

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



The World Health Organisation (WHO) recognises World Mental Health Day on 10th October every year. The theme for this year was 'Make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority'.

A recent survey, conducted internationally, reporting a sharp rise in the number of young people referred by schools for mental health treatment saddened me, but didn't come as a huge surprise. We have also experienced an increase in the number of students speaking to staff about feeling anxious. That in itself has not caused undue concern: what is important is recognising that anxiety is part of

modern life and dealing with it effectively. Our strong pastoral care structure is well-equipped to meet the need.

What is behind this rise? One of the reasons put forward is increasing awareness among teachers. In our school, I am pleased that the close pastoral relationship we foster with students means that they feel confident enough of teachers' understanding and support to ask for help.

The fact we've experienced an increase just ahead of exam time is fairly understandable. Other causes are often situational, like a family illness or bereavement. Children aged around 13-14 are prone to heightened anxiety, which often coincides with transition through adolescence, when hormonal changes are coupled with a preoccupation with self-identity.

Let us not forget the contribution of social media: the ever-present pressure to look the part and appear to be having great fun in a "switched on," 24/7 world.

At our School, we can never rest on our laurels. Our students can access specialist support through our wellbeing programme which is supported by two qualified Counsellors who act as an advice point for teachers, as well as providing confidential advice and support to students. Staff are trained in how to spot signs of mental health problems and assess their wellbeing, then determine whether external help is required. Needing external help is not a cause for alarm: we firmly believe that early intervention is the best way of preventing more serious problems.

Our staff are also trained in how to reassure and calm an anxious child, how to listen non-judgmentally, and how to suggest self-help strategies. They help students find ways to ease their worries, to make them more resilient and get a sense of balance and proportion. That's reflected in our varied curriculum, which promotes physical exercise, mentoring activities, music, art and drama.

Many studies have shown that a sense of wellbeing is improved by taking part in arts activities. At a time when arts subjects are being squeezed out of curriculums, I'm delighted that our long-held belief in the value of creativity and innovation has resulted in our curriculum being packed with opportunities for students to express themselves and explore their feelings and emotions through art, design, music, role play, sports, debates and discussions.

Communication is the key to maintaining well-being. It doesn't matter whether you're four or 14, speaking to someone about concerns is the first, vitally important, step towards getting help. The classroom collaboration we encourage throughout the school, coupled with individual help and support from teachers and regular communication with home, is central to that.

Good communication is also essential if we are to continue to provide the right mental health and wellbeing support to meet students' needs. To that end, our mental health survey asks students about their life in school, whether they have a good network of friends, and about how they relieve any worries.

We believe strongly that a positive and supportive environment provides the best setting for young people to thrive. We also believe that an ongoing three-way dialogue between students, teachers and home is the best way to help young people develop the resilience and resources to cope with life's challenges.

To know more about the support we provide, or to learn more about our wellbeing programmes, please contact Ms. Simran Siddiqui: <u>simran.s_gms@gemsedu.com</u> or Ms. Rhiona Lewis: <u>rhiona.l_gms@gemsedu.com</u>

YSPOT YOUTH PODCAST PROGRAM



GMS is excited to announce that Khadija Zakariya was part of the YSPOT podcast internship session offered by GEMS for Life.

The aim of the YSPOT youth podcast program is to enable students to learn from industry experts, get inspired to create and launch their very own podcasts. The podcast series will be hosted on YSPOT, ANGHAMI and Dubai Press Centre.

Congratulations Khadija!!!!



Félicitations!

QUALITY ASSURANCE







A GEMS Inclusion Review was held on Wednesday, 21st and Thursday, 22nd September. The Review Team was led by Mr. Philip Thompson, GEMS Corporate Head of Inclusion. This review conducted a quality check to ensure that all students receive the support they need to, feel highly valued for their contributions, engage purposefully in learning and experience academic, cultural, social and emotional success in a common learning environment.

Beyond!

To Inclusion...

NMS MUN



Lakshmi Anand of Grade 8G2 won the Honorable Mention Award at the NMS MUN Conference 2022.

Congratulations Lakshmi! Continue to keep the GMS flag flying high!

1ST INTER SCHOOL MODERN HINDI MAHOTSAV COMPETITION

SAAMUHIK KAVITA GAAN - 3RD PRIZE WINNERS

- 1) Mehwish Nadeem Abdul Nadeem (3A)
- 2) Anvi Shreyas Patil (3A)
- 3) Kautilya Vivek Jethwa (3A)
- 4) Lakshin Menkudale (3E)
- 5) Sowjanya Gokul (4G)
- 6) Rishika Purohit (4G)
- 7) Falisha Zameer (4G)
- 8) Palak Sharma (4G)
- 9) Syeda Umaima (4G)
- 10) Jenita George (4G)
- 11) Saanvika Srinivas (4G)
- 12) Aryan Alpesh (3 C)



NUKKAD NATAK - 1ST PRIZE WINNERS

Siddhant Seth- 6B
Anushka Thakur 6G
Mohd. Ibrahim Siddique -6B
Jay Jiger Pandya -5B
Hiba Masoodi -6G
Avika Singh - 5G1
Aadya Goel -6G
Sofiya Jushiddi- 5G
Muhammed Haziq Hakeem - 6B
Mohammed Rayyan-6B
Chitra Gupta- 5G



WE SOAR WITH PRIDE – OVERALL CHAMPIONS!



CHABOOTARE PAR PANCHAYAT - 1ST PRIZE WINNERS

Mehak Seth (Student- 12G2)
Mrs. Bhavna Seth (Parent)
Mrs. Neeraj Singh (Teacher)



Huge congratulations and a massive shout out to the Hindi Department and our students on winning the Overall Trophy at the 1st Inter School Modern Hindi Mahotsav Competition organized by GEMS Modern Academy Dubai, on Saturday,1st October, 2022.

Students participated in the following categories:

Saamuhik Kavita Gaan (Grades 3 & 4) , Nukkad Natak (Grades 5 & 6) Tark / Vitark (Grades 9 &10) , Chabootare par Panchayat (Grades 11 &12)

BELIEVE BIGGER AIM HIGHER !!



A big round of applause to Shreyas Sreejit of Grade 8B who presented his innovation - La Vie at I CAN organized by GEMS Modern Academy, Dubai on Saturday, October 1, 2022. He was awarded the Most Innovative Award! A proud moment indeed! Congratulations Shreyas!

NATIONAL GENIUS SEARCH EXAMINATION



Genius



"Nothing is impossible unless you think it is" - Paramahansa Yogananda Congratulations to all our National Genius Search Examination (NGSE) winners!

ASSET TALENT SEARCH – GOLD SCHOLAR



GMS SPARKIE CHAMPS

Ei Mindspark

E Mindspark



Afrah Sadiq 4 BG GEMS Millennium School

TOP SCORER OF SPARKIE POINTS IN YOUR CLASS

In the month of September 2022 for MS MATH







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TOP SCORER OF SPARKIE POINTS IN YOUR CLASS

In the month of September 2022 for MS MATH

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Kushark Jaiswal Head - International Sales



Ei Mindspark





Ei Mindspark





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TOP SCORER OF SPARKIE POINTS IN YOUR CLASS

In the month of September 2022 for MS MATH

Kushark Jaiswal

Mental Health Awareness Week at GMS













WHAT DOES MENTAL HEALTH MEAN?

Mental health is an individual's cognitive, behavioral and emotional wellbeing. It's something we all have - including every child and young person.

We use the term "mental health issues" to refer to mental health problems, conditions and mental illnesses. These issues may or may not be medically diagnosed.

COMMON WARNING SIGNS OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES INCLUDE:

- sudden mood and behavior changes
- self-harming
- •unexplained physical changes, such as weight loss or gain
- sudden poor academic behavior or performance, drop in attendance.
- sleeping problems
- changes in social habits, such as withdrawal or avoidance of friends and family.

Note: These signs suggest that a child may be struggling, but there could be a number of different explanations for them.

Don't attempt to diagnose mental health issues, rather respond appropriately.

•**KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR SIGNS OF ABUSE** – Please familiarize yourself with the <u>GMS Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy</u>. For signs of abuse refer to pages (P. 13 – 15).

When you notice any of the signs and symptoms, immediately refer to the counsellors.

NE'VE GOT

YOUR BACK

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