



# NEWSLETTER

24 JUNE 2021



أكاديمية جيمس العالمية  
World Academy  
DUBAI

## SECONDARY CAROUSEL WEEK

Every educator agrees that our teenagers have been the most impacted by the pandemic. The need to distance socially, wear masks while learning or being online with a limited social life is tough. This, coupled with all the expectations of academic performance and growth of a regular year, has made for a long, frustrating and isolating year.

At GWA this week we welcomed a break from school by offering our students an off-timetable day. No assessments, no homework, no laptop. Instead our students were with friends, in the community, fostering a sense of belonging and freedom to move all day.

Grades 6 - 9 enthusiastically danced, created paper planes, competed in table tennis, cracked riddles and stacked cups. The highlight of the day was the pizza lunch kindly provided by Dr Rana in the Cafeteria.



## ENRICHMENT CLUB REMINDER

The Enrichment Programme ends on **Thursday 24 June**. To Parents, Carers, Students and Staff – thank you for your patience, understanding and support in helping to provide an inclusive programme whilst following the COVID guidelines.

The Enrichment Programme for 2021-22 will be shared with the community once we have received the KHDA guidelines for the next academic year. Until then, stay safe and enjoy your summer holidays.



## MIDDLE LEADER ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to share with you our middle leaders for the Academic Year. [Click here](#) for key contacts for 2021/22. Please note that new members of staff's email addresses will be updated in August.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO/PRINCIPAL, DR RANA

Dear Parents, Carers and GEMS World Academy Community,

Education is at once both looking backwards and looking forwards. It's as if we're all on a ship setting out to cross an ocean where we remember the harbour we've left whilst looking forward to the new port that awaits us. We are constantly growing, maturing and reconciling our former selves with our present and future ones, and this sense of transition is something of immense importance.

Our Grade 10's and Grade 5's are currently having their graduation celebrations to mark the phase changes they're experiencing, a time where making new friends and learning new things comes into focus. Alongside these important things, we have also continued with our activity days where team building and learning how to be part of something larger than just oneself places our GENIUS values at the centre of everything.

We have also been celebrating our wonderful Grade 11 students who have become excellent role models

for everyone in GEMS World Academy and true ambassadors and inspirational leaders for our youngest students. With our International Baccalaureate philosophy at the heart of everything we do, the school community is stronger than ever and is truly one with global and international horizons, where everyone is part of a process that continuously grows each and every student and member of staff.

This has been a year of transition and change and we have all been on a journey together which has brought us closer together despite the storm of the pandemic threatening to steer us all off course. Bound by our core values, nothing has been allowed to stop our progress nor shake our resolve to ensure that each one of our students grows into the smart, fulfilled, brave and caring individuals they are becoming. I feel like the captain of a mighty ship and am very proud to serve such a wonderful group of people.



# GWA House Captains

## 2021-22



Juan Carlos Lukyantsava



Joonseo Lee

Maud Verploeg



Mangalpadi Kapil Shenoy

Idrees Khaqan Kashif



Dhruvika Ubrani

Siddhi Jena

Adham Alaa Ibrahim Eldabaa Ahmed

### MESSAGE FROM MS MURPHY AND MR MEAKIN

At GEMS World Academy, the IB Learner Profile is one of the core pillars on which the school was founded and continues to thrive. We see examples of these attributes every single day from our teachers, from our parent community, and of course, from you, our wonderful students. This has been a year like no other. It's important to take the time to recognise this and to reflect on the incredible effort, progress, and togetherness that we have all shown during such a challenging period. We are so proud to be your Principals.

As we move towards the end of the academic year, we understand that some changes lay ahead. September will bring a new grade, some new friends, and for a few of our students, perhaps even a new school and country. Whatever path lays before your feet, know that you are, and will always be, a part of our family at GEMS World Academy. The resilience, perseverance and optimism you have shown this year will ensure that you are equipped and ready for whatever the future may hold.

To those families who will be returning to continue your educational journey with us in August and September, we look forward to seeing your smiling faces bursting through our doors once again.

To those students who will be moving on to other exciting adventures next year - we wish you the very best of luck.

To all of our students, parents, teachers, and everyone who is a part of the GEMS World Academy family, we wish you a peaceful and safe summer break, wherever you are spending it.



### TRAVELLING THIS SUMMER ?

If you are travelling this summer kindly follow these guidelines upon your return. Fill out the [Travel & Health Declaration Form](https://forms.gemsgwa) using [clinic\\_gwa@gemsedu.com](mailto:clinic_gwa@gemsedu.com) in the school email section.

Upon your return to the UAE, you are required to provide a valid negative PCR test taken in UAE. In case you do not want your child to take a PCR test, students will need to do online learning for 10 days after the date of return.

Wishing you all a safe and restful summer break.

### GWA PARENTS ASSOCIATION 2020/21

The Parent Association hosted a teacher and support staff appreciation lunch last week to thank all GWA Staff for their hard work, dedication and support this year.

Please note that the **Dragon's Den** is closed and will reopen in the next academic year. *You may drop preloved uniforms at the reception throughout the summer.*

On behalf of the 2020/21 GWA Parents Association, we would like to wish you all a wonderful and relaxing summer break and we look forward to seeing you in August.



### GRADE 10 SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

This Thursday we held a special awards ceremony to celebrate the Grade 10's coming to the end of their MYP journeys.

We started the day off with some speeches from the Senior Leadership Team as well as the MYP Coordinator and Grade Level Leader. After announcing the awards via zoom, students were awarded their certificates and given the opportunity to celebrate their achievements during Form time with their tutors. The highlight of the ceremony, of course, was having our students descend down the spiral staircase in their House groups and into the Cafeteria for their final lunch together as a grade level.

We are so exceptionally proud of our Grade 10's and wish them all the best in Senior School.

