



NEWSLETTER

28 JANUARY 2021



أكاديمية جيمس العالمية
World Academy
DUBAI

GRADE 11 WELLBEING IN ACTION

Last week, Grade 11 students got to choose an activity they enjoy and participate with their friends and tutors.

These activities included: Yoga, Fitness, Tables Tennis, Boxercise, Walking and Running.



UAE ART IN NATURE

Sisters Grimm would like to invite GWA students aged 5—16 to enter an art contest. See [competition details](#).



EXCITING UNIVERSITY OFFERS

In December the DP Counseling team published the first batch of university admission offers for the GWA Class of 2021. As the list of offers continues to grow, each week we will share a little more good news with the GWA community. Please join us in congratulating our senior students on these well-deserved offers of admission.

- University of Toronto - 4 students, including one with Scholarship
- Maastricht University
- University of Bath
- University College London
- University of California Berkeley - with scholarship
- University of Bath (3 students)

*Ms Angela Blackmer
Senior School Counsellor*

KHDA SURVEY

All Parents and Carers are encouraged to take part in the annual [KHDA Survey](#).

SECURITY GATE UPDATES

Updated schedule can be found [here](#). Changes will be implemented as of 31 January 2021.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO/PRINCIPAL, DR RANA

Dear Parents, Carers and GEMS World Academy Community

One of the things that lifts a school above the ordinary is the way it locks together its three key components – its students, its staff and its parents/carers - so that the enduring values of the school community are expressed and lived in everything it does. Covid 19 has tested this triangulation at GEMS World Academy just as it is testing all schools globally. This week continued to be a challenging one, yet we continue to go from strength to strength. I have been so impressed with the way the school community has risen to the challenges of this last year, a year of so much heartbreak but also one where the very best of the human spirit has been shown. I am immensely moved and proud of the way everyone has rallied round to support each other in so many ways, from adhering to the challenging anti-Covid strategies we have unfortunately had to put in place, to engaging with our core mission to provide a world class education for everyone, to supporting those that are less fortunate than us. Not only have lessons continued in school, and online students and teachers have thrown themselves into their learning environments with an indomitable spirit, each day when I walk around the school building I am continually impressed and inspired by the hard work and imagination of what I see going on in the learning environment onsite and during enrichment

activities online. Our whole academy mindfulness initiative, which begins on Sunday, will support the continued focus on keeping our students and staff safe, secure and successful throughout this very challenging time.

I am also very excited by the way the phase one of the building refurbishment project has enhanced our environment, not only bringing a freshness and new energy to the place, but also extending our capabilities in new and thrilling ways. I welcome you to visit your Academy (in small groups) to see for yourself the wonders of this refurbishment and to meet with me and other members of the Senior Leadership Team. Again, it is worth considering how all this has been taking place whilst the global pandemic continues, and shows the strength and grit of our school community and the links that are binding us together. We will be starting a round of virtual events for parents and carers from next week to discuss education provision, progress on the refurbishment project, staff recruitment plans and other matters that are important to our parent and carer community. Our Assistant Principals, Ms Lyndsay Gray and Mr Dean Winders continue to ensure student voice is at the heart of our Academy by enlisting the support of our student council. to lead on our forthcoming uniform review for 2021/22.



MESSAGE FROM GWAPA

GWAPA along with new parents met on January 26 over Coffee and Breakfast at the Els Club.

As a gesture of appreciation, on February 3rd GWAPA is providing blankets and prepackaged lunch for the support staff. In addition, we will help MYP students distribute the bags of dry foods collected by the community.

Reminder: 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.



GWAPA Parent Association

DR PATIL'S TIP OF THE WEEK

Support GEMS World Academy and GEMS Education in our fight against COVID-19. Do your part in keeping our families, students and staff safe. Don't wait, VACCINATE!

COUNSELLORS CORNER

Finding Balance with Technology and Teens

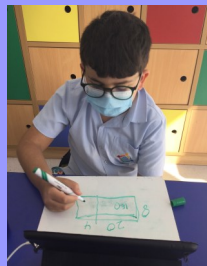
Thank you to the parents who joined us at the MYP parent coffee morning. Taking part in conversations regarding technology and teens is very important, especially during this challenging time.

Many of us have become more aware of the shift towards increased reliance on technology. Zoom meetings, videos and online notebooks are dominating a large part of student learning time. With this in mind, we can't underestimate the importance of daily routines and activities that do not involve technology. [Read more.](#)

*Ms Kimberly Sharpe
MYP Counsellor*

MULTIPLICATION IN G3

Grade 3 students have been building on their previous learning in multiplication by using area models to support their understanding when multiplying two-digits by a single digit. Math's is a visual subject and pictorial representations help us to understand the relationship between the conceptual understanding and the operations that we might choose. Students were tasked with finding different ways to solve 18×5 and were asked how many different models could be identified and which methods would be used if asked to compute the calculation mentally.



Mr Benjamin Sykes

CYBER AND MATHS' OLYMPIAD RESULTS

Congratulations to all students who participated. Results and student reflections can be found [here](#).

MYP HOMEWORK AND SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Since implementation in October 2020, the MYP homework and [summative schedule](#) has successfully seen a reduction in the concentration of assessments for students, in particular in the run up to quarterly reporting. These benefits will continue to support students throughout the rest of the year, and ensure their workload remains more consistently spread. [Continue reading.](#)

EXPO 2020 TASTER

From 22 January to 10 April 2021 families are invited to experience a taster at the Expo 2020, starting with TERRA – The sustainability pavilion, where you can experience an immersive journey through the wonders of the natural world and be inspired to create a better, more sustainable future.

Whilst onsite, you can enjoy an array of events, music, performances and delicious food!

Tickets are just AED 25 each.

For booking click [here](#).



100 DAYS TO GRADUATION

The Seniors are entering their final 8 weeks of school before their study leave begins for World Exams. It is an extremely busy time with meeting IA and TOK deadlines and completing university applications. They are also putting final touches on their CAS portfolios, with a lot of them opting to intern during WWW.

All of their hard work will culminate in an exciting event, 100 Days to Graduation, which will take place on 24 February. The Senior School team is looking forward to celebrate alongside the Grade 12 students, parents and the larger community this monumental milestone in their lives. Please keep an eye out for an email invitation and details to this event.



SEWA Initiative



G6-10 please bring:

Dried or canned foods, and hand it to your form tutor.

