



JUMEIRAH COLLEGE SECONDARY SECTION

Newsletter

Head: Mr. Shaun Williams

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Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for this academic year. Newsletters are published during the first week of each month and are intended to provide a means of communication with home on school organisational matters and to share the many good experiences and successes of Jumeirah College students.

New Students

We extended a warm welcome to nearly 200 new students this week as we re-opened after the summer break. As well as the 140 joining year 7 we also had students joining years 8, 9, 10 and 11. Many of the new students were also new to Dubai. We trust that they will have an enjoyable and successful time with us.

New Teachers

As we start our fifth year of existence and the College continues to grow in size, I am pleased to be able to say that we have recruited a full complement of experienced and well-qualified teachers of the English national curriculum. Joining us this term are:

Miss Lindsay Armour (English)
Mrs Yvonne Salisbury (English)
Mr Daniel Kirk (English and Learning Support)
Mr Christopher Dewhurst (Mathematics)
Miss Joanne Davies (Chemistry)
Dr Steven Chalk (Physics)
Mrs Sarah Howling (Head of MFL)
Mrs Rebecca Strawford (MFL)
Mrs Shelley Paterson (MFL)
Miss Anna Finnerty (Geography)
Mr Daniel O'Hara (Head of D&T)
Mrs Heather Earley (Head of Learning Support)
Mr Russell Wallace (Art)
Mr Saed Bedir (Arabic)

I have invited these new colleagues to introduce themselves to you in the next edition of the newsletter.

SATs Success

This week we are releasing our first ever set of Key Stage 3 SATs results. Our year 9 students sat these national tests in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science in May and the papers were then sent back to England for marking. We are the only English national curriculum international school in Dubai to use these tests to measure the progress of our year 9 students against national standards and as a predictor of GCSE potential. I am absolutely delighted to be able to say that our students did superbly well and were a credit to the college. The percentage of students in English schools reaching the target level 5 is around 66%. At Jumeirah College 98% of students reached this level in English and Maths and 100% in Science. Just as impressive was the percentage of students reaching level 6 in the SATs. Here the national percentages are well below 50% while our students exceeded 70% in English and 80% in Maths and Science. These results easily place Jumeirah College in the top 5% of English national curriculum schools around the world. Congratulations to all of the students and their teachers for the hard work needed to achieve such success.

GCSE Success

We are also extremely proud of a group of ten year 10 students who sat their Maths GCSE examinations a year early. All of the students gained a grade A or an A*. Congratulations to them all. This group will now go on to study Mathematics at AS level in year 11.

Media Awareness

At the end of last term year 7 students were treated to a lively and interesting talk about the media from the Channel 33 television presenter Shahnaz Pakravan, who is one of our parents. Mrs Pakravan's talk drew not only on her experiences here in Dubai but also from her former roles in the UK, which included presenting Tomorrow's World.

Sheikh Mohammed Fitness Programme



In the final assembly of last term Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Saif Dahdn presented certificates and kit bags to 70 students who successfully completed the Sheikh Mohammed Fitness Programme. Well done to everyone who took part. The purpose of the programme was to raise fitness awareness and to help develop good exercise habits and healthy eating at an early age.

Road Safety

In order to ease traffic congestion at the main gates may I remind parents of years 9, 10 & 11 students that they are to drop off and pick up at the rear gate. Thank you for your co-operation.

Shaun Williams

Duke of Edinburgh Award



During the final week of last term, 13 year ten students travelled to Mauritius with Mrs Berg and Mr Marfleet to complete the Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Silver Expedition.

The Expedition requires all participants to take complete responsibility for the planning of the expedition route and equipment. Prior to leaving Dubai the participants spent a great deal of time studying their map and preparing their equipment for the different climatic conditions and terrain of the island.

Upon arrival in Mauritius the group spent the first day finalising their equipment and route details. Then, it was off to a local restaurant for the last decent meal and to get to know the local

Mauritian students who were joining our groups for the expedition.

The expedition itself consisted of three days of fairly strenuous walking in very undulating terrain. Participants experienced a full range of climatic conditions from fierce sun to torrential wind and rain. The groups displayed great tenacity - walking an average of 18km for each of the three days.

Amongst the participants there was a range of prior expedition experience. The majority of the group have completed their Bronze level expeditions and also a practice Silver Expedition, but for some this was their first taste of real trekking. Regardless of experience, however, every member of the group successfully completed this expedition.

Following the expedition, the group was able to spend two days relaxing and recovering in the resort town of Grand Baie. Here we stayed in very comfortable apartments, protected from the elements and were able to enjoy hot showers and freshly cooked meals!

Overall, our first international Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition was a great success. It is hoped that as the number of Award participants continues to increase, future expeditions will be even bigger and better.



J. Marfleet
Head of Outdoor Education

Dates for Your Diary

A full list of the dates for this term should arrive home with this newsletter.

10 Sept	KS3 SATs results issued
10 Sept	School photographs
13 Sept	School photographs
15 Sept	Year 7 Parents Information Evening (7.00pm)
20-23 Sept	Subject award assemblies
24 Sept	Ascension of Holy Prophet (pbuh) (school closed) *
29 Sept	Year 8 Parents Information Evening (7.00pm)
1 Oct	Year 7 Wild Wadi trip
* to be confirmed	