

Welcome back one and all! We hope that you and the family had a good break and feel refreshed to begin this final term of the year. This week we have noticed a real change in the temperature. Given this, please encourage your child to bring a water bottle to school each day and, if they wish to play outside on the astro-turf, a school hat also. Once the temperature reaches a certain level, then the astro-turf will be out of bounds and alternative break and lunch arrangements will follow.

Curriculum news: we hope that the following gives a flavour of this week's studying in secondary . . .

Non Native Arabic: Year 9 learned about months of the year (شهُورُ السَّنَةِ); Year 8 learned about the Arab islands (الجزر العربية); Year 7 learned about various Animals (الحيوانات).

Art: Pupils have been learning how to render buildings in 3D using 2 point perspective, after which they will be presenting their designs in class as of next week.

Computing: Year 7 completed our sorting and filtering data in Excel spreadsheets, Year 8 recorded sound effects in preparation for next week's sound manipulation lesson using Audacity. Year 9 began work on an undersea themed multi-layered flash animation sequence. Some excellent examples of work have been produced so far.

English: all English classes in secondary this week have been focusing on grammar, especially possession and omission apostrophes and their use in formal and informal language, as well as homophones. We are focusing on handwriting since iGCSE examinations are hand written and legibility is essential, as well as encouraging language games as alternatives to electronic devices and virtual realities; speaking with each other face to face and game playing help develop high level social skills!

French & Spanish: Year 7 have been revising telling the time; Year 8 developed strategies to help them with their speaking skills; Year 9 have been developing their scanning and skimming skills to help them read more challenging texts in French. Please note that all classes have Unit Tests next week. Year 7 Spanish students have been continuing with their 'School' topic, while Year 8 students have studied how to discuss eating habits at school.

Geography: Year 7 completed their 'Glaciation' Unit and are now studying 'Rivers'. Year 8 are moving from 'Weather' to 'Climate and Ecosystems'. Year 9 are finalising their China case study and will compare development with the USA.

History: Year 7 began a new topic - Imperial China – and looking at some of famous dynasties, rulers, places and inventions from that country. Year 8 have studied extracts from Engels' "The Condition of the Working Class in England" whilst studying housing, waste and disease in Victorian Britain. Year 9 are studying Operation Barbarossa and finding out about the largest conflict of the 20th Century.

Native Islamic: الصف السابع يدرسون موضوعاً مهماً عن حقبة تاريخية مهمة في حياة المسلمين وهي صلح الحديبية، وفتح مكة أسبابه ونتائج. الصف الثامن يدرسون جانباً من حياة الرسول الكريم محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم كونه أباً وجداً، كيف كان يتعامل مع بناته وأحفاده، كيف يربيهم ويعلمهم أمور دينهم وديناهم. الصف التاسع يدرسون درساً عن أدلة وحدانية الله تعالى في الكون.

Maths: Year 7 Aloe completed their topic on Decimals and Powers of 10. Year 8 Jasmine completed a unit of work on Area and Volume. Year 9 have studied circle theorems – an iGCSE topic. Year 7 Cinnamon studied Algebra in preparation for a unit test on Sunday. Year 8 Orchid completed their data work in preparation for a unit test on Sunday.

Music: Year 7 studied Music and Maths, looking at different note values and how to group short notes together into whole beats. They also created their own 4 beat rhythms and played them. Year 8 began to identify different parts of the stave using the correct terminology and revised the names of the notes. They composed their own short rhythms too. Year 9 studied basic guitar skills, playing the chords of G, C and D major and playing a Beatles classic.

PE: All students are working indoors this term starting with Basketball. In Swimming the students are training for Aquathlon. Please remember to bring a drink with you to PE and Swimming – the pool area gets particularly hot and swimmers still sweat!

Science: Year 7 are investigating the earth and the solar system, including the sun and how it affects the seasons and weather, as well as the lunar cycle and how it affects the tides. Year 8 are investigating sound and hearing, looking at how different shapes affect frequency and analysing oscilloscope traces to identify differences in frequency and amplitude. Year 9 have studied gravity and how it affects objects of different mass, as well as how the force of gravity varies as objects move apart.

Social Studies: Our first week of Term 3 Social Studies with Year 9 finds the children connecting modern society in the UAE to an event from the past. We are looking at how history has shaped modern societal norms in the Emirates.

Advance Notice:

Summer Examinations for secondary students will take place between 27th May and 11th June 2015.

Dubai Expo 2020 Competition

We are encouraging our students to enter the Dubai Expo logo competition:

<https://expo2020dubai.ae/logocompetition/en/>

We kindly ask for your support in this matter since parents will need to register on their child's behalf since entries from schools are not accepted. This represents a great opportunity for someone to make their mark on one of the biggest events in the UAE's history since the winning logo will appear on all Expo communications and be seen by millions of people. The students will be working on this in school, but will also need some time at home to complete their designs. We look forward to seeing some great logos!

Secondary Scientists . . .

