

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## Secondary Week Ending 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

A big thank you to the parents who attended and supported our Curriculum Information sessions last week. We hope you found these useful and that they enabled you to gain a deeper understanding of the subjects your child studies. Please do refer to last week's Community Catch-Up for the slides from the presentations, and also visit our school website to read our Curriculum Booklets (also in the Community Catch-Up).

### Innovation Launch

Last Friday students took part in Metropole's Innovation Launch. Students had the opportunity to win a 5000aed scholarship towards their school fees through entering into the innovation challenge. It was great to see our students eager to contribute and show their ability to think, design, re-think and evaluate. I look forward to announcing the successful entries.

### Lunch with Nav

A special thanks goes to the students who attended this year's first 'Lunch with Nav' last weekend. Students discussed a series of issues and ideas with our Principal, and below are the updates related to areas of the Prep and Senior Schools:

- Secondary students shared that they are not sure where their lockers are: Our Lead teachers will ensure that this is communicated to students this week during their morning registration time.
- The cost of the school blazer is considered to be too high according to some students in the Senior School: We raised this as an issue with the uniform suppliers in a recent face-to-face meeting.
- Students asked if on a Friday they could have non-school-uniform days: It has been decided that students who feel passionate about this can get involved in designing and launching a campaign which they will then pitch to school leaders.
- Year 10 students shared that they would like to have a local camping trip, like Year 7 and 8 students have. We will be looking into possibilities for this to happen. The Duke of Edinburgh award is also now open to Year 10 and 11 students as well as Year 12 to 13.
- Students asked when the next Week Without Walls will take place: Pre-Covid, this was a week where students experienced activities and school trips. These now happen throughout the year and within our curriculum.



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We see **genius** in every child

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## Traffic

The school has actioned a number of initiatives to ensure drop-off and pick-ups are more convenient and safer. Some of these improvements include: additional drop-off zones, the introduction of Gate 7, improvements to the drop-off area at Gate 6, increased marshals to direct the flow of traffic, and the new one-way system for internal parking. The most recent drop-off and pick-up system within the school has improved the drop-off timing by 5 minutes. To ensure that the drop-off time improves further, please help reduce congestion by dropping children from Year 3 – 13 at the designated drop-off zones so that they can walk themselves into school.

## Attendance

A gentle reminder that it is an expectation that students have at least a 96% attendance to school rate. It is clear that attendance is linked to stronger academic outcomes, and so we expect all students to attend school daily, and on time, unless they are too sick to do so. We will be writing to parents where there are concerns with their son/daughter's attendance. You will also be receiving an automated message if your son/daughter has not attended school in the mornings.

## Parent WhatsApp groups

Please be aware that some parents have raised concern over being part of WhatsApp groups which are making them feel uncomfortable due to the nature of some conversations taking place there. If you have a complaint or feel unhappy with something at the school, please could I encourage you to use an appropriate avenue to voice your concerns, ideas, and suggestions. These are: GEMS Connect via the 'feedback button', contacting our PRE at [pre\\_mts@gemsedu.com](mailto:pre_mts@gemsedu.com), and through your child's Lead teacher. Thank you for your support.

## Upcoming Key Dates (information about these events are in the *Community Catch-Up*)

<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	House election week starts
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Happy Meet with Mr. Nav (Principal) 10:30am - 11:30am online
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Staff INSET (early finish for students)
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Parent coffee morning: University and Careers
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	House Colour day

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

Kind regards,



**Daniella Aschettino**  
Secondary Headteacher



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