



# NEWSLETTER

04 FEBRUARY 2021



أكاديمية جيمس العالمية  
World Academy  
DUBAI

## SEWA 2021

The SEWA initiative was a drive organized by the Grade 9 Student Representatives to help our support staff during these unprecedented times. We created bags of canned and dried food for the support staff to enjoy after spending two weeks collecting the goods donated by the Grade 6-10 student body. We would like to thank the GWA community for your generous contributions. We would also like to share our appreciation for all the support Ms. Mortimer-Davies and GWAPA provided us with in order to ensure the initiative was such a success. A special thank you to Dr Rana for ensuring that we could make this initiative a reality. It was fantastic to see so many members of our wonderful community participating in this drive, which aligns with our GEMS Jewels of Kindness ethos.



*Arnav Kedia & Lucas Baumgartner*

## ENRICHMENT UPDATE TERM 2

Please note Enrichments Clubs will be paused from the 7-11 February due to the Week Without Walls Programme. All online and on campus clubs will resume the week beginning Sunday 14 February. [Here](#) is a round up from some of our Enrichment clubs running during Term 2.



## WEEK WITHOUT WALLS INTERNSHIPS

GWA has secured internships for WWW for students with Cleveland Clinic, Al Shami Law Firm, Lovin' Dubai and an NGO called Doctors without Borders (Medicins San Fronteir).

## MESSAGE : GWA ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Primary : Ms Awhina Houppapa

Secondary : Mr Mark Liddell

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO/PRINCIPAL, DR RANA

Dear Parents, Carers and GEMS World Academy Community

If ever there was a time when we were clear that the world is interconnected and that we are a part of a Global community, it is now. Here at GEMS World Academy, our students have been working hard to collect plastic as part of a recycling initiative addressing the very real challenges of our environmental situation.

Our students in Grade 9 have been taking part in **SEWA** for our support staff. They've handed out bags of gifts to those that are in need. The concept of **SEWA** is defined as the 'selfless act that aims to protect, help, and provide for underprivileged human beings... a service that is performed without any hopes of reciprocation, monetary benefits, or awards'. I couldn't be prouder of our student community for doing this. Thank you.

Another group of students in our Academy have been collecting hygiene products to create gift packs for those who don't have access to these important products in a time of great need; where there is a Global pandemic sweeping the world, it is heart-warming to see such a wonderful example of kindness and generosity from our students. Thank you. Phase one of the refurbishment project is nearly complete.

The most important element of this phase is yet to be installed. This involves our students producing art works for the specially designed spaces that we have created to showcase the talents of our students. I am really looking forward to the completion of this particular project in the next two or three weeks.

Our recruitment drive continues successfully, and although sadly we will be saying goodbye to our fabulous IBDP Coordinator, Ms Rania Hussein and PYP Coordinator, Ms Rebecca Sykes at the end of this academic year, we are excited to welcome some outstanding new members of our team, Mr Chris Nitsche (IBDP Coordinator) and Ms Angela Roberts (PYP Coordinator) into these vital roles. Please read their biographies and letters for the [PYP](#) and [DP](#) changes.

Turning now directly to the pandemic, I have now completed my vaccination by having the second dosage and would encourage everybody who can to take the vaccination to do so. As you know this pandemic has been incredibly heart-breaking and hard but we look forward to it being overcome in the following months. Finally, I wish you a very successful and productive WWW.



## MESSAGE FROM GWAPA

As a gesture of appreciation, on 3 February, GWAPA provided blankets and a pre-packaged lunch for the support staff. We also helped MYP students distribute bags of dry and canned foods collected by the community to the GWA support staff as part of the SEWA initiative.



**Dragon's Den** is open on Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 – 11:00 am.

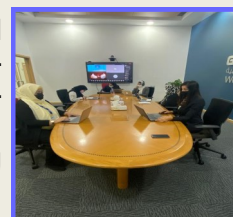
If you need any information or guidance, please contact us at [Gwapa gwa@gemsedu.com](mailto:gwa@gemsedu.com)

## DR PATIL'S TIP OF THE WEEK

Please find the [DHA Parent Handbook for COVID-19](#) with tips on how to keep your children safe during these unprecedented times.

## FOUNDING FATHERS EVENT

Our Arabic Department, G9 to G12 participated in the Founding Fathers event earlier this week, hosted by his Excellency Jamal bin Huwaireb. The event was founded many years ago by Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum (May Allah have mercy on them) and gave our students the opportunity to expand on their knowledge regarding the UAE.



## COUNSELLING CORNER

Please join us in congratulating our senior students on this week's offers of University admission:

1. Western University (2 students)
2. HZ University of Applied Sciences
3. University of Reading
4. Durham University (3 students)
5. University of Massachusetts – Amherst

### Spotlight Netherlands

Every year more and more students are applying to Dutch universities. For students at GWA, the Netherlands is the second most popular European destination after the UK. From its low tuition fees to its creative culture, there are lots of reasons why studying in the Netherlands is a great option for international students. [Read more.](#)

## DRESS DOWN DAY



## GRADE 7 PREPARATION FOR WEEK WITHOUT WALLS

This week Grade 7 have been tremendously busy preparing for their Week Without Walls – Service as Action. Ana, Mira, Maya, Abrar, Eva and Helena spent tutor time on Sunday preparing their bright, colourful boxes for collections of hygiene related products to send to labourers across Dubai. The girls are passionate about this cause as they want to support the children of the labourers too, particularly in their educational opportunities and mental well-being. As I write this message at the start of the week, we are tremendously excited to see how this project, along with all of the others across the school, impacts our local community. We look forward to the student presentations next week where they will evaluate their successes.



*Ms Amelia Lancaster*

## NEWS FROM GWA MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music Department at GWA congratulates two outstanding performers who have recently achieved great success in the first round of the GEMS Young Musician of the Year Competition. Violinists Sian Willgoss (Grade 6) and Sofia Faghihy (Grade 9) have both been placed into the final round of the competition. Congratulations to the girls and their violin teacher, Miss Eva Grasbeck. Most of the competitors in this section are older, so it is an extra achievement for our successful violinists. We wish them all the very best in the final round of the competition on Thursday 11 February.



*Mr Wayne Smart  
Director of Music*