

Please come in Cultural &  
Traditional Clothing  
AED 5 contribution towards  
Support Staff

**#DIAcommunity**

#DIAcommunity



INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CANCER AWARENESS

*Pink Day*



18TH OCTOBER

AED 5 DONATION TO DRESS UP

(HAND TO HOMEROOM/PREFECT)

EVENT PRACTICE LICENSE  
PRHCE-000271987

دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية  
والعمل الخيري  
Islamic Affairs & Charitable  
Activities Department



# Key Information

Wear Pink Day!

**Tuesday 18 October**

Wear pink in honour of Breast Cancer Awareness.

Innoventures STEM World Record Attempt

**Tuesday 18 October**

The Innoventures group will be attempting the record for 'The Largest Space Exploration Lesson Across Multiple Venues'.

Half-term Break

**Wednesday 19 October - Friday 21 October**

A chance for students (and teachers!) to recharge their batteries as we progress towards the Winter Break.

Diwali

**Monday 24 October**

Traditional and Cultural dress - any Nationality

PSAT Testing

**Tuesday 25 October**

DIA Year 11 students will be taking College Board's practice SAT (PSAT) on the morning of Tuesday, October 25th from 8am - 1pm. The assessment reviews preparedness in English/Language Arts & Math.

Canadian College Fair

**Wednesday 25 October**

**Brock, Waterloo, Trent,  
Windsor, Memorial**

**10:30am-11:30pm Venue  
TBC**

Dutch Universities Fair

**Friday 28 October**

**Groningen, Radboud, NHL  
Stenden University of  
Applied Sciences**

**10:45-11:45am PE Hall**

Benefits of test feedback include:

- Results help with the right course selections for you
- Results indicate academic strengths and areas to develop
- Understand how you compare with other students across the globe
- Practice for the SAT (college entrance assessment) - likely to improve future scores

# Who should I contact?

*A guide to help streamline Year 7 communication.*



2022-2023

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Alroy Kinny	alroyk@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 6 - Year 7	Donna Campbell	donnac@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	Gina Uttamchandani	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com



# Who should I contact?

*A guide to help streamline Year 8 communication.*



2022-2023

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Alroy Kinny	alroyk@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
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Amy Dowling	amyd@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
Transition from Year 7 - Year 8	Amy Dowling	amyd@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	Gina Uttamchandani	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com



# Who should I contact?

*A guide to help streamline Year 9 communication.*



2022-2023

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
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Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Alroy Kinny	alroyk@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
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
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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.	Stephen Cleary	stephenc@diadubai.com
Future transition into Year 10	Stephen Cleary	stephenc@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	Gina Uttamchandani	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com



# Who should I contact?

*A guide to help streamline Year 10 communication.*



2022-2023

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Alroy Kinny	alroyk@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 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
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Assessment questions, including eAssessment	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@diadubai.com
Lack of detail/clarity regarding a school event.	Naveen Tyagi	naveent@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Naveen Tyagi	naveent@diadubai.com
Future transition into Year 11	Naveen Tyagi	naveent@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	Gina Uttamchandani	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com



# Who should I contact?

*A guide to help streamline Year 11 communication.*



2022-2023

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Alroy Kinny	alroyk@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.	Kanchi Das	kanchid@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC	Neetu Rathore	neetur@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	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@diadubai.com
University / Careers Counselling.	Stewart Pinkerton	stewartp@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	John Aboaja	johna@diadubai.com
Aim High Programme	Claire Inglis	clairei@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	Gina Uttamchandani	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com



# Who should I contact?

*A guide to help streamline Year 12 communication.*



2022-2023

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Alroy Kinny	alroyk@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.	Kanchi Das	kanchid@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC	Neetu Rathore	neetur@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.	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@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	Claire Inglis	clairei@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	Gina Uttamchandani	padiadubai@gmail.com
Urgent/serious concerns	Michelle Puxty	michellep@diadubai.com



# Who should I contact?

*A guide to help streamline Year 13 communication.*



2022-2023

REASON TO CONTACT	STAFF NAME / TITLE	EMAIL
Absence, late, or leave early.	Evelyn Pakatan	sssecretary@diadubai.com
Bus transportation, travel, canteen/meals. or facilities.	Alroy Kinny	alroyk@diadubai.com
PHE, competitive sport, CCAs, or an after-school club.	Mihail Kouzev	mihailk@diadubai.com
School uniform concerns.	Daniel Murphy	danielm@diadubai.com
The Diploma Programme.	Kanchi Das	kanchid@diadubai.com
The Career-related Programme / BTEC	Neetu Rathore	neetur@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.	Gerhard Van Der Wal	gerhardv@diadubai.com
University Counselling.	Rachana Sippy	rachanas@diadubai.com
My child's physical, social, or emotional wellbeing.	Daniel Murphy	danielm@diadubai.com
Aim High Programme	Claire Inglis	clairei@diadubai.com
IT issues.	IT Support	helpdesk@diadubai.com
DIA Parent Association	Gina Uttamchandani	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  
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Director of Sports  
Mihail Kouzev  
mihailk@diadubai.com

Head of Inclusion  
Asha Karam  
ashak@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Pastoral  
Colin Leacy  
colinl@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Years 7 - 9  
Susan McMechan  
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Assistant Head Years 10 - 13  
Gerhard Van Der Wal  
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## IB Coordinators

MYP Coordinator  
Ruba Jeshi  
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DP Coordinator  
Kanchi Das  
kanchid@diadubai.com

CP Coordinator  
Neetu Rathore  
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## Heads of Year

HoY 7  
Donna Campbell  
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HoY 8  
Amy Dowling  
amyd@diadubai.com

HoY Year 9  
Stephen Cleary  
stephenc@diadubai.com

HoY 10  
Naveen Tyagi  
naveent@diadubai.com

Assistant HoY 10  
Shannon Meehan  
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HoY 11  
John Aboaja  
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Assistant HoY 11  
Jennifer Agacy  
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HoY 12  
Dollour Toma  
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Assistant HoY 12  
Diarmid Murphy  
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HoY 13  
Daniel Murphy  
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## Heads of Department

Arabic A  
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English MYP  
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English DP  
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Maths DP  
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Science MYP  
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Science DP  
Declan Alvaro  
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Humanities MYP  
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Humanities DP  
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Language B MYP  
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Language B DP  
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Design MYP  
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Design DP  
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Performing Arts  
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Visual Arts  
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veronicar@diadubai.com

Media  
Seon Lewis  
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PHE  
Fiona Turnbull  
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## Important Contacts

College Counsellor 12-13  
Rachana Sippy  
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College Counsellor 7-11  
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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**