

Head of Secondary Message



Hello all,

What an outstanding two weeks!

It has been wonderful to have the KHDA visitors around the school this week to witness our wonderful students and fantastic school. Thank you to those parents who were directly involved in the meetings at such short notice. We have had very positive feedback throughout the experience and we will keep you posted once the official report is out.

An update on a number of concerns that have been raised - we have managed to move all the lockers from the Primary side over to the Secondary area, which will hopefully make it easier for students to access between lessons. We are currently working on streamlining the communication to parents, and will make sure our key dates are part of this newsletter in the next few pages. We have added a large TV in the canteen so students can watch the live cricket and the World Cup once it begins.

We are looking forward to holding our first post Covid face-to-face Parent-Teacher conference this Monday. It is always such a positive experience to take the opportunity to meet in person and you to have a chance to see the learning environment. Secondary school will not be running regular lessons on Monday, however, students are welcome to accompany their parents to the meetings.

As part of our Wellbeing Week, there will be a focus on Cyber Safety and we have invited in Barry Cummings, world leader in cyber safety. He will be speaking to all Year groups throughout the day and will be running a parent session as well. Hope to see you there.

Take care, Michelle

Secondary School PTC Meetings

Monday 14 November to Thursday 17 November

Please note that there will be **no school for secondary students on Monday** due to Face-to-Face PTCs. Here is the link if you have not yet booked: <u>Booking Link</u>

Wellbeing Week

Tuesday 15th November to Friday 18 November

Your child will participate in a range of activities related to bullying, friendship, and wellbeing - ask them about it each evening! There will be theme dress-up days and information is in this newsletter.

Digital Safety Workshop (Barry Cummings -World leader is cyber safety)

Wednesday 16 November

Students will have sessions during the day and there is a parent talk in the evening - everyone welcome, 6pm in the SS PE Hall

Innoventures Got Talent

Wednesday 16 November

Join us for an evening that showcases the wide variety of talents and abilities within our group - event will be held at DIA Al Barsha.

Friday 18 November

PADIA Winter Souk

Join us to celebrate the change is season as a community - there is even a raffle draw! Please see the advert in this newsletter.

Dyson FemPower Girls

Friday 18 November

On Friday 18th November, our Fempower group (Years 7-9 STEM girls' group), will be working in small teams to complete modules created by engineers and teachers working with Dyson and INTERACT, a Dubai-based sustainable engineering company.

Pastoral Care Information Session

Monday 21 November, 07.45

Join our school counselor, Ms. Saira, to discuss the pastoral care programme at DIA and how we support student wellbeing.

A Family Night In! Our DIA Annual Production

Tuesday 22 November to Friday 25 November

Join us for what will be a highly entertaining evening - fun for the whole family! Please see the advert in this newsletter.



We would like to take this opportunity to remind our community about the Mock Examinations that are upcoming for year 11, 12 and 13 students.

These examinations will provide an opportunity to assess students' skills, knowledge, and understanding, but also provide students with an opportunity to experience a true exam scenario and a chance to enhance their approaches to revision.

A specific schedule of examinations will come in due course. Please see the general breakdown below and contact either Ms. Ruba Jeshi (Year 11) or Dr. Kanchi Das (Year 12/13) if you have any questions or concerns.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Tuesday 03 January to Wednesday 11 January

Please note that there will be no lessons for Year 11 on Monday 02 January - this will be given as study leave.

Year 12 Mock Examinations

Monday 09 January to Wednesday 18 January

Please note that there will be no study leave allocated to Year 11 and they are expected to attend lessons as normal following the winter break.

Year 13 Mock Examinations

Tuesday 03 January to Tuesday 17 January

Please note that there will be no lessons for Year 13 on Monday 02 January - this will be given as study leave.





The College Counseling Department





Ms. Rachana Sippy rachanas@diadubai.comt

1. What is your specific role at DIA?

- Provide group and individual counseling to students and parents regarding all areas of college guidance, including, but not limited to, college entrance exams and preparation, college search and selection, college research and goal focused high school planning.
- Meet with students and parent to analyse the students' personalities to the country and university there are applying to
- Guide students to merge the qualities of an IB students with their individual strengths and allow them to create their own career and college path.
- Help students navigate the admissions process for getting into schools, including applications and interviews across the world.
- Create and submit materials to colleges in support of college applicants, including transcripts, references/recommendations, scholarships awards, etc.
- Meet with students and offer them career-related advice based on students' interests, passion, and personalities to think of potential career paths for them.
- Counsel students regarding educational issues such as course and program selection, class scheduling, dropping and adding classes and college/career planning when they join the DP Programme
- Manage students' academic performance and career goals throughout their time at school.
- Maintain connections with colleges and admissions representatives to encourage and enhance students' application
- Advice students for building their personal profile based on the countries they are applying to.
- Provide student and parent updates throughout the year on college application and scholarship information and deadlines.
- Researching deadlines for admission to universities worldwide to optimize application process
- Schedule university visits by representatives from local and international colleges; organize, coordinate and publicize career-related events and other opportunities for students to learn about higher education and vocational training and preparation.
- Provide guidance and support with all Innoventures Counsellors to enrich college application and admissions across Innoventures Education





The College Counseling Donortmont





Ms. Rachana Sippy rachanas@diadubai.comt

- ·Attend local professional development conferences to build rapport with admissions reps and counselors.
- ·Develop and establish a comprehensive school counseling program from Years 9 onwards
- •Facilitate student learning by allowing them to explore various careers and showcase them in form through various platforms.
- ·Obtain, organize, file and display guidance materials; catalog and prepare for use by students; maintain displays and bulletin boards.
- ·Prepare and deliver informational presentation as requested; orient students and parents to Careers and College applications.
- ·Compiling and updating the College Counselling Handbook for the school's website for concise and consistent reference to global universities

2. What is the best advice you could give students to help them in their application process to university?

•Set high personal and academic standards for yourself, and live up to them. Listen to that little voice inside you that says, "I can do this." Believe in yourself. Realize that school is work; it's not play time. Settle for nothing less than your very best.
•Strive to understand. Increase your depth of understanding. You need to attempt to fully comprehend what you need to know and be able to do as a result of your education.

•Remember that grades count. High grades imply intelligence, personal excellence, and dedication to seeing a job well done. High grades can make all the difference in landing the ideal job or getting into graduate school at the institution of your choice. •Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today. Manage your time effectively; set up a timeline for getting word completed in each of your courses. Set aside adequate time for homework, study, sleep, relationships, and work. You need not always finish every task all at once. Remember, you can write at 365-page book every year if you only write one page per day. •Break your large tasks down into manageable subtasks. Large jobs rarely can be completed at one setting. Tackle small parts of a large task each day to avoid cramming

·Choose your friends carefully. Friends can support you in your efforts to maximize the benefits of a college education. Get to know people who express high social, academic, and personal values.

·Honesty is the best policy. Avoid cheating in all its forms – collusion, plagiarism, copying, etc. Students who cheat seriously fail to learn what is oftentimes important, and this doesn't help them in the long run. Sometimes the only things they do learn – after getting caught – is that cheating doesn't pay.

Don't ignore or deny your personal and academic problems. Problems will often get worse if they are not directly addressed in a timely fashion. Procrastination in any of its many forms can





The College Counseling Donorthoont

Department





Ms. Rachana Sippy rachanas@diadubai.comt

·lead to a small problem getting much worse. Get help when you need it. Speak to your course instructors, your advisor, or your parents.

- •Don't over-commit yourself. Mature students always take responsibility for their actions all of them. Some students will commit themselves to more work than they are capable of completing. Don't let this happen to you
- ·Make yourself a well-rounded person. Consider all four dimensions of life as you strive to educate yourself physical, spiritual, intellectual, and social. Spend time each day developing each of these four dimensions.
- •Take responsibility for yourself. When some students begin college life their sense of personal responsibility seems to disappear. Parents or guardians are no longer "cracking the whip" making certain that everything is getting done correctly or on time. That work is now the responsibility of the student. Failure to recognize this fact has resulted in even some of the best high school students failing as university students.
- •Don't make important decisions based on second-hand information. Jumping to rash conclusions based in incorrect information can cause you significant personal and professional problems. If you are uncertain about something, check it out before you decide.

3. What are some of the challenges you encounter in your role?

- ·Student to Counsellor ratio.
- ·Student provide last minute information but expect work should be done immediately
- ·Many parents drive the application process.
- ·Parents have dreams, but the real problem occurs when that clashes with the student's aspiration and aptitude.
- ·Many student's career and college decisions are influenced by peer pressure.
- ·Lack of self-awareness.
- ·Students expect spoon feeding and readymade information rather than spending time exploring themselves.

4. How would you like to develop your role or to pursue an endeavour related to your role-professional curiosity?

- ·Attend professional conferences once a year to build network and learn from likeminded people.
- ·Support for Professional Development to heighten and improve the student's wellbeing and future prospects
- ·Visit universities campuses and develop practical and useful connections





The College Counseling Donortmont







Mr. Stewart Pinkerton stewartp@diadubai.comt

1. What is your specific role at DIA?

In my role as Careers & College Counsellor at DIA, I support students and families (generally in Years 7-11) regarding MYP and DP course exploration and selection. Together we work on setting personal and educational goals, enabling opportunity for the future. Often the driving considerations are the desired career path and the overall lifestyle students and families are striving for.

2. What is the best advice you could give students to help them in their application process to university?

Often students that best transition from secondary to university are those that know themselves and their strengths very well. Focused time and energy developing personal interests and gaining unique (to them) experiences build confidence in the face of obstacles. Goal setting and exploration, transitioning to focused time and energy in the final 2 years of secondary school, along with the best academic marks an individual student can achieve, are recipes for success.

3. What are some of the challenges you encounter in your role?

Ours is a big school, so "face time" with students is difficult. When students (or parents) take initiative by asking a question or for a meeting, it helps immensely in overcoming this challenge. Unless we know about a student difficulty or concern, it is hard to remedy and support. Another challenge is motivating teenagers that are having difficulty realizing they are growing older - their world is changing. Often the many responsibilities they must address becomes overwhelming.

4. How would you like to develop your role or to pursue an endeavour related to your role-professional curiosity?

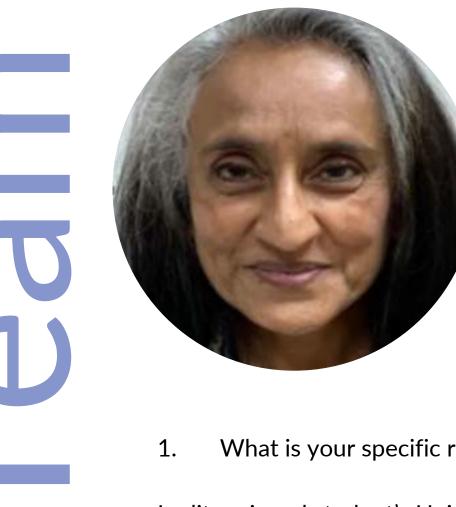
A natural "offshoot" of my role is connecting successful DIA graduates with our current students – allowing them to learn from each other as well as give back the DIA community. Perhaps a driven Year 10 or 11 student (with some technical savey) could put a system together!





The College Counseling Department





Ms. Rina Methra rinam@diadubai.comt

What is your specific role at DIA?

I edit assigned student's University Application Essays - CommonApp Essays, Personal Statements, Letter of **Motivation and Supplementary Essays**

I meet with each assigned student individually (usually several times) to discuss his/her essay theme, goals and how to 'market' themselves effectively

I also review Teachers' Letters of Recommendation and the College Counselling Department Letters of Recommendation.

I assist the College Counsellor in Year 11 to Year 13 University Application information presentations (students and parents) and how students need to prepare for the effective university requirements.

What is the best advice you could give students to help them in their application process to university? **PLANNING IS KEY**

Review your course and its requirements and Aim for high results

Prepare ahead – key activities, internships, external courses, new initiatives and enterprises Show commitment Begin your University Application and plan your Essay at least 1 year in advance

What are some of the challenges you encounter in your role?

Tardy students submitting essays late for review thinking they are the only ones applying and that reviewing an essay takes very little time

Students not meeting deadlines despite repeated reminders

How would you like to develop your role or to pursue an endeavour related to your role-professional curiosity? 4.

Understand the subject choices of the students in Year 11 going to DP

Attempt to meet students about University application 2 to 3 years earlier

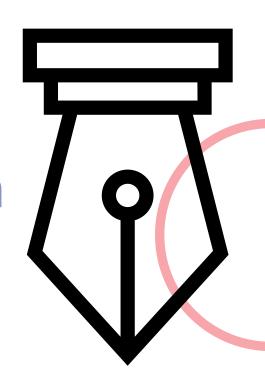
Improve on the students CV.







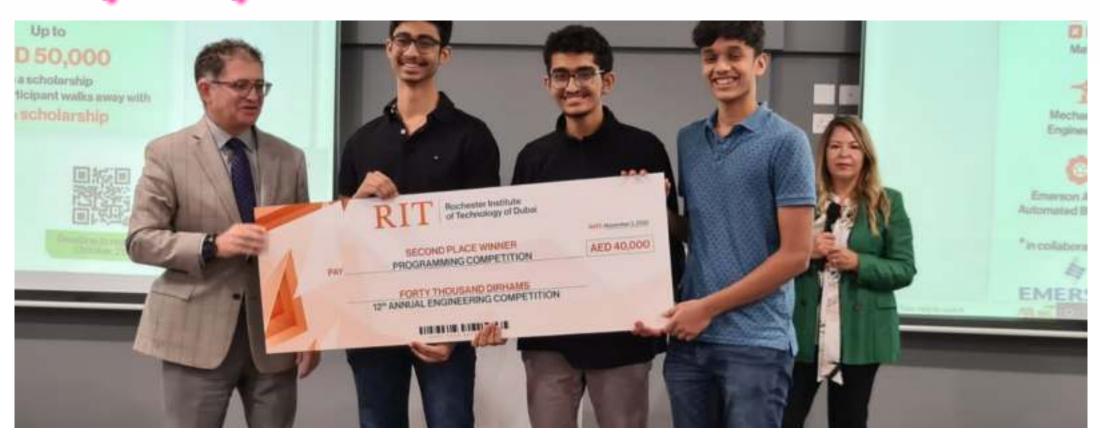
University Application Writing Coaches



At DIA Emirates Hills we have a dedicated team of writing coaches to help proofread personal statements and college application essays. We want to afford every student the opportunity to maximise their chances of attending their dream university.



#opportunity



3 Computer science students from year 12 Ansh Taparia, Aryan Sawhney & Armaan Nahata, were awarded 2nd place in the programming competition in the Rochestor institute of Technology annual engineering competition and won a 40,000 AED scholarship. They were able to demonstrate their critical thinking and collaboration skills while solving a series of problems spanning different concepts in computer science.



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Good luck to our fantastic team who have travelled to Yale, USA to take part in the Tournament of Champions, for the World Scholar's Cup.



2022-23 Whole School Priorities Wellbeing

Year 13 Wellbeing Assembly and Activities led by the School Leadership and Happiness Team alongside Mr. Daniel Murphy, Head of Year.



Competitive Sport & PHE World School Games



More in the next newsletter







Dubai International Academy Secondary School Performing Arts - Presents



Nov 22-24 | 6:30 pm

Location: DIA Quadrangle





#community

LOUR THAT ELADERENS PHOTORS



15th November

Twin with your friends, and enjoy exciting activities throughout the day!

MORKOUT WEDNESDAY

16th November

Dress in Activewear and get ready for some competitive fun!

Wellbeing Wellbeing

TELEVISON

THURSDAY

15th November

Dress as your favorite TV character and ace television trivia!

Festive Friday

18TH NOVEMBER

Bring out your festive clothes and visit all the winter souq stores!



This week our school was evaluated by the Dubai School's Inspection Bureau. It has been three years since the school has gone through a full formal inspections and it was an absolute pleasure to showcase the DIA culture, community and learning. A personal thanks to the students and staff





#DIADubai30x30



DIA #Dubai30x30 Schedule of Activities

DUB	AT)	DIA 20LVES	TAKE THE CHA DUBAI30x30 29 OCT T	DUBAI						
Secondary School										
Day	Date	Time	Activity	Provided By	Venue	Open to				
Monday	31-Oct-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Yoga - Whole School	YoFit	Quadrangle	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Tuesday	1-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Table Tennis	PE Department	Table Tennis Area	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Wednesday	2-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Volleyball	PE Department	SS PE Hall	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Thursday	3-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Badminton	PE Department	SS PE Hall	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Friday	4-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Tennis	PE Department	Tennis Courts	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Monday	7-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Yoga - Whole School	YoFit	Quadrangle	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Tuesday	8-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Badminton	PE Department	SS PE Hall	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Wednesday	9-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Table Tennis	PE Department	Table Tennis Area	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Thursday	10-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Morning walk/jog/run	PE Department	Field	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Friday	11-Nov-22	8:00am - 11:00am	Dubai Fitness Challenge 2022 – Schools' Fitness Village Visit Program	PE Department	Kite Beach	Year 7				
Friday	11-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Tennis	PE Department	Tennis Courts	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Monday	14-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Yoga - Whole School	YoFit	Quadrangle	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Tuesday	15-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Table Tennis	PE Department	Table Tennis Area	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Wednesday	16-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Morning walk/jog/run	PE Department	Field	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Thursday	17-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Badminton	PE Department	SS PE Hall	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Friday	18-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Tennis	PE Department	Tennis Courts	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Monday	21-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Yoga - Whole School	YoFit	SS PE Hall	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Tuesday	22-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Volleyball	PE Department	SS PE Hall	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Wednesday	23-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Morning walk/jog/run	PE Department	Field	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Thursday	24-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Table Tennis	PE Department	Table Tennis Area	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				
Friday	25-Nov-22	12:15pm - 2:30pm	Family Sport Day - Whole School	Whole School	All Sports venues	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty				



@diadubaisport



@DIA_Sports



@diadubaisport



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Primary School											
Day	Date	Time	Activity	Provided By	Venue	Open to					
Monday	31-Oct-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Yoga - Whole School	YoFit	Quadrangle	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					
Monday	31-Oct-22	8:20am - 9:00am	Walkathon - KG2	PE Department	Field	KG2					
Tuesday	1-Nov-22	7:00am - 7:30am	Fitness - Open to all	PE Department	PS Gym	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					
Wednesday	2-Nov-22	7:45am - 8:15am	Walkathon - Y4	PE Department	Field	Y4					
Friday	4-Nov-22	7:45am - 10:45am	Walkathon - Y6, Y2, Y5 & Y1	PE Department	Field	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					
Saturday	5-Nov-22	6:15am - 7:30am	DIA Staff Bike Ride	PE Department	DXBike Car Park	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					
Monday	7-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Yoga - Whole School	YoFit	Quadrangle	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					
Monday	7-Nov-22	8:00am - 1:00am	Parkour DXB Trip - Y6 A & B	Parkour DXB	Al Quoz	Y6 A & B					
Monday	7-Nov-22	8:00am - 1:00am	Parkour DXB Trip - Y6 C & D	Parkour DXB	JVC	Y6 C & D					
Monday	7-Nov-22	8:20am - 9:00am	Walkathon - KG2	PE Department	Field	KG2					
Tuesday	8-Nov-22	7:00am - 7:30am	Fitness - Open to all	PE Department	PS Gym	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					
Wednesday	9-Nov-22	7:45am - 8:15am	Walkathon - Y4	PE Department	Field	Y4					
Wednesday	9-Nov-22	8:00am - 1:00am	Parkour DXB Trip - Y6 E & F	Parkour DXB	Al Quoz	Y6 E & F					
Wednesday	9-Nov-22	8:00am - 11:00am	Parkour DXB Trip - Y6 G	Parkour DXB	JVC	Y6 G					
Friday	11-Nov-22	9:50am - 10:45am	Walkathon - Y3 & Y1	PE Department	Field	Y3 & Y1					
Monday	14-Nov-22	6:50am - 7:20am	Yoga - Whole School	YoFit	Quadrangle	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					
Monday	14-Nov-22	8:20am - 9:00am	Walkathon - KG2	PE Department	Field	KG2					
Tuesday	15-Nov-22	7:00am - 7:30am	Fitness - Open to all	PE Department	PS Gym	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					
Wednesday	16-Nov-22	7:45am - 8:15am	Walkathon - Y4	PE Department	Field	Y4					
Friday	18-Nov-22	7:45am - 10:45am	Walkathon - Y6, Y2, Y5 & Y1	PE Department	Field	Y6, Y2, Y5 & Y1					
Friday	25-Nov-22	12:15pm - 2:30pm	Family Sport Day - Whole School	Whole School	All Sports venues	DIA Community (students, parents & faculty					





Winter Souk

Raffle prizes for Students who sell the HIGHEST number of tickets:

1st Prize: Apple Watch 2nd Prize: Air Pods Pro 3rd Prize: Air Pods



The prize for the class who sells the HIGHEST number of tickets:

A PIZZA PARTY & NON UNIFORM DAY

CALLING ALL STUDENTS



#Community PADIA

Winter Souk

Friday November 18th 2022 10-5pm

Dubai International Academy
Emirates Hills



Arts & Craft - Books - Toys - Gifts - Clothes - Jewellery Electronics - Sustainable Vendors - Food & Drinks - Music

Raffle Draw

For sponsor opportunity please email padiadubai@gmail.com

To book a stall please click on the link to complete this <u>form</u>

School Principal Hitesh Bhagat hiteshb@diadubai.com

Secondary Communications

Secondary School Senior Leadership

Head of Secondary
Michelle Puxty
michellep@diadubai.com

Head of Inclusion Asha Karam ashak@diadubai.com Deputy Head Years 7 - 11 Michael Norton michaeln@diadubai.com

Assistant Head Pastoral Colin Leacy colinl@diadubai.com

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

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

Director of Sports Mihail Kouzev mihailk@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 Kanchi Das kanchid@diadubai.com CP Coordinator Neetu Rathore neetur@diadubai.com

Heads of Year

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Donna Campbell
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HoY 8
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amyd@diadubai.com

HoY Year 9 Stephen Cleary stephenc@diadubai.com

HoY 10 Naveen Tyagi naveent@diadubai.com Assistant HoY 10 Shannon Meehan shannonm@diadubai.com

HoY 11 John Aboaja johna@diadubai.com Assistant HoY 11
Jennifer Agacy
jennifera@diadubai.com

HoY 12 Dollour Toma dollourt@diadubai.com Assistant HoY 12 Diarmid Murphy diarmidm@diadubai.com HoY 13
Daniel Murphy
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Heads of Department

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Maths MYP Asha Kumar ashas@diadubai.com

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Maths DP

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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 Blaine Mackessy blainem@diadubai.com Visual Arts
Veronica Richards
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Media
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PHE Fiona 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





Dream - Inspire - Achieve