

Friday 4th November 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Secondary Week Ending 4th November 2022



What a fun-packed few weeks we have had! Members of our community celebrated the festival of lights - Diwali last week, as a school we kicked-off the Dubai 30x30 fitness challenge (with lots of fun events for the community planned!), our Year 8 students attended the residential trip to Eco-Venture, we marked the *spooky season* by dressing up for Halloween, and we held our first parent-teacher consultation evenings for this academic year for Years 7 and 10. Thank you to our parents for your ongoing support, and whose encouragement and presence at our events is always appreciated.



You will have hopefully read our Principal's newsletter in the *Community Catch-Up* last week, which shared with you information about the upcoming GEMS Parent Survey. We really do listen to your feedback and have been working hard to address your points for improvement. Our social media pages and the weekly *Community Catch-Up* give you regular updates in terms of what we are doing to make sure our students have the best experience at their school, and I really hope that you feel we are making changes for the better. I have taken the opportunity to outline some key actions that as a Secondary school we have put in place, in response to parental feedback from the May 2022 survey.

'Personalised learning' – parents shared they'd like more information about their child's learning journey.

Personalised Learning is tailoring learning for each students' strengths, needs and interests – including enabling student voice and choice in what, how, when and where they learn. What does this look like at Metropole School?

- Targeted interventions: for students who are under achieving in a subject or particular area of learning
- Interest-based learning: teachers implement activities that will interest students and motivate them
- Differentiated activities: teachers have detailed plans that are differentiated (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum tasks). These vary in difficulty and challenge students at different levels
- Data driven planning: teachers complete a number of assessments which they use to ensure lessons are pitched at the correct level and tailored for individuals and groups of learners
- Student voice: students are given the opportunity to choose the level that they should be working at, whilst being encouraged to aim high

What we have done to improve personalised learning and parental understanding of it:

- Parent 'Secondary Assessment' workshop which enabled parents to look deeply at our assessment and reporting procedures
- Gifted and Talented parents evening to highlight the process of how students are identified as Gifted and Talented, outlining of how their needs are catered for and how they are challenged further
- Lots of staff training on interventions and strategies to cater for all students' needs
- Putting in place intervention classes after school for GCSE and A-Level students



EDUCATION

We see **genius** in every child

GEMS Metropole School - Motor City
Honscho Road, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

+971 4 550 7200

registrar_mts@gemsedu.com

gemsmetropoleschool-dubai.com

'Preparing students for the future' – parents said that their children are not being adequately prepared for their future, and here is what we have been working on:

- We start the careers process from Year 9 – many schools start this in Year 12!
- All students in Year 9 up have access to Unifrog online (a website that helps students plan their future) so they can start building their profile early-on
- Students in Year 9 up have access to a careers' counsellor to support with option choices and university applications/decisions
- Students have access to opportunities in the work place, such as VIP SNKRs and a chef-cooking workshop
- A variety of university and careers fairs take place for students and parents
- Timetabled lessons such as 'Learning to Lead' and 'Enrichment - Careers' for students in Years 7-10 provide skills and preparation needed to make academic and career based choices

'Student wellbeing' – parents feel that we could be doing more for their child's wellbeing. This is what we have been working on:

- We have introduced the PERMAH model (positive emotion, engagement, relationships, health – leading to the accomplishment of wellbeing) across the school
- Wellbeing student leaders have been recruited across the school
- Ms. McClean is responsible for focusing on and improving student-wellbeing
- Assemblies are dedicated to wellbeing areas
- Staff mentors have been introduced for specific students to support their wellbeing
- The *Happiness Room* has been launched for students to socialise, make friends, and play games at break
- Dedicated LEAD time each week is focused on wellbeing activities ('Wellbeing Wednesdays')

When completing our next survey, please do keep in mind all that we are doing to respond to feedback. There will be some requests we are unable to action, but we hope our reasons for this are well-explained and that you always feel you have a voice and an avenue to share ideas and/or complaints. I am really enjoying meeting parents in person now that covid restrictions have been lifted, and I hope to meet many more of you this term.

Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 7th - Friday 18th November	Mock examinations begin (Year 11-13 students)
Monday 7th - Friday 14th November	Year 13 study leave – see letter from 6 th Form leadership team
Thursday 10th November	Gifted & Talented parent information evening - invite only
Friday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Monday 14th – Friday 18th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 15th November	Staff INSET afternoon – students leave school at 12:30pm
Wednesday 16th November	Year 12 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening

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

