

25th November 2021

Secondary Week Ending 25th November 2021

Dear Community,

It is hard to believe that in two weeks, Term 1 will be complete! Our wonderful students have accomplished a great deal since September, and we are proud to have offered them lots of exciting opportunities. These included school trips to EXPO 2020, a Duke of Edinburgh overnight camping trip, student leadership inauguration ceremony, Sports Week, and involvement in charitable events. We have also been lucky enough to celebrate a great deal – from our Sheikha Fatima award winner, to sports fixture success, and triumph at the British Schools Middle East Learning Festival.

Preparing students

Mock Exams: I'd like to congratulate our Year 11 and 13 students on the way they have conducted themselves throughout their mock exams this week. Students behaved maturely and respectfully, appreciating how valuable this experience is in preparing them for the final GCSE/A-Level exams. Students will receive their results on 'Mock Exam Results Day' by opening an envelope to reveal their grades – mirroring how the actual results day will work!

Year 9 Careers Day: Our Year 9 Careers Day will take place on Sunday 28th November throughout the day, which will involve students completing tasks and listening to teachers and members of our community talk through their career and how they got there, with the aim to inspire and motivate students to think about their future plans. We hope our students feel motivated from these presentations and activities, and that they give them food for thought when considering university and the world of work.




GCSE/A-Levels/BTEC Options Process: We are beginning the options process for our current Year 9 and Year 11 students who will soon be thinking about the GCSE/A-Level/BTEC subjects they would like to take. This starts with students completing a survey (link in Weekly Sway) of subjects they are *interested* in, followed by subject taster sessions, open evenings and student interviews. You will find the full overview of the process and timeline at the bottom of this letter. The Heads of Year 9 and 11 will be sending out more information regarding the next steps.

Sports Week

We have had a very exciting and busy week of Sports Days! We were very excited to host former Manchester United player, Dwight Yorke into school who officially opened our Sports Day week as well as sharing some insight with our students into Anti-Racism in Sport! Our wonderful Year 7 students kicked off the week on Sunday morning, taking part in a variety of events; there were some impressive times and record scores being set out on the field! All our students have had the opportunity to race, jump, throw and even take part in the annual 'Tug O War' competition!

GEMS Parent Survey

Thank you to those parents who have taken the time to complete the survey. Please continue to read through our 'You Said, We Did' publications which summarise the areas we have been working – you will find these in our Newsletters and Weekly Swags. A reminder of the scoring system... please give us a 9 or 10 if you are happy with what we are doing 😊

	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

Upcoming Key Dates

Saturday 27 th November	Farmers Market 10am to 2pm (school field – open to the community)
Sunday 28 th November	Year 9 Careers Day
Monday 29 th November	National Day Celebrations (school field)
Tuesday 30 th November	Martyrs Day – awareness raised during assemblies
Wednesday 1 st & Thursday 2 nd December	National Day holiday (school closed)
Sunday 5 th December	Winter Concert – more information to follow
Monday 6 th December	6 th Form Parent's Evening – more information to follow
Thursday 9 th December	Winter jumper day ½ day finish (12:30pm) for students Term 1 full reports released to parents

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



Year 9 into 10 (GCSE) Options process and timeline

Date	Event
Thursday 25 th November	Introductory letter sent out in Weekly Sway outlining requirements and asking students to indicate what they would like to study (irrespective of whether we offer it or not)
Sunday 28 th November	Year 9 Careers Day: Students to find out what qualifications are needed for different careers What GCSE results are need to access particular A-Levels
Sunday 5 th December 2021 to Thursday 20 th January	Subject taster sessions: These will run during Year 9 Enrichment lessons weekly. These will be the subjects that Year 9 students have not yet been exposed to yet (i.e.: Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Economics, Media, Travel & Tourism, BTEC Computing)
Week beginning 16 th January	Mock options form released with provisional blocking Students start to select options from a provisional form with blocking to give an indication of subject interest
Week beginning Sunday 23 rd January	Letter and options booklet sent to parents: This is regarding the options process and subjects on offer, and will include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options blocking Year 9 Options Assembly Webinar for parents
Tuesday 25 th January	Information Evening Followed by the release of the final options form
Wednesday 2 nd February	Year 9 Options interviews Students meet with school leaders to discuss whether the options chosen are suitable based on the student data available
Thursday 17 th February	Final date for options sheet to be handed in
Thursday 3 rd March	Option Process closes
Thursday 28 th April	Option subjects confirmed

Year 11 into 12 (A-Levels/BTEC) Options process and timeline

Date	Event
Thursday 25 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student survey released for subject interest from students
Week beginning Sunday 23 rd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter and options booklet sent to parents regarding options process and subjects on offer Year 11 Options assembly Webinar for parents BTEC specific webinar for parents
Tuesday 25 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 and Year 11 Options Information Evening Release Options form to students
Tuesday 1 st February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A-Level market place – subject information for students
Monday 7 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Form Open Evening (directed at Year 11 students and parents)
End of February/Start of March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent-teacher meetings regarding choices
Week beginning 10 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 into 12 one to one interviews with the leadership team
Week beginning 17 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline to hand in Options sheet
Sunday 24 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options process closes
By Sunday 19 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to parents confirming Option subject choices with conditional offers