

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## Secondary Week Ending 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

This week and last week we were very fortunate to celebrate even more student success! I am always very proud of our Prep and Senior School students, and I enjoy meeting them to talk through their achievements. Three students over the last few weeks have really stood-out, and I'd like to share their stories with you.

### Student Success Stories



#### **Stella Andonova, Year 9: Casual Fridays!**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, Stella presented her 'Casual Fridays' pitch to the Secondary school's leadership team, where she discussed hers and her peers' thoughts about students wearing their own clothes on a Friday to school, as staff already do. Stella was exceptional, making very valid, well-supported, confident points. She really did her peers and the school proud! Well done to Stella; as a result of her pitch and the high standards of uniform across the Prep School, students in Years 7 to 9 will be able to wear casual dress (must be respectable clothing) on Fridays, starting 25<sup>th</sup> November. We hope to see the Senior School follow soon.

#### **Haitham Aljabbari, Year 10: World Robotics Olympiad**

Congratulations to Haitham who took part in the WRO (World Robotics Olympiad) UAE National Qualifiers 2022 and secured 1<sup>st</sup> place! Haitham exhibited his creativity and skills in designing, building and programming a robot that is capable of performing a variety of challenges. Good luck to Haitham and his team members for the next round, which are the finals, taking place in Germany next week.



#### **Tvisha Gambhir, Year 10: Sheikha Fatima Award Winner**



Congratulations to Tvisha who is our Sheikha Fatima Award winner for 2022! Tvisha is an excellent all-round student who has demonstrated a keen interest across a wide variety of areas within the school. As well as taking part in many activities, she displays confidence, innovation and hardworking skills. She strives for excellence in all areas. Well done to Tvisha on receiving this prestigious award; she will now become an ambassador for the Sheikha Fatima Award to inspire other female students at Metropole School.

If there is something your son/daughter has achieved out of school that you feel proud of, please share this with me, their Head of Year, or their Lead teacher. Some students are very modest and do not always inform us of their good news, so please do keep us posted.

### GEMS Parent Survey

A big thank you to the parents who completed the GEMS parent survey, we really appreciate your feedback and it has been nice to read lovely comments from you. For parents who have left a negative review, be rest assured that your feedback is being logged for our 'actions for improvement'. A gentle reminder to not use the survey as a means to vent – we have channels in place to help with this, and I'd like to thank the parents who are using these effectively. A score of 9 or 10 shows you are happy with the school, and anything below displays as a 'detractor'.

In the last parent survey, the following comments were shared by some parents, and I'd like to take this opportunity to update you with what we have done to address these areas:

**“Sports offerings – not enough being offered to students”**

- House Sports Competitions create opportunities for students to represent their house in a variety of sports
- Introduction of extended squads and additional training for students in Primary and Secondary. All students have the opportunity to trial in a range of sports.
- Enhanced curriculum in the Prep School, with an additional hour of PE a week to promote active lifestyles.

**“More school trips needed for students”**

- The trip offering has been expanded following parent and student feedback.
- The offering now includes a variety of local and international trips, which have been shared in previous letters. The uptake on the trips so far has been excellent, which have included: Eco-Venture for Years 7 and 8, a Year 9 trip to Aventura Adventure Park, work experience trips to Studio City Hotel kitchens, and the upcoming ski trip to Georgia.

**“Teacher Attrition is high – too many teachers leave the school”**

- This has not been the case at the school for some time now, with our teacher attrition being within the average (around 20%) two years ago, to below the average last year (12% for Metropole School).
- Check-out our social media for videos from our teachers who have been with our school for more than 3 years (our *‘teacher spotlight’* feature).

**Upcoming Key Dates**

<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	School photos (over 1 week) – schedule in the Community-Catch-Up
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	Year 9 Careers Day
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>	University/Careers coffee morning – invite in the Community-Catch-Up
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Farmers Market (open to the community) 4pm to 7pm
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Sixth Form Team building day
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	National Day celebrations – activities for students in school time
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Commemoration 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

