



DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL
 RAWDAT CAMPUS

Secondary School Weekly Information Letter Thursday 14th September 2023

Dear Parents,
 Please find below, information pertinent to the Secondary section of DBS Rawdat Al Hamama.

Dates for you Diary

Date	Event
Sunday 24 th September	ECA Season 1 Starts
Thursday 5 th October	Poetry day
Tuesday 10 th October	IGCSE Students Geography Field Trip
Wednesday 11 th October	Year 8 Parents Evening
Sunday 15 th October – Wednesday 18 th October	Doha Expo Visits (Year groups TBC)
Thursday 19 th October	International Day
Wednesday 18 th October	Year 9 Parents Evening
Sunday 22 nd October – Thursday 26 th October	Half Term – School Closed

Secondary School Teaching Staff – Email Contact

Please find below the e-mail contacts of all the secondary school staff and support services.

	First Name	Surname	Role	Email address
Senior Leadership	Marcus	Thomas	Assistant Head of Secondary: Curriculum and Operational	Marcus.thoms@dbsrawdat.com
	Paula	Lorente	Assistant Head of Secondary: Students Wellbeing and Safeguarding	Paula.lorente@dbsrawdat.com
Languages	Alberto	Rosas	Modern Foreign Language Teacher	alberto.rosas@dbsrawdat.com
	Carlos	Greene	Modern Foreign Language Teacher	carlos.greene@dbsrawdat.com
	Medhat	Soliman	Subject lead Arabic and Islam	Medhat.soliman@dbsrawdat.com
	Ahmed	Gad	Arabic & Islam Teacher	Ahmed.gad@dbsrawdat.com
Mathematics	Zainab	Yunis	Mathematics Teacher	Zainab.yunis@dbsrawdat.com
	Elizabeth	Winstanley	Mathematics Teacher	elizabeth.winstanley@dbsrawdat.com
English	Tom	Dearden	English Teacher	Tom.dearden@dbsrawdat.com
	Salina	Hirani	Secondary English Teacher	Salina.hirani@dbsrawdat.com
Physical Education	Raina	Omar	Physical Education Teacher	raina.omar@dbsrawdat.com
	Terence	Dias	Physical Education Teacher and ECA Coordinator	Terence.dias@dbsrawdat.com
	Hannah	Nash	Physical Education Teacher	Hannah.nash@dbsrawdat.com
	Hussein	Alkhalaf	Physical Education Teacher	hussein.alkhalaf@dbsrawdat.com
Science	Katie	Bryan	Science Teacher	katie.bryan@dbsrawdat.com
	Ala	Mekhafia	Science Teacher	ala.mekhafia@dbsrawdat.com
	Aizaz	Jan	Science Teacher	aizaz.jan@dbsrawdat.com
Computer Science	Kieran	Thomas	ICT/Computer Science Teacher	kieran.thomas@dbsrawdat.com
English as Additional Language	Radwa	Elghazawy	English as Additional Language Teacher	radwa.mahmoud@dbsrawdat.com
	Shommari	Waseme	Geography Teacher	Shommari.Waseme@dbsrawdat.com
Humanities/Geography/History	Christopher	Dobson	Humanities Teacher	Christopher.dobson@dbsrawdat.com
Art	Amina	Sabir	Art Teacher	Amina.sabir@dbsrawdat.com
Design and Technology	Sunainah	Khan	Design and Technology Teacher	sunainah.khan@dbsrawdat.com
Learning Support	Alexander	Whitehead	Learning Support Teacher	Alexander.Whitehead@dbsrawdat.com
Music	Giorgio	De Souza Papini	Music Teacher	giorgio.papini@dbsrawdat.com
Student Wellbeing	Mariam	Whitehead	Wellbeing Counselor	Mariam.Whitehead@dbsrawdat.com
Librarian	Melissa	Aranda	Secondary Librarian	Melissa.aranda@dbsrawdat.com
Receptionist	Micheala	Smit	Reception Desk	info@dbsrawdat.com
IT Support	Ahmed	Ragman	IT Support	itsupport@dbsrawdat.com

Doha British School's ECA Programme - Sign up

All students should by now have received comprehensive details about the ECA (Extra-Curricular Activities) availability. In contrast to the primary school, where students might require assistance from their parents to register for ECAs, in secondary school, the ECA information is initially presented to students for their sign-up, and subsequently shared with parents. This approach allows students to sign up first and then enables parents to engage in discussions with their children about any potential changes or additional ECAs they may wish to explore. Please expect to receive information regarding ECAs for parents no later than Sunday.

Friends of DBS

At DBS, one method we utilize to deepen our connection with the parent community is through the Friends of DBS (FoDBS) initiative. This group brings together parents, educators, and volunteers, working hand-in-hand on projects that aim to enhance the school environment and boost community participation. Throughout the academic year, the FoDBS team organizes a variety of exciting events, including the Winter Bazaar, Spring Fair, International Day, among others. If you're interested in contributing or volunteering in any capacity, please reach out to Mrs. Kelly at felice.kelly@dbsrawdat.com to share your enthusiasm.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to the parents who attended our inaugural primary school coffee morning and have also committed to joining the Friends of DBS group.

Code of Ethics

As a School we have to abide by a code of ethics, published by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education(MOEHE), this sets out the key expectations for all stakeholders.

Below is an excerpt from the MOEHE Code of Ethics for private schools and kindergartens, specifically article 17 (ethical responsibilities of parents towards school). School principals are obliged to inform parents of this important information, hence this communication:

*Our core purpose is that every young person should gain as much as possible from our school, based on our belief that all learners can, need, and want to achieve.
Our vision: To be a vibrant, welcoming international school that provides a first-class class education enabling pupils to thrive within a dynamic, global environment
Our Mission: To prepare all pupils through a relevant, challenging curriculum and well-resourced facilities, to become lifelong learners contributing to a global community.*

1. Spread awareness amongst their children on the importance of education and respect those in charge of the educational process
2. Show positive manner and behaviour and deal respectfully with other school staff
3. Wear a decent and appropriate outfit while visiting the school.
4. Never abuse your position or social status to influence school's decisions.

Of equal importance, of course, is article 14 (ethical responsibilities of teachers towards parents):

1. Provide authentic information about students and their academic progress
2. Integrate the teacher's role with the parents' role in developing up the students' characters
3. Preserve parents' privacy and confidentiality of information
4. Cooperate with parents to promote students' academic progress
5. Maintain honesty, transparency and respect in dealing with parents

The Code of Ethics in full can be found [here](#).

It has always been the case that we take our commitment to professionalism and ethical behaviour very seriously indeed at all times in our school, and the MOEHE Code of Ethics is very helpful in this regard. Similarly, we remain committed to supporting the ongoing development of a harmonious school community, with all members of our DBS Rawdat family engaging with each other purposefully and respectfully at every moment. From experience, however, I also know and understand that there will always be occasions in any academic year when issues arise and when solutions must be sought. I am always proud to be a member of a school community which typically addresses concerns in a spirit of respect and collaboration.

Difference between Learning and Studying

This past Monday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Martyn Stewart (CPsychol) to lead an assembly. With over 15 years of experience in the education sector, Martyn is not only seasoned in social inclusion but is also a chartered psychologist affiliated with the British Psychological Society. He is presently based in Doha and frequently conducts workshops on themes like growth mindset, resilience, and mental well-being, among others. We invited Martyn to share insights with our students about effective study methods and the most impactful approaches to learning. A pivotal takeaway from his session was the concept that if learning is tied to a particular interest, it can serve as a context and a cue for recalling associated memories. We are eager to collaborate with Martyn in the future to enhance our students' well-being and facilitate their learning journey.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Martyn from the staff and students at DBS Rawdat, for his interesting and insightful assembly.



Welcome to Secondary - Handbook

Before the start of this academic year, our admissions office sent a copy of the welcome to the secondary information pack to new parents. In case you did not receive the information pack previously, please find below the link to the document, it contains important information regarding communication procedures, student absences, visiting the site amongst other things. [Welcome to Secondary](#)

Star of the Week

As a school and in line with the 'DBS way' our core purpose is to ensure that every child or young adult, who comes through our doors, gains as much from the experience of being here as possible. We base this on our belief that all learners can, need and want to achieve. We will, therefore, provide the highest standards of teaching and learning together with substantive support for character development. We want our students to complete their education here as well-rounded individuals.

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Whilst students are at DBS, we aim to develop and instil the following values:



Character development does not happen in isolation, for it to be effective, it needs to permeate all layers of your child's education at DBS. Within the classroom we aim to develop and recognise many of the facets of character development. One of the ways we recognise this is through our 'Star of the week'. Each week teachers nominate a student in their class that they feel has exhibited one or more of the character traits we aim to develop. The student(s) who receive the most nominations are awarded our star of the week. Although we normally only have one or two students in each year group who are awarded the Star of the week, many other students are nominated. To celebrate all our students' success, we will share with you through the newsletter all the nominations. If your child has been nominated or has been awarded the Star of the week, then please recognise their success with them.

This week's Stars of the Week are:



For the full list of students who were nominated please use the following link: [Star of the Week](#)

Ongoing reminders

- [Access to E-library for Students – Information on how our students can access the free e-books library from home](#)
- [School Calendar 2023/24 - Calendar 2023/24](#)
- [School Uniform and School Shoes 2023-24](#)

Kind Regards



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