

News from Secondary: A huge thank you to all who contributed to and supported the Winter Souk and Tea Party. Our school was busy and buzzing last Thursday as we gathered together to enjoy some time in each others' company at the end of the day. What a lovely end to the week!

Curriculum News: We hope that the following gives a flavour of some of our recent studying :

Arabic Non Native and Native: Year 9 learned New neighbour - Jar jaded - جار جديد

Year 8 learned Ala' Ad-Din and the Sea - Ala' Ad-Din wa al-bahr - علاء الدين والبحر

Year 7 learned The broken vase - Al Zahrya maksoura - الزهرية المكسورة

Art & DT: All students have been preparing arts and crafts for the winter souk. Pupils have been painting and decorating glass jars to make winter tea lights. We have been printmaking to make Arabian themed cards of camels, deserts foxes, mosques and forts to sell at the winter souk. We have been decorating banners with paper cut and stencil printed snowflakes to display around the courtyard.

English: Year 7 have been preparing to write a review of a short story. The skills they have been learning are finding quotations and using them in their own writing. They have also completed an extended piece of autobiographical writing. Year 8 have been writing up their newspaper stories on a topic of their choice. The skill they have focused on is using sensationalised words to make a story more interesting. They have also completed their Shakespeare literary criticism assignment. In Drama Year 8 have reviewed their work on Romeo and Juliet this term, watching their performances and understanding how to level in Drama. Year 9 in English have designed and made coasters and book marks for the Winter Souk. They completed writing up their speeches on an aspect of animal welfare. In Drama Year 9 students performed their adverts for a holiday to Europe.

French & Spanish: Year 7 have been looking at how to use regular -ER verbs in the present tense and making word cards to help them learn them. Parents should see these word cards appearing at home! Year 8 have started to learn to talk about things they did in the past using the 'perfect' tense and are creating posters to help them learn the formation. Year 9 are discussing what they would like to do in the future after they leave school. They are coming up with some interesting ideas! Year 9 Spanish students have been learning how to describe a person's appearance and say something about their personality.

History: Year 7 have been studying the Black Death; examining its causes, what people thought of it at the time and its effect on Europe. Year 8 have been continuing their study of the Slave Trade and have been creating work on the 'Middle Passage'. Year 9 acted out the Treaty of Versailles, taking on the roles of Britain, France and the USA; analysing their motives and examining what they got out of the conference.

Islamic: Y7 learned about Islamic morality: how you obey your parents and how this important in Islam; Y8 learned about Prophet Suleiman's death; Y9 learned about the spreading of Islam in the Roman Empire.

Maths: Year 7 have focused on probability and angles; year 8 have looked at shape and constructing frequency tables; Year 9 have worked on their quadratic equations. They have successfully completed their units for this term.

PE: basketball has been the focus for the girls in secondary, while football has been the focus for the boys. Specifically, improving shooting skills and teamwork have been concentrated on

Science: Year 7 have investigated fossil fuels. They have looked at the formation of coal, oil and natural gas and will go on to compare and contrast how we use fossil fuels in everyday life; they will explore whether or not there are any alternatives to using fossil fuels to make energy. Year 8 are studying heat and heat transfer through matter in different states. They will be studying conduction in different solids, looking at differences in heat transfer rates in metals and non-metals. Year 9 are studying energy and electricity, consolidating some knowledge on circuits and circuit diagrams, after which they will move on to using resistors and measuring voltage and current.

Social Studies: This week Year 9 Non-Native Social Studies has been finishing various tasks to wrap up Term 1. They have created UAE A-Z library books which will be gifted to children in the lower years, designed ceremonial coins for the UAE and decided on the key ingredients that build a successful culture and society in the United Arab Emirates. Also, they have been focusing on the UAE in the news and seeking to identify Time's Person of the Year for the UAE. Stay tuned to find out which UAE citizen Year 9 has chosen as the Person of the Year for 2014!

Secondary Bake Off : Our Bake Off continues – the grand total from these will be revealed in the New Year. Watch this space!

Monies raised will go to charity. Thank you all for your support.

Year 9 Movie Nights: These began with a showing of 'Transformers'. Thank you Mr Turner and Year 9 for this.

Winter Souk and Tea Party :

This took place on Thursday 11th December between 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm at the school. The school was full! We enjoyed spending time together, having a cup of tea and eating a cake or two. A special thank you to Ms Stephanie for preparing all the savoury and sweet items distributed as a thank you at the end of the day, and to the other parents who brought in iced cookies, cup cakes and mince pies to share as part of the tea party. Thank you too goes to the Year 9 Senate for organising various stalls and items for sale; the book marks, coasters, candle holders and various home made cards and prints were impressive.

The Great Secondary Challenge:

Our secondary students took part in a Inter-House Battle of the Brains. Quartz were victorious on this occasion. Well done to all though for participating so well in the challenges. Thank you Miss Allen for organising this.

