



EMIRATES
HILLS

Secondary School Newsletter



9 February 2024



Head of Secondary Message



Hello all,

Over the past few weeks, our school has been abuzz with activity as our students have been participating in various competitions, receiving awards, showcasing their talents in sporting events, and seizing exciting opportunities. We're thrilled to share these moments of success and growth with you.

In our upcoming newsletter, we aim to feature as many of these remarkable achievements as possible. If your child has something special to celebrate, we encourage you to keep an eye out for our Student Spotlight section. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to shine a light on their accomplishments and share their inspiring stories with our school community.

Furthermore, we're excited to inform you that our students are currently embarking on trips around the world. These trips provide invaluable experiences for them to explore different cultures, broaden their horizons, and put their IB skills into practice in real-world contexts.

We are immensely proud of all our students and grateful for your continued support in their educational journey. Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of nurturing and empowering them to reach their full potential.

Michelle

Key Information

Monday 19 Feb

Return to School

All students return to school after the break.

Friday 23 Feb

Aim Higher Parent information Session

7:45 am Learning Garden

All parents of the Aim Higher cohort are welcome to attend an information session which explains the programme.

Sunday 25 Feb

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Assessment

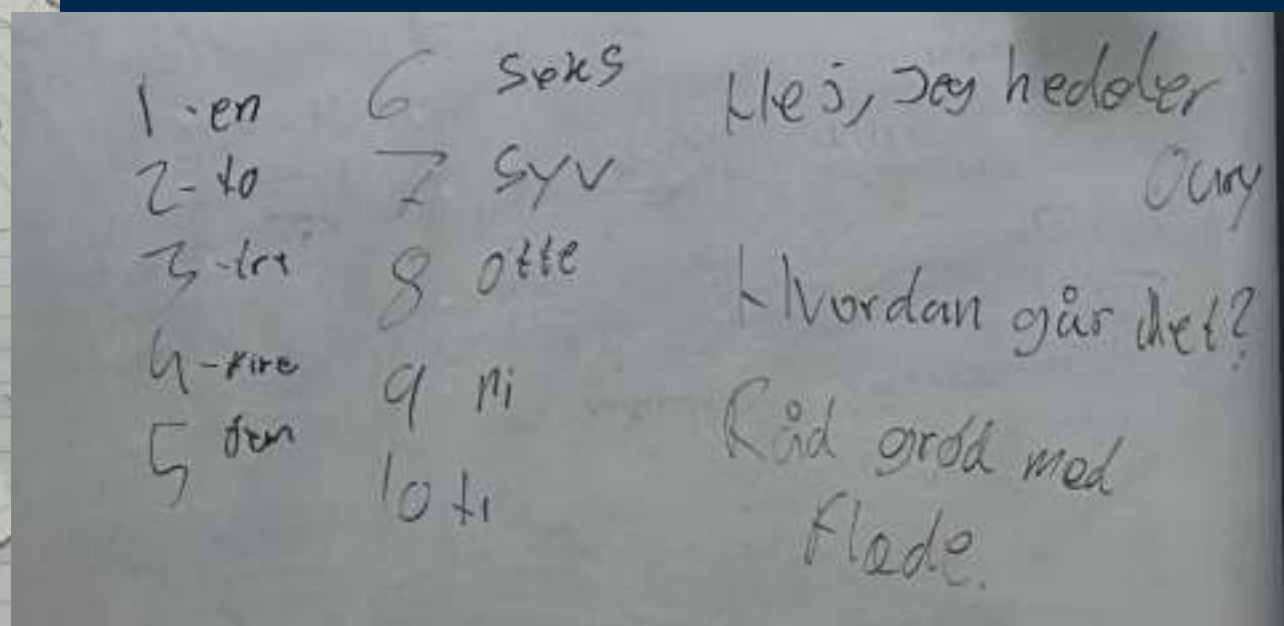
Final assessment for the Silver students

Linguistic Diversity: Language Learning as part of the IBCP Core

IBCP Language Development aims to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate in an environment where the language studied is spoken. Language plays an essential role in cross-cultural communication. It permeates through every aspect of a multinational enterprise and allows business owners to tap into a whole new world of diverse opportunities.

As new technologies make global business more accessible, the more understanding of multiple languages will continue proving to be beneficial. Language differences can have a profound impact on the successful operation of your multinational corporation, and adapting to new languages can increase your company's ability to break into new markets.

According to Forbes, knowing multiple languages improves chances of getting a job!



Spanish lessons



Learning Danish in IBCP Core lessons

Turkish Activity Language Development

Basic conversation and greeting in Turkish

Hi = Merhaba
 How are you? = Nasilsin?
 What's your name? = Adin ne?
 My name is ... = Benim adim ...
 Nice to meet you = Tanistigima memnun oldum
 See you later = Gorusuruz
 Good Morning = Günaydın
 Good night = İyi geceler

Days of the week

Monday = Pazartesi
 Tuesday = Salı
 Wednesday = Carsamba
 Thursday = Persembe
 Friday = Cuma
 Saturday = Cumartesi
 Sunday = Pazar



Japanese initiation



Turkish lessons

How to Count in Turkish

1 = Bir
 2 = İki
 3 = üç
 4 = Dört
 5 = Beş
 6 = Altı
 7 = Yedi
 8 = Sekiz
 9 = Dokuz

At the recent Parent Focus Groups, we received some questions about our Future Skills Programme which is timetabled in our Friday lessons for all students in Years 7 and 8. Student feedback has been hugely positive overall and we are delighted to see our students engaging in new activities and interests. Over the course of our newsletters, I hope to give a round-up of the different courses on offer.

The ukulele orchestra is now into its second term and a new group of year 7's and 8's have begun practicing and improving their skills. The goal of the programme was to give students an opportunity to play songs they enjoy while helping them play the ukulele with more confidence and ease.



YEAR 7 & 8 FUTURE SKILLS PROGRAMME

Snapshot: Ukulele Orchestra



The Year 7s are mostly new to the ukulele, so they have had to begin with the basics. So far, they have begun learning chords and how to play the instrument. They have shown great progress so far and are enjoying playing many songs from artist such as Imagine Dragons, Elton John and Pink Floyd.

The Year 8s all learned how to play ukulele while in Year 7, so they have been improving mastered skills. I introduced the use of tabs, and this allowed them to play more classical pieces, moving away from the pop songs we used to play. They have played both Brahms and Beethoven so far. The use of tabs now is allowing them to play chords and notes together, which is a skill that will help them play their favorite songs going forward.

Mr. Jamie O' Sullivan





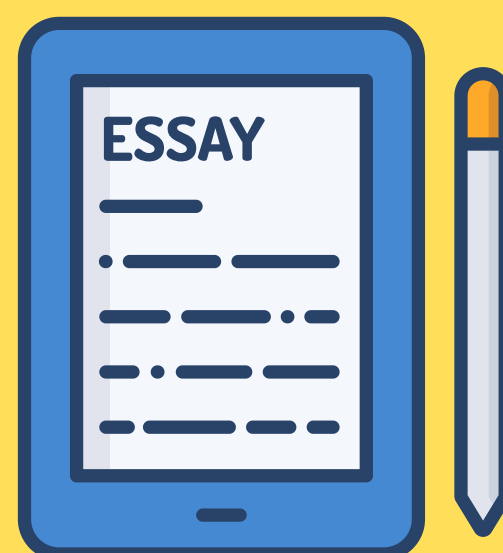
- Immerse Education recently announced the winners of their annual essay competition for 2024, and we are thrilled to announce that Tara Vishwakarthik from 9G has emerged as a winner, securing a partial scholarship for this year's Summer School programme.

The Immerse Education Essay Competition provides the opportunity for students aged 13-18 to submit essay responses to a question of their choice relating to a subject of interest.

Tara can choose from a variety of courses including courses at Oxford, Cambridge, University of Sydney, University of Toronto, NYC, and/or San Francisco. Tara's essay on the topic "How do humans really perceive beauty?" stood out among thousands of entries, impressing the judges with its depth and insight.

In her essay, Tara skillfully incorporated real-life examples that shed light on how humans perceive beauty, while also referencing studies conducted by renowned psychologists. She delved into the rich history of beauty and explored the influence of neurobiological factors on our perception of beauty. Additionally, Tara engaged with the intriguing question of whether beauty is subjective or if there are objective standards that persist.

In the realm of ancient Egypt, the veneration of symmetry and conformity resonated with humanity's inherent proclivity for perceptual preferences favouring harmonious proportions. Meanwhile, ancient Greece's profound aesthetic admiration for the human physique epitomized the construct of the body-schema and its profound impact on beauty paradigms.



Snippets from Tara's essay

The perception of beauty is a multifaceted and intricate process influenced by perceptual, cognitive, and emotional factors. Vision, as a primary sense, plays a significant role in detecting and appreciating beauty, particularly through elements such as harmony, balance, and symmetry. Cognitive processes, including pattern recognition and classification, contribute to our ability to recognize and appreciate diverse forms of beauty.

Throughout the annals of time, humanity has exhibited an insatiable allure towards beauty. Edward Thorndike's seminal 1920 study on the "Halo Effect" illuminated the propensity wherein physical allure engenders assumptions of ancillary positive attributes, such as sagacity or benevolence. This cognitive bias suggests that our affinity for beauty emanates from the amalgamation of aesthetically pleasing traits with virtuous qualities. This essay delves into the psychological and neurobiological factors that underlie the complex tapestry of human beauty perception.

We congratulate Tara once again on this outstanding achievement and wish her the best as she prepares to embark on an enriching educational experience at one of the renowned institutions offered by Immerse Education's Summer School programme.

🚀 Exciting News!

Introducing "Parent Power" Tips for Your Child's Academic Adventure! 🚀

Parent Power

Dear Amazing Parents,

We've been showered with requests on how you can supercharge your child's learning experience at home. Your enthusiasm has inspired us to launch a dedicated space in our newsletter - "Parent Power" - chock-full of tips to make your child's educational journey even more fantastic!

★ Tip #1: Boosting Arabic Brilliance ★

🎉 Drumroll, please! Attention to all parents with students who are eager to immerse themselves in extra Arabic learning at home - this tip is specially crafted for you! 🎉

Create a Study Oasis: 🌴

Help your child build a fortress of focus! Set up a study nook that screams "Arabic Adventure Zone" - minimal distractions, cozy vibes, and maybe a touch of Arabic decor magic!

Arabic App Wonderland: 📱

Dive into the world of language apps that make Arabic learning a blast! From interactive exercises to vocabulary games, these apps transform study sessions into digital escapades.

Cultural Safari Time: 🌍

Ready for a cultural immersion safari? Explore Arabic books, movies, and music together. It's not just about the language - it's a journey into the heart of Arabic culture!

Parents, buckle up for an Arabic adventure with your child! Stay tuned for more "Parent Power" tips to turn every learning moment into an absolute triumph.

Here's to a language-filled, laughter-packed educational journey!

Warm Regards,
Renda Kayali

★ P.S. Share your success stories with us (Rendak@diadubai.com) - we'd love to feature them in our next newsletter! ★



Goal-Setting Extravaganza: 🎯

Turn studying into a game! Help your child set achievable goals, like conquering a tricky grammar rule or mastering a handful of new words. It's a win-win - motivation spikes, and accomplishments soar!

Show Your Pride, Spread the Love: 🌟

Express your pride in Arabic culture and heritage! Share stories, traditions, and experiences with your child. Let them see firsthand how their mother tongue is the beating heart of their identity and an essential foundation for mastering any language. Your encouragement is the secret sauce for Arabic success!





UAE Champions

HISTORY BEE & BOWL

We are thrilled to announce that the history team of DIA has emerged victorious in the History Bee & Bowl, currently holding the title of the UAE champion. During the event, which took place on February 3rd at Dubai College, DIA competed against 20 teams from across the UAE in three age divisions. After multiple rounds, the DIA Varsity team emerged as the champion. Additionally, Samik Shetty and Shlok Dev were honored with a golden and silver medal, respectively, in the individual competition. Notably, the Middle school team, along with the mentioned achievements, has qualified for the international competition in Asia(Thailand) and Europe(London).



SERVICE AS ACTION



WHAT IS A SA

Service as action is a foundational element of the IB MYP. It is a mandatory requirement for students to complete. The program seeks to develop caring members of the community who act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and their environment. It starts in the classroom and extends beyond it, requiring students to take an active part in the communities in which they live



REQUIREMENTS

Each year 7-11, students are required to complete 2 Service as action each year. These should be logged in to Managebac.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Work collaboratively with others
- Show perseverance and commitment
- Undertake new challenges
- Develop new skills or understandings
- Plan and initiate activities
- Consider the ethical implications of your actions
- Engage with issues of global importance

TYPES OF SA

- **Direct Service** is action that happens in the presence of the persons, animals, or places we want to impact. This may include volunteering or cleaning up a park.
- **Indirect Service** may not be in the presence of the person or thing you are impacting. Service might take the form of fundraising or collections.
- **Advocacy** is when you speak up for or against an issue or solution. When we use our voices, we are being advocates.
- **Research** involves finding out new information that informs or demands action. For example, collecting scientific data or surveying a group.

Desert Dance 2024



*Award for best emotional
choreography*



In memory of Digna



Creativity, Activity, Service @ DIA

Creativity: Activities that involve creative thinking and expression, such as art, music, drama, writing, and design.

Activity: Physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle, such as sports, dance, outdoor pursuits, and fitness activities.

Service: Volunteer work and community service projects that benefit others, such as helping in a local charity, tutoring, environmental conservation efforts, or organizing events for a social cause.



In Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), our DP1 students have embarked on an enriching journey of exploration and engagement across the three strands. Under the guidance of our dedicated CAS supervisors, students are delving into a diverse array of creative endeavors, physical activities, and community service initiatives. This dynamic educational environment fosters holistic development, encouraging students to unleash their potential and make meaningful contributions to both their own growth and the world around them.



Building a storage cupboard

Meanwhile, DP2 students are reaching the culmination of their CAS journey as they synthesize their accumulated experiences into their final CAS portfolios. As they reflect on their CAS experiences, students are not only showcasing their achievements but also delving into the underlying principles, ethical considerations, and broader implications of their actions.

LET'S

ADVENT

HAMDAN BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM AWARD



Hafid has been awarded the term 2023-2024 Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for distinguished non-academic performance, for creative writing.

The Hamdan Award, established by the late Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, recognizes outstanding achievements and talents among students in various fields.

Action Research

Embracing a Holistic Approach to Professional Development

At DIA, we place a strong emphasis on professional development for our teachers, recognizing the importance of both whole-school and individualized strategies for success. Our commitment to fostering growth and excellence among each of our teachers is at the core of our mission.

Continuous Improvement through Research and Collaboration

In the spirit of continuous improvement, this month our teachers engaged in Action Research. This process involves identifying specific areas for improvement; setting clear goals, and working collaboratively across disciplines to share best practice.



Guided by Experienced Facilitators

The Teaching and Learning Team, led by Lead Practitioner, Renda Kayali, hosted learning communities for Secondary staff to develop and refine their Pedagogical approaches to enhance teaching and learning in the classrooms

The team is committed to fostering a spirit of collaboration, sharing best practices, and helping teachers excel in their chosen areas of growth.



Customized Learning Paths

At DIA, our Learning Hives serve as vibrant hubs for collaborative professional growth. These hives are thoughtfully crafted to foster a culture of shared best practices, inspiring each teacher to embark on personalized learning journeys that ignite their passion for continuous professional development.

Our commitment to fostering growth and excellence among each member of our teaching team is not just a goal – it's at the core of our mission. Because when our teachers thrive, your child flourishes.

ADHD or High Dopamine Activity (HDA)

From the Inclusion Desk

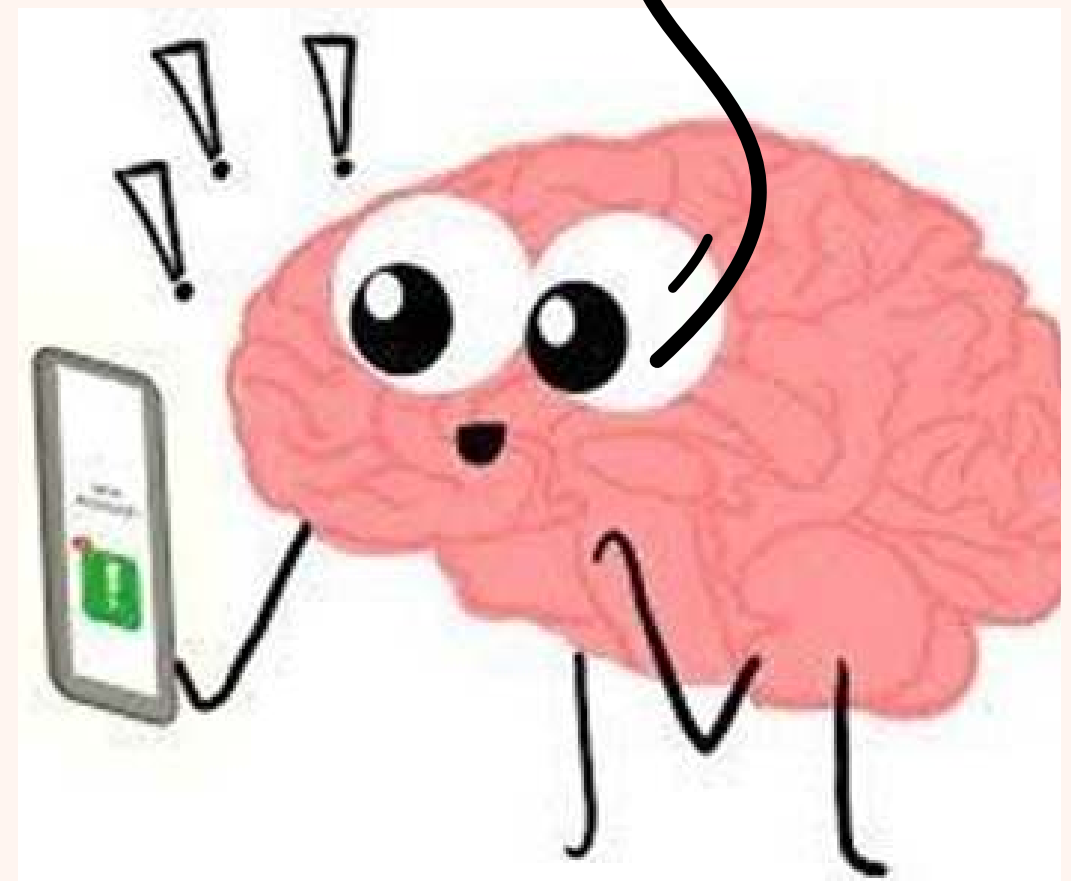
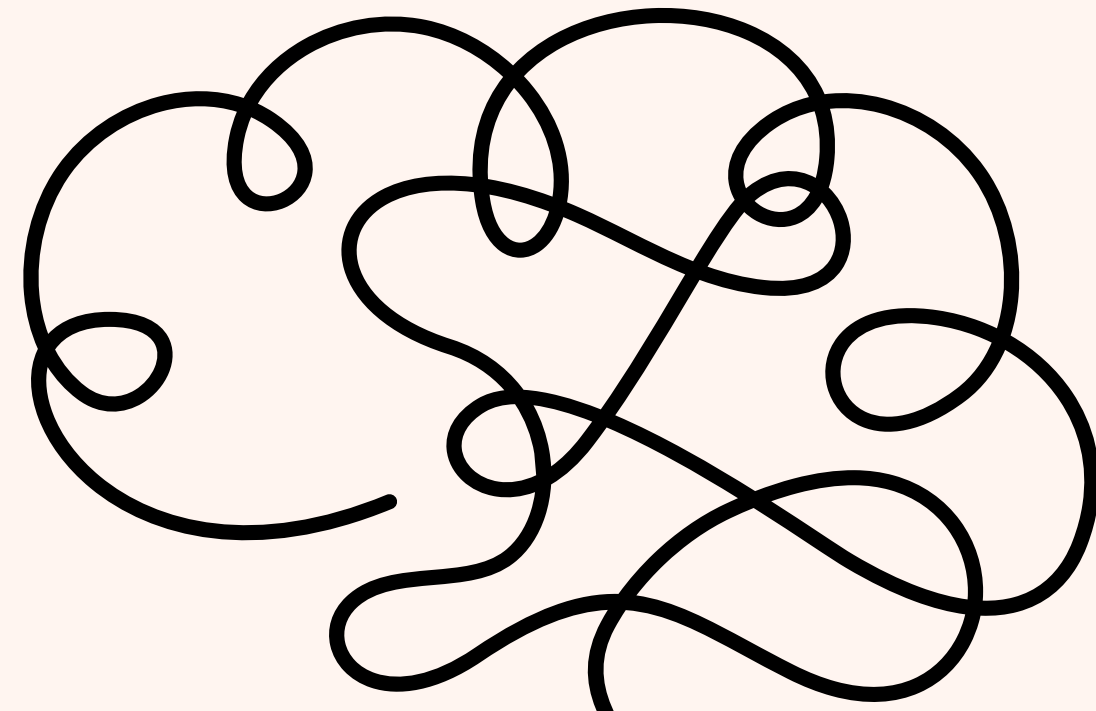
Asha Karam



With the advent of social media and young people having ready access to this, distractibility has become a common denominator to all the active numerators in our day. The need to check the screen before, during or after every task is actually now perceived as down time by young people and adults. This constant desire to engage with our screens is identified as HDA or High Dopamine Activity. HDA provides dopamine instantly and continuously.

Offscreen HDA include- Alcohol, gambling, foods (caffeine/chocolate), external stimulants (nicotine, drugs). Onscreen HDA include- video games, social media and internet surfing. Brain-activation studies now suggest that video game-playing stimuli activate the brain similarly to activation by drug cues.

HDA is often confused with ADHD or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder. This may be due to the dopamine seeking behaviors that are common amongst individuals with ADHD or habitual to HDA. It is then significant to understand this difference as parents and caregivers to ensure the correct next steps to support our children. A few questions that may support with this identification



If this mental state of distraction and procrastination always existed at some level?
OR
Is it acquired after engaging regularly with HDA?

If the lack of impulse control is generic across different aspects of life?
OR
Is it only limited to specific habitual behaviors?

If this is Hyper-focus for specific engaging activities?
OR
Is it passive Dependency?

Whether ADHD or Dopamine Dependency, What can we do?

Don't forget, they're still teens! What they do now will stick to them like glue. Make your home a hub of healthy habits and family time. Set boundaries and keep the good vibes flowing with fun activities and chats, especially during tough times. And remember to lead by example!

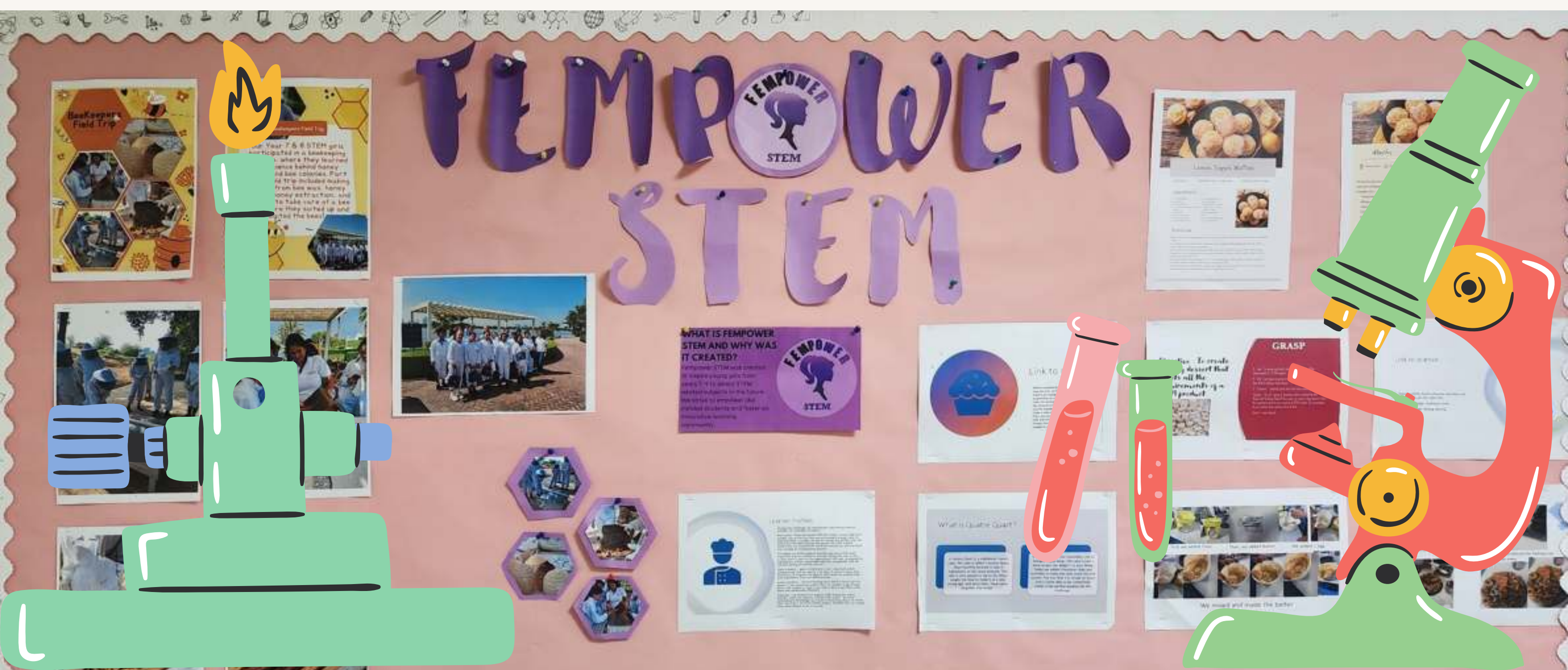
FEMALES PARTICIPATING IN STEM FEMPOWER

SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. MATHEMATICS

At Dubai International Academy, fostering a culture of inclusivity and empowerment, we wholeheartedly encourage and challenge our female students to actively engage in STEM projects. By equipping our female students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources, we aim to break barriers and inspire them to pursue their passions, contribute meaningfully to these fields, and thrive in diverse professional landscapes.



In Years 7 - 9 we have identified some female students who are excelling in Mathematics and Science and they are engaging with projects to enrich their understanding of STEM.



FINTECH PANEL DISCUSSION



DIA's first Fintech Panel Discussion was hosted on February 2nd by Year 12 student, Vinay Goenka. Four panelists who are high-level experts in their respective fields attended the event. Throughout the discussion, students learned about business/startups and gained valuable insight into the panelists' experiences while founding a company. Additionally, students got the opportunity to learn about what the panelists have done during their time in high school, guiding them with their subject choices for those who wish to pursue business in the future.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



On behalf of our Secondary School Student Council, we are excited to introduce the Student Spotlight program that aims to celebrate the exceptional extracurricular achievements of our students across various fields including academics, sports, arts, community service, and more. Each month, two students from Years 7 to 13 will be selected for this prestigious award, highlighting their hard work, passion, and dedication.

If you or your child are interested in applying for the award, then you can apply by filling out the application form provided below:

<https://forms.gle/nREVSvgsUKnqnGxKA>

The winners will receive public recognition and will be showcased on DIA/Student Council Instagram accounts. We believe this initiative will inspire and motivate all our students to strive towards excellence in their passionate fields.

Thank you for your support!



DIA & TFG together present...

COLLECTION DRIVE

To support the “Kisoro Children’s Foundation” in Uganda

When? 19th Feb to 15th March

Where? Boxes will be provided at the front entrance of the school to drop off items

How? Please make sure items are washed and cleaned

More Details to be shared soon !!!

Items that can be collected are mentioned in the next poster

Contact DIA220261@diaestudents for more details

“This initiative is approved by IACAD, license number 879661”

دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري
Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department



Thrift for Good is a social enterprise (registered as a private trading company LLC) which donates 100% of its profits to the local non-profit organization under the International Humanitarian City, Gulf for Good. They will be reselling the items collected to raise funds for this project.

Kisoro Children's Foundation would like to expand the Ineza Children's Center to include 3 more classrooms to reduce the class size, computers and training to improve the standard of teaching, solar panels to prevent energy outages, and a small farm to more sustainably feed its students.



A robot-building competition & exhibition

ADNOC 4X4 RIT COMPETITION



Our all girl team adapted a functioning RC vehicle using vital skills such as 3D printing and Arduino coding. Despite being 2 years younger than the true age guidelines, competing against various schools with some teams consisting solely of senior students, we managed to place 1st overall.



THRIFT FOR GOOD

WHAT WE ACCEPT



1. Clothing for men, women & kids
2. Shoes, Bags, Accessories & Jewellery



3. Books
4. Laptops and mobile phones

WE DON'T ACCEPT



1. Toys or baby items (prams, car seats etc)
2. House items/decor
3. kitchenware



4. Furniture
5. Sports equipment
6. Hangers

PLEASE WASH ITEMS BEFORE DONATING

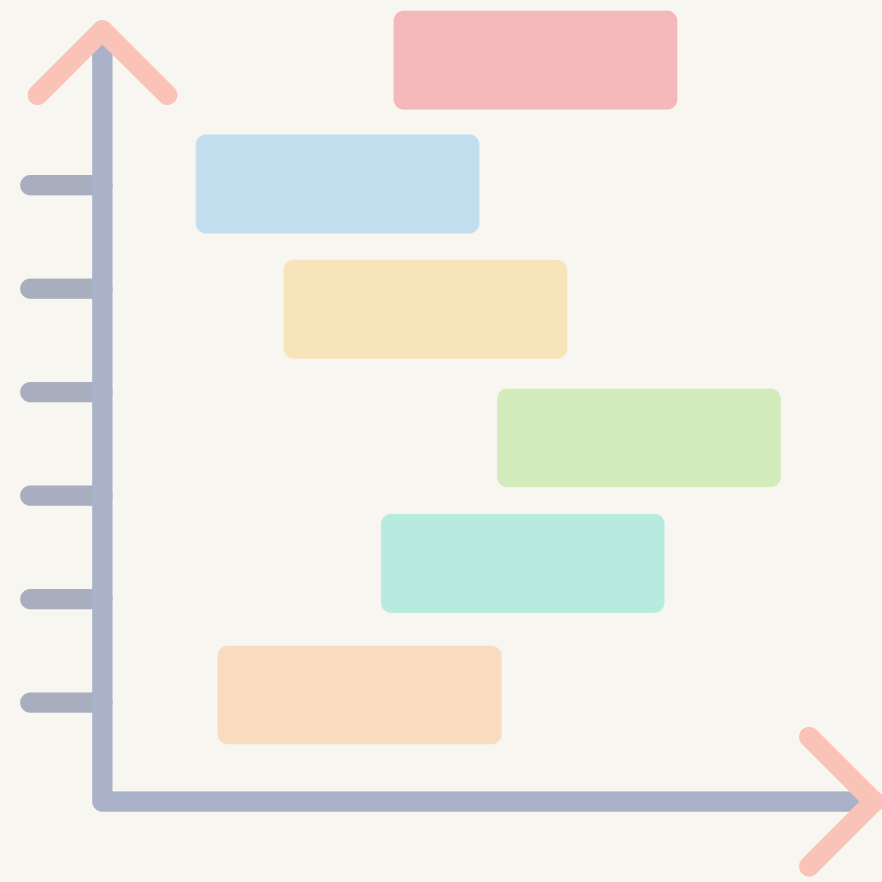
Your items will be sold to donate 100% of our profits to help children around the world in partnership with Gulf for Good



IACAD APPROVED

Gantt Charts – How can I use them to aid my revision?

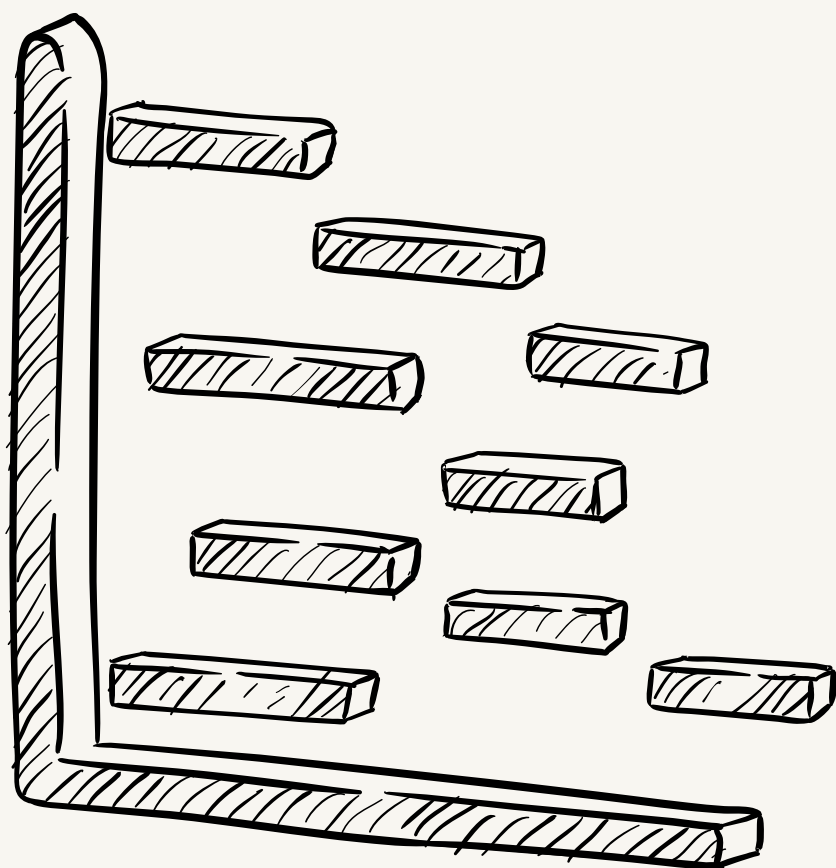
a graphical representation of activity against time



Gantt charts can be helpful for student revision for several reasons:

1. **Organisation:** Gantt charts provide a visual representation of tasks and their deadlines, helping students organise their revision schedule efficiently. This visual aid allows them to see the big picture of what needs to be done and when.
2. **Time Management:** By breaking down the revision process into smaller tasks and allocating specific time slots for each task, students can better manage their time and avoid procrastination. Gantt charts help them prioritise tasks and allocate sufficient time to cover all the material.
3. **Progress Tracking:** With a Gantt chart, students can track their progress as they revise. They can easily see which tasks have been completed, which are in progress, and which are upcoming. This helps them stay motivated and on track to meet their revision goals.
4. **Flexibility:** Gantt charts allow students to adjust their revision schedule as needed. If they realise they need more time for a particular topic or encounter unexpected disruptions, they can easily modify their chart to accommodate these changes.
5. **Visualisation:** Visualising their revision schedule in a Gantt chart format can make it feel more manageable and less overwhelming for students. It provides a clear roadmap of what needs to be done, reducing stress and anxiety associated with revision.

Overall, Gantt charts can be a valuable tool for students to effectively plan, manage, and track their revision efforts, leading to improved academic performance.



WRITTEN BY

JONATHON DUNN
DEPUTY HEAD ACADEMICS MYP





Harvard Model Congress





PADIA

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

International Evening 2024

In celebration of diversity and unity

4PM | March 8, 2024 | School Field





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DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

International Evening 2024

In celebration of diversity and unity

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INNOVATION EDUCATION FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



OVERALL

INNOVENTURES EDUCATION CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP



OVERALL





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.

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EMIRATES
HILLS



Dream - Inspire - Achieve