

28th October 2021

Secondary Week Ending 28th October 2021

Dear Community,

It has been a great week back since the half-term break, with a particular highlight being the Student Leadership inauguration ceremony last night. During the event, we were able to celebrate our student leadership team who have worked hard to achieve their position. We were overwhelmed with the amount of students who applied to be student leaders, and those who were not successful this time will be given other opportunities to develop their skills. We look forward to seeing how our students can continue to grow our school, improve as leaders, and shape those around them. We have a busy and fun-packed half-term ahead, and I am excited to share with you our student successes and have you join us at some very special events as the term progresses.



Themed Mornings

I hope you have been enjoying our themed mornings – the feedback has been great! At Metropole School we like to start our days with lots of energy, fun, and curiosity, which is the aim of the themes! You will have seen links to Arabic on Surprise Sunday, Technology on Tech Tuesday, Performing Arts on Musical Monday, and Science on Whacky Wednesday. Here are some examples from this week, with a special Halloween feature from Science!



Musical Mondays: Live DJ



Tech-Tuesdays: Programming






Whacky Wednesdays:
Smoking Pumpkins

GEMS Parent Survey Feedback May 2021

Thank you to all the parents that completed the GEMS parent satisfaction survey back in May 2021. Since gaining your feedback, we have worked hard to address your points and put actions in place to make improvements. We have been sharing these improvements with you in our newsletters and social media posts since May 2021, and would like to share with you a more comprehensive summary of the work we have been doing. Please take the time to read our 'You Said, We Did' information, which we hope you find useful.

GEMS Parent Survey - November 2021

At the start of November, you will receive a link to the GEMS parent satisfaction survey. We have listened to your feedback from the last survey, and of course will continue to do so. We also love to hear about the things you are happy with at the school, as we have received positive comments from many of you on our social media pages, during face-to-face conversations, and during our webinars. We would be extremely grateful if you could take the time to complete the survey once it is released. The parent survey scoring system works as follows:

	Detractor: score of 0-6. This means you are unhappy
	Passive: score of 7-8. This means you are satisfied
	Promotor: score of 9-10. This means you are happy

If you are a new parent to the school, please assign a score based on your experience so far. Please be balanced with your response; it may be that you are *unhappy* with one particular area, but overall happy, for example. We hope that your son/daughter had a smooth transition into the school and felt supported.

Upcoming Key Dates

Sunday 31st October	Parent Webinar, 4pm: Student Leadership - link to webinar in Newsletter (Weekly Sway)
Monday 1st November	Year 11 parent-teacher consultation Year 11 parent webinar 07:15-07:45 - link in Newsletter (Weekly Sway)
Wednesday 3rd November	UAE Flag Day: Students are invited to come into school wearing colours of the UAE Flag. They may wear accessories that have the UAE Flag on them. Students to be dressed appropriately.
Thursday 4th November	Diwali Staff training: ½ day for students. Students will leave school at 12:30pm
Tuesday 9th November	Parent Webinar, 4pm: Being Safe Online & Student Wellbeing - link to webinar in Newsletter (Weekly Sway)
Wednesday 10th November	Year 10 parent-teacher consultation Parent Webinar for Gifted and Talented students – postponed (new date TBC)
Thursday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Sunday 14th – Wednesday 17th November	School's BSO (British Schools Overseas) Inspection

As always, I welcome your feedback - about this letter, or any aspect of your child's experience with us:
d.aschettino_mts@gemsedu.com
I wish you a wonderful weekend!

Kind regards,



Daniella Aschettino
Secondary Headteacher



YOU SAID. WE DID.

Discover LEADERSHIP

“I want to see more personalised learning”

- * Teachers identify students who require specific support and challenge – they personalise planning to ensure all students make progress
- * A new-student induction process provides a smooth start for students, such as a buddy system
- * TAs have been trained to support teachers in student personalised learning strategies
- * Masterclasses enable students to pick their own activities

“What do you do at the school for student wellbeing?”

- * More teen-to-teen mental health first aiders
- * Lotus the emotional support therapy animal
- * Counsellor podcasts
- * Wellbeing curriculum in Prep and Senior schools
- * Wellbeing student leaders

“Regarding the progress of my child, I feel there are not enough updates”

- * Teachers contact parents on a monthly basis for a star and a wish
- * Accelerated progress meetings to discuss student's expected level on baseline assessments in Primary
- * More parental workshops across the year
- * Half-termly rather than termly reports to update parents

“I'd like to know more about how the students are prepared for their future”

- * Transition activities ensure students feel prepared
- * Introduction of HPL (high performance learning) = students are equipped to become lifelong learners
- * Enrichment programme for Year 9 to 13 to give them opportunities to think about and plan for their future
- * MTS Talks in the Junior and Prep schools

“There are not enough extra-curricular activities. Masterclasses are not effective”

- * High-quality extra-curricular activities during Masterclasses, including onsite and off-site opportunities
- * Termly educational visits
- * Increase in after school activities by ESM
- * Duke of Edinburgh and Junior Duke Awards
- * Sports squads re-introduced.

“I want students to have more of a voice at the school”

- * Weekly meet the school leader sessions where students offer feedback and suggestions to improve the school
- * Vast Student Leadership Team
- * Model United Nations Masterclass

