

9th December 2021

Secondary Week Ending 9th December 2021

Dear Community,

We have come to the end of Term 1 and what a great term it has been! Last week we were lucky enough to experience two fabulous large events – our Farmers Market (the first of three this academic year), which came with a festive twist, and the National Day celebration where students got to embrace UAE culture through food, animals, and music. It was lovely to see the community pull together to ensure parents, staff and students could celebrate together. Students learnt about the heritage and culture of the country that celebrated its 50th year since the nation's founding in 1971.



The excitement doesn't stop there, with a fun-filled January ahead! Please do make a note of the key dates at the end of this letter so that you are aware of the events and activities coming up after the break. We look forward to seeing you at these sessions, events, and celebrations.

This week's highlights

Our wonderful school choir performed on Sunday at the 'Christmas Songs' event. It was a lovely evening which has got us feeling very festive! We are looking forward to hearing more from our choir next term. We also had the end of term Secondary Celebration Assemblies this week, where student achievement was celebrated for each year group. It was brilliant to see the all the success this term – the students have really thrown themselves into the different opportunities on offer to them. These have included: new masterclasses, squad trials, students leadership roles, the themed mornings, and the performing arts.

Preparing students



On Sunday this week we held our first (in-person) university fair since the pandemic for the Senior students (Years 10-13). This gave students the opportunity to speak with university representatives and learn about the different courses on offer to them in the future. Further to this, last week, Year 9 students began the GCSE options process by attending a Careers Day where we had guest speakers talk through their jobs, including the qualifications and work experience they needed to gain to get there.



Year 9s also met with our current Year 10 students to discover more about the GCSE option subjects on offer, ahead of them making their initial selection of subjects ready for next year. This week, Year 9 students started their subject taster sessions, kicking off with Psychology and Media Studies. Through January they will be able to get a taste of the other subjects.

Friends of Metropole

Friends of Metropole is a body of 15 parents which represents the parents/caregivers of the children at Metropole. They work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for Metropole Families. This term they have led on and helped out with a great deal of events, including Pink Day, Diwali, and the Farmers Market. More recently, we have assigned roles for our Friends of Metropole through a self-nomination then voting process. We will be sharing the biographies of the following recruits on our Social Media pages through January:

- Chair: Awais Rehman
- Vice Chair: Zainab Said
- Treasurer: Mariam Ghaznavy
- Arabic/Islamic: Ann Yousri
- School events: Minal Ziade
- Well-being: Prinisha Moodly & Rouba Abou Fakahr
- Social Media: Pamela Karam

Please do not hesitate to contact the team on parent.council_mts@gemsedu.com for any suggestions or if you would like to receive information on volunteering at Metropole School.

January key dates

Sunday 2 nd January	Term 2 begins Squad trials begin
Thursday 6 th January	Meet the Secondary Leadership Team webinar (9am) Friends of Metropole coffee morning – virtual (9:30am)
Friday 7 th – Monday 17 th January	Official AS/A-Level Examinations (Year 12 and 13)
Thursday 13 th January	Innovation Day
w/c Sunday 16 th January	Sustainability Week
Tuesday 18 th January	Year 9 parent-teacher consultation evening
Wednesday 19 th January	Care and Support coffee morning
Sunday 23 rd January	1 Hub meeting (meeting link will be shared)
Tuesday 25 th January	Happy Meet (meeting link will be shared) Year 9 and 11 Options Evenings (more information to follow)
Thursday 27 th January	International Day
Saturday 29 th January	Farmers Market

As always, I welcome your feedback - about this letter, or any aspect of your child's experience with us:
d.aschettino_mts@gemsedu.com

Have a safe and restful holiday, and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards,



Daniella Aschettino
Secondary Headteacher

