



# NEWSLETTER

03 September 2020

## IB STUDENTS SET SIGHTS ON UNIVERSITY AFTER DEMONSTRATING TRUE RESILIENCE

Following a results review service, the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) has evaluated and recommended grade adjustments, releasing revised final results on 17th August 2020. GEMS World Academy is delighted to see students awarded with the results that reflect the capabilities of the Class of 2020, with an increase in the average score of [IB Diploma Programme](#) (IBDP)

students at the Academy to 37.4 points - smashing the 2019 IBDP world average of 29.65. Exceptional individual results include twenty-eight students achieving an impressive 40 points and above out of a possible 45 points in the IBDP: Ginevra Fontana (45), Gimin Seo (45), Jaegyun Kim (44), Mihica Prashant (44), Aman Assali (43), Zeena Abdelrazig (43), Isabel Ashton (43), Bayan Assali (42), Markus Baumgartner (42), Mukta Divekar (42), Lihong Wang (42), Vansh Patel (41), Jaehyeok Kim (41), Ronan Dawes (41), Haeun Kim (41), Linn Embro (41), Numair Kamani (41), Seungrok Kang (41), Yoon Seo Kim (41), Trinayan Krishnan (41), Kianna MacDonald (41), Cem Verploeg (41), Hriday Gurnani (41), Hyuna Son (40), Noah Saad (40), Tyra Alm (40), Shevaun Weidmann (40) and Anna Lemyaseva (40). [Continues on Page 3](#)



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, DR RANA

Dear Parents, Carers and the GWA Community

I have been delighted to welcome back students and staff during my first week as CEO/Principal of GEMS World Academy. I have enjoyed getting to know the GWA Community; thank you for making me feel so welcome, and for supporting us with the social distancing requirements. I fully appreciate how difficult the return to school both online and in the physical building has been for teachers, students and parents and I am so very proud of all of our community and how we have adapted and risen to this challenge. I am deeply honoured to lead the Academy and I want to reassure you that I am completely dedicated to achieving the highest standards and expectations for all through collaboration, respect and a community spirit where everyone's voice is heard and decisions are made based on the needs of every student. Every child matters to me. I will ensure that your child is safe, secure and successful, so that when they leave they are powerful, global citizens of the future; who have ambition to make a real difference to the world.





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In a year unlike any other, International Baccalaureate (IB) students at GEMS World Academy are relieved to now have their hard work recognised and rewarded with top university places after the uncertainty of the past five months. With the May 2020 IB examination session cancelled due to restrictions and social distancing measures implemented to combat the spread of COVID-19, the IB awarded grades to its students in over 5000 schools across the globe in July based on coursework, predicted grades and historic data. The [review and analysis of grades in August](#) used data from official Internal Assessments, marked by IB examiners, as well as predicted grades, to ensure the validity and fairness of final grades.

Ginevra Fontana, who scored 45 points, was delighted to achieve a place at UCL to study biochemical engineering. She reflected, *'these last two years have been a roller coaster. Hard work and perseverance were the key factors that allowed me to continue and persevere through this journey. After many ups and downs, I am so pleased to have been able to finish it successfully. Looking back, I am so grateful for all the support, opportunities and friendly advice my teachers have offered me. I would also like to thank the GWA community for all their help and for everything I have learnt.'* Markus Baumgartner scored 42, earning him a place at Oxford University to study engineering. He noted that his time at 'GEMS World academy was not only special because of the students, but also because of the pure and selfless dedication of the teachers in helping us, that could be felt throughout the entire two years. My time at GEMS World Academy will certainly be missed, but I am evermore excited to begin the next step in my lifelong journey as a learner'. Noah Saad, scoring 40 and Lihong Wang scoring 42 points, will be studying engineering and mathematics at Delft University and Duke University respectively. Cem Verploeg, who studied seven IB subjects, achieved a bilingual Diploma and scored 41 points, will now be taking up a place at UCL, putting his skills to

use to study history and politics.

Following the analysis and revision of IB grades in August, CEO/Principal, Dr Rana welcomed the IBO's approach. *"At a time when young people across the country are losing faith in the integrity of education assessment, we welcome the IBO's decision to re-evaluate grades after listening to the IB community of schools and students across the world. The GEMS World Academy Class of 2020 has excelled in the IB since they began the course two years ago, and we are happy that this has now been recognised via their exam results, ensuring students have access to the brightest future pathways they worked so hard for, and achieving some of the Academy's best ever results. This cohort of students is among the most resilient I have ever encountered. I am extremely proud of their success in these exams and wish them the very best with the exciting university courses or careers they wholeheartedly deserve."*

Mrs. Hussein, IB DP/CP Coordinator thanked the staff, parents, carers and community as she congratulated Grade 12 students, and added, *"we knew how capable these students were, but their results have exceeded all our expectations in achieving the highest ever GWA point average. There are not enough words to convey how proud we are of our GWA graduates and wish them every success in their future studies."*



# THE WEEK AT GWA



# CONTACTING GWA

GEMS World Academy is keen for all parents' queries to be dealt with quickly and efficiently. If you have a query about anything relating to your child or the Academy:

1. Your child's personal form tutor are always the first point of contact. Please note the names of the form tutors and feel free to ask for email addresses
2. To meet other parents at GWA, and to give feedback to help develop the Academy community, please contact GWAPA: [gwapa\\_gwa@gemsedu.com](mailto:gwapa_gwa@gemsedu.com)
3. If you are unable to resolve the issue through personal tutors, the leadership team will be able to support you
4. Finally, if you do not feel your query has been dealt with, you should contact the CEO/Principal



**Dr Rana**  
CEO / Principal  
[saima.rana@gemseducation.com](mailto:saima.rana@gemseducation.com)



**Ms Megan La Caze**  
Associate Principal  
[m.lacaze\\_gwa@gemsedu.com](mailto:m.lacaze_gwa@gemsedu.com)



**Ms Luise Lowndes**  
Secondary Principal  
[l.lowndes\\_gwa@gemsedu.com](mailto:l.lowndes_gwa@gemsedu.com)



**Ms Kristen Murphy**  
Primary Principal  
[k.murphy\\_gwa@gemsedu.com](mailto:k.murphy_gwa@gemsedu.com)



**Ms Louise O'Keeffe**  
Assistant Principal Secondary Personal Development, Welfare and Behaviour



**Mr Ivan Rigney**  
Assistant Principal Secondary Curriculum, Progress and Assessment  
[i.rigney\\_gwa@gemsedu.com](mailto:i.rigney_gwa@gemsedu.com)

# CONTACTING GWA



**Mr Peter Bonner**  
Assistant Principal Primary - Curriculum, Progress and Assessment  
p.bonner\_gwa@gemsedu.com



**Mr Dean Winders**  
Assistant Principal Primary - Personal Development, Welfare and Behaviour  
d.winders\_gwa@gemsedu.com



**Ms Vinaya Shenoy**  
Finance Manager  
v.shenoy\_gwa@gemsedu.com



**Ms Aukse Lightbody**  
Human Resources Manager  
a.lightbody\_gwa@gemsedu.com



**Ms Rania Husein**  
Head of Senior School (IBDP/IBCP)  
r.husein\_gwa@gemsedu.com



**Mr Jonathon Howarth**  
MYP Coordinator  
j.howarth\_gwa@gemsedu



**Ms Rebecca Sykes**  
PYP Coordinator  
r.sykes\_gwa@gemsedu.com



**Ms Micheline Chaia**  
Director of Language Institute  
m.chaia\_gwa@gemsedu



**Ms Helen AL Uzaizi**  
Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Environmentalism Director  
h.aluzaizi\_gwa@gemsedu

# CONTACTING GWA GRADE LEADERS

Grade	Name	Email
Nursery and PreK	Miss Louna Van Der Merwe	nursery_gwa@gemsedu.com
KG1	Amy O'Donnell	a.odhnell_gwa@gemsedu.com
KG2	Sophie Hockey	s.hockey_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 1	Nicola Mcmorrow	n.mcmorrow_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 2	Hannah Ruffin	h.ruffin_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 3	Angela Roberts	a.roberts1_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 4	Awhina Houpapa	a.houpapa_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 5	Matthew Pewtner	m.pewtner_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 6	Katelyn Greenwood	k.greenwood_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 7	Christina Larson	c.larson_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 8	Shane Brouder	s.brouder_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 9	Fiona Root	f.root_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 10	Aza Husain	a.husain_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 11	Lee Bossler	l.bossler_gwa@gemsedu.com
Grade 12	Alexandra Fatu	a.fatu_gwa@gemsedu.com



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Emma Parisot**  
Student President



**Shae Mckenna**  
Student President

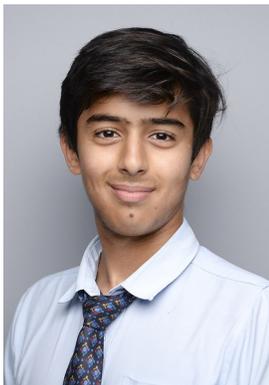


**Mehr Jeswani**  
Student Vice President



**Tomaso Vigo**  
Student Vice President

# HOUSE CAPTAINS



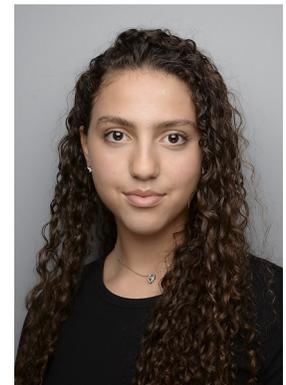
**Ishir Wadha**  
Battuta



**Maitry Panchal**  
Battuta



**Benedek Balla**  
Razi



**Elyssa Haddad**  
Razi



**Destiny Fernandes**  
Sina



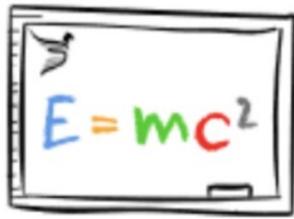
**Nicholas Hupe**  
Sina



**Daniela Cogswell**  
Zuhr



**Mattia Sparacino**  
Zuhr



# PHOENIX Classroom

Phoenix Classroom is an end-to-end learning management system connecting students, teachers and families. Specifically designed by educators, it has all of the resources needed to enhance both teaching and learning across our Academy, whilst combining the best features of our current systems onto one platform.

Phoenix is linked with your GEMS Connect and Oasis profile so that you have the same username and password for all your GEMS applications.

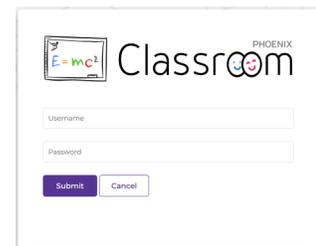
1. Please go to [GEMS Portal](#) and select PHOENIX Classroom



2. Please select the parent option to access PHOENIX classroom for parents



3. Log on with your GEMS connect/Oasis username and password



If you do not currently have a GEMS username and password please contact our IT department via email on [ithelpdesk\\_gwa@gemsedu.com](mailto:ithelpdesk_gwa@gemsedu.com)

Please find all of the key GWA information for families under the School Community icon on the left hand side of the navigation bar.

Please select the **Resources** button to access:

1. EO/Principal - Latest News
2. GWA Student Handbooks and Policy Links
3. Health and Safety Forms and Declarations
4. GWA - Cafeteria; Slices
5. GWA Enrichment Opportunities
6. Phoenix Classroom - User Guides



# GWA'S HOUSES



## BATTUTA

Famous Arab traveler and scholar

**Motto: Seek new frontiers**

Widely recognised as one of the greatest traveller of all time, Muhammad Ibn Battuta traversed much of North Africa, Persia and central Asia during a 30 year period in the 14th century, recording his experiences in the 'Rihla' which literally means 'journey'. His determination to seek out new cultures and expand geographic understanding is linked to the solitary migratory patterns of the Arabian Leopard, and is matched by the fitting motto 'nova quaerere sortes' which means to seek new frontiers.



## ZUHR

Famous venerated Arab physician and scholar

**Motto: Push boundaries**

Described as one of the great sages of medicine, Ibn Zuhr was a renowned physician of his era, and was greatly influential in the progress of surgery. His pioneering techniques helped to shape new medical practices, and by collaborating with other well respected physicians, he used his knowledge to further the course of medicine. The Arabian Viper is often symbolized as adaptable and inquisitive, which were strong Zuhr traits and therefore the motto 'ventilabis metas', which means to push boundaries is an apt representation of this house.



## RAZI

Famous Arab traveller and scholar

**Motto: For others**

Muhammad Ibn Zakariya al-Razi was an early medical pioneer who later became described as the father of pediatrics. Many of his written works became part of medical teaching in western universities, and he is renowned for supporting all people, which illustrates beautifully his compassionate nature. The falcon has a fitting association as the Razi icon with strong connectivity to Arabic culture it is regarded as a courageous and caring creature. The motto 'erga alios' reflects this perfectly, indicating devotion to others.



## SINA

Famous Arab philosopher and scientist

**Motto: Be prepared**

Ibn Sina was a famous Arab polymath from the Islamic Golden Age who wrote many works in areas such as philosophy and medicine. He was a strong, resolute and perceptive person which links naturally to the Sina Icon, the red wolf, which is seen through many mythologies as a noble, calm and balanced creature, with heightened senses which allow it to be continually prepared to move into action. This is reflected in the House Motto 'semper paratus' which translates as always ready.

## Dr Patil's Tip of the Week

**STAY AT HOME IF UNWELL**

For further information, please see our [Stay at Home if Unwell Policy](#)

## GWA CALENDER OVERVIEW 2020-2021

TERM 1	Sunday 31 August 2020 to 31 October 2020
STAFF PD	Sunday 18 October 2020 to 22 October 2020 No students on campus during these dates
TERM 2	Sunday 1 November 2020 to 28 January 2021
WINTER BREAK	Sunday 13 December 2020 to 2 January 2021
TERM 3	Sunday 31 January 2021 to 15 April 2021
STAFF PD	Sunday 14 February 2021 to 15 February 2021 No students on campus during these dates
SPRING BREAK	Sunday 28 March 2021 to 8 April 2021
TERM 4	Sunday 18 April 2021 to 24 June 2021
SUMMER BREAK	Sunday 27 June 2021 to 26 August 2021

All Islamic and National Holidays are subject to the Lunar Calendar and Government Announcement.