

28th January 2022

Secondary Week Ending 28th January 2022

Dear Community,

Last week our students took part in 'Sustainability Week' which saw them get involved in a range of activities that raised awareness of environmental issues and the actions we can continue to take to protect our world. Our next big focus will be Eco Art Month and I look forward to seeing what fantastic projects our students create!

This week, we further prepared our students for their future with our GCSE and A-Level/BTEC option subject evenings for Year 9s and Year 11s. Although this event ran virtually, we hope that the parents and students who attended found the information useful. The students are excited for the next stage of their educational journey as they now consider which subjects to take for GCSE/A-Level/BTEC. We have a range of pathways available to students, with even more subjects added for the next academic year. These additional subjects include BTEC IT, BTEC Applied Science, A-Level Further Maths, and GCSE Sociology.

Parent voice

Thank you for your ongoing feedback – it is always valued! It was great to see so many Secondary school parents at the "Happy Meet" session on Wednesday, we received lovely comments from parents and took away ideas to act on and improve even further. We also appreciate the comments last month from parents regarding the subject summaries in the newsletters. You will be pleased to know that we have re-introduced these as a newsletter feature, along with a list of any upcoming assessments – hope this helps our parents and students.

Our Friends of Metropole

We are really excited to be working with our Friends of Metropole, and we hope to welcome more parents into the school once the restrictions around the pandemic start to ease. Our Friends of Metropole are key in ensuring we work together to continue to improve the school and act on parent feedback. Below you will find more information about our Friends of Metropole who are leading on various areas.

Covid-19 Update

A huge thank you to our parent community who have been a fantastic support to us whilst we have managed the situation with covid cases in the school. The picture is improving amongst staff and students, with three class closures in the Secondary school over the past two weeks (classes 7D, 8B, and 9A). These classes were closed as a precaution and in accordance with the DHA. We will continue to ensure the health and safety of our students remains the highest priority. Your cooperation and understanding are very much appreciated.

Covid-19 Restrictions (pending official notification)

- Restrictions on extracurricular activities, events, trips and PE will be lifted from next week
- The school's canteen will remain closed until we hear otherwise from the authorities
- Students who have PE can arrive to school in their PE kit (and leave in their kit) whilst Covid cases remain quite high. Students may only wear their PE kit on the days they have PE.
- Extra-curricular activities in Secondary will resume from 7th February 2022 – more information to follow on this regarding the range of after-school activities and the timings.



EDUCATION

We see **genius** in every child

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Distance learning

A reminder that students will only be able to access distance learning if they fall into one of the categories listed below, as per the KHDA guidelines:

- Your child has Covid
- Your child is a close-contact
- Your child already has an exemption

If your child is experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, please do not send them to school.

Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday 3rd February	Year 11 parent-teacher consultation evening (details will be sent to Year 11 parents)
Monday 7th February	Early finish for all students (12:30pm) – staff training
Tuesday 8th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 8th – Thursday 10th February	MFL Marathon event (will take place during modern foreign languages lessons)
Thursday 10th February	Year 11 & Year 13 Parent webinar: supporting your child through the mock exams (invite to follow)
Monday 14th – Friday 18th February	Mid-term break – school closed

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



Friends of Metropole – Key Roles

	<p>Name: Awais Rehman Role: Chair Vision for Friends of Metropole: Together with Metropole, the leaders, the wonderful members of Friends of Metropole and the extended community, lead and evolve the Friends of Metropole into an extended arm of the school - provide valuable contributions to the leadership team in achieving their strategic vision for the school. Represent the voice of parents and help the continuous improvement of the school. Career/Experience: Over 17 years' experience in leading professional services organisations in the Telecom space. Most recently, supporting business leaders across various industry sectors, unlocking additional profits and cash flow through sustainable cost optimisation programmes. Interests: Working out, reading, music, spending quality time with his boys What Awais can bring to the Friends of Metropole: Enhanced parent-teacher collaboration to continuously nourish an open collaborative environment for children to learn and grow. Use relevant experience and offer support to the school.</p>
	<p>Name: Zaineb Said Role: Vice Chair Career/Experience: Real estate What Zaineb can bring to the Friends of Metropole: Helping the school with their events and other activities throughout the year.</p>
	<p>Name: Mariam Ghaznavi Role: Treasurer Career/Experience: MBM Marketing Interests: Events and volunteering What Mariam can bring to the Friends of Metropole: Fresh ideas and media skills</p>

	<p>Name: Manal Ziade Role: Events leader Career/Experience: Masters in Global Marketing, with a major in International Business and a Minor in Human Resource Management Interests: Travelling and learning about diverse cultures and ways of life! What Manal can bring to the Friends of Metropole: Utilizing skills to strategically organise, plan and distribute tasks within the group.</p>
	<p>Name: Pamela Karam Role: Social Media leader Career/Experience: Business management, and Radio/TV. Worked as flight attendant for 7 years. Interests: Travelling, social media, reading What Pamela can bring to the Friends of Metropole: To have a platform where parents, students, and teachers can have a fun way of communicating and be aware of activities happening in school, with a place that they can promote the school in a great way.</p>
	<p>Name: Ann Yousri Ali Role: Arabic/Islamic leader Career/Experience: Secretarial Diploma from the Commercial Chamber of Paris - worked as a secretary and nursery manager for 5 years. French teacher freelancer. Diploma in French language studies. Interests: Reading, art craft, photography What Ann can bring to the Friends of Metropole: Positivity, experience, a creative approach to solving problems, and the ability to embrace change enthusiastically. Ability to multi-task, complete challenging tasks and projects, and the assurance that she will always take steps to improve.</p>
	<p>Name: Rouba Abou Fakhr Friends of Metropole role: Well-being leader Career/Experience: Admin and events organiser at Yas Marina Circuit. Main interests: Cooking healthy food and reading What Rouba can bring to the Friends of Metropole: Passionate about working with students/parents and making them happy.</p>