

4th March 2022

Secondary Week Ending 4th March 2022

Dear Community,

It has been a busy yet exciting two weeks since the half-term break, and it's been great to hear so many students talk about their holiday with joy – it is finally starting to feel as though we are getting back to normal life.

Student Wellbeing

Last Friday we held our first of two PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) Days, with the focus on mental health and wellbeing. Each year group experienced a different theme: Anti Bullying, Online Safety, Healthy and Active Lifestyles, Mental Health, or Mindfulness and Self-care. We were lucky to welcome a range of guest speakers into the school, including a Psychologist from Lighthouse Arabia and a Corporate Lawyer who spoke to our students about some very important areas: looking after our mental health and cyberbullying.

Student Success

Well done to our Junior and Senior students who took part in this year's Global Innovation Challenge: Olivia Yoo, Justin Ong, Anushka Unnikrishnan, Abdul Kabir, Moaaz Hassan, and Ashika Unnikrishnan. The Global Innovation Challenge is a way of celebrating Innovation. Over 1600 students from GEMS schools submitted entries for GEMS Education Global Innovation Showcase. These students worked hard to create an idea which aimed to address a real-world problem, such as climate change and even the current pandemic! Our students walked away with Bronze awards, which we are thrilled to have gained. We look forward to these students going on to achieve even greater success next year, and having more students take part in such a rewarding competition.

Preparing Students

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 11, 12 and 13 students on a successful mock examination two weeks. The students conducted themselves extremely well, with maturity and dedication. It won't be long until these students are sitting their final examinations, which we feel they will be well prepared for. We look forward to releasing the mock examination grades, where their hard work can be celebrated.

On Saturday 26th February we further prepared our students with an opportunity for a group to attend the LEADherSHIP Conference 2022. Here, a selection of our students (Ananya Viswanath 8E, Aleks Antonijevic 9A, Ameera Sulaimian 9A, Jewel Teves 9A, Eeman Hussain 10C, Ashwin Viswanath 11D, Syed Qasim 11D, Marvellous Olushola 11E, and Nickolas Kash 11E delivered a workshop on resilience, pitched to other students from across GEMS schools. They really did us proud and enabled Metropole to shine!



This Week's Great Events

We had two exciting events take place this week: International Day on Wednesday where Secondary students visited a range of stalls, watched cultural performances, and completed activities during lessons. World Book Day took place on Thursday 3rd March - students came to school dressed as their favourite literary character/book and completed reading activities with their subject teachers throughout the day.



Changes to Covid-19 Protocols

You will be aware that there have been some changes to Covid-19 Protocols. This news is excellent and shows we are moving in the right direction. However, we continue to put the health and safety of our school community first and ensure high standards are maintained. The new guidelines are as follows:

- Staff, parents, visitors, and students must continue to wear their mask whilst inside the school building
- Close-contacts can attend school physically if they are asymptomatic
- If close-contacts are symptomatic, they will need to do two PCR tests (48 hours apart) and only return to school if both are negative and all symptoms are cleared. Students must get a clearance letter from the school clinic to return to class
- If the test is positive, students must isolate for 10 days starting from the date of PCR test sample collection
- Symptomatic close contacts and those who tested positive will have access to online classes

Re-enrolment for 2022-2023

We are delighted to inform you that re-enrolment for academic year 2022-2023 is now open. You should have received an e-mail from GEMS Education on Wednesday this week. Please select yes to confirm your re-enrolment to secure a place for next academic year. This should be completed along with the payment of 5% by 11th April 2022. After this time, we will be opening spaces to new students.

Upcoming Key Dates

Friday 11th March	Great British Street Party
Monday 14th – Thursday 24 th March	STEAM Week
Thursday 17th March	Year 13 parent's evening – information will be sent to Year 13 parents
Saturday 19th March	Farmer's Market
Monday 21 st – Thursday 24 th March	School performances
Wednesday 23 rd March	Parent's Happy Meet with Mr. Nav_9.00-10.00am
Monday 28 th March	Spring Break
Monday 11 th April	Students return to school for Term 3

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



EDUCATION

We see **genius** in every child

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