



SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

SECONDARY

NEWSLETTER



WEEKLY ROUND-UP



Ms. Joanne Billington
Assistant Head of
Secondary - Academics

Over the past week, our school community has once again demonstrated incredible resilience, adaptability, and support for one another during a period of uncertainty.

Following the announcement on Monday evening regarding the move to distance learning, our families and pupils responded with positivity, patience, and flexibility at very short notice. I have been incredibly proud of the way our students have continued to engage with their learning, attend lessons, and support each other throughout the week.

At this stage, we have not yet received any further information from the KHDA regarding whether distance learning will continue into next week. As soon as we receive official guidance, we will communicate this with families immediately.

I would also like to thank our parents and guardians for their continued support and understanding. The partnership between home and school has been invaluable in ensuring that learning has continued as smoothly as possible.

As Helen Keller once said, *“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”* This week has truly reflected the strength of our school community and the resilience of our pupils.

ACADEMIC UPDATES

Head of Academic Update



Ms. Scarlett Whistlecroft

Head of Academic
Operations

Invoices from the Finance Team for the upcoming series will be sent out over the coming days. These will outline the courses your child has been entered for, along with the associated costs.

Please note that although the external exams have been cancelled, all fees still remain payable, as the exam boards are still required to process portfolios or extrapolate grades in order to award the qualifications.

We would appreciate payments being made in a timely manner. If you have any questions regarding payments, please contact the Finance Team. If you have any questions about the courses your child has been entered for, please contact Scarlett Whistlecroft at scarlett.whistlecroft@southview.ae.

We hope portfolios are progressing well. With the move to online learning, we have revised the schedule accordingly. We understand this period has presented a number of challenges, but please be assured that we are all working hard to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children.

Thank you for your continued support.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

PASTORAL UPDATE



Mr. Michael Macdonald

Assistant Head of
Secondary - Pastoral

This week has brought a level of disruption and uncertainty that has not been easy for anyone. What has been noticeable across the school is how our community has responded.

Character is not shown when everything is straightforward. It is shown in the small decisions made each day when routines are disrupted and expectations still need to be met. Attending lessons consistently, completing work properly, supporting others and maintaining standards without being prompted. That is what sits at the centre of what we expect.

Doing the right thing when no one is watching comes down to integrity. It is about making the correct choice regardless of whether there is immediate accountability. At times like this, when systems and structures are different, that becomes even more important.

There has been a clear sense of resilience across the school this week. Students continuing to engage with their learning. Staff adapting and maintaining expectations. Families supporting from home while managing their own commitments. It has not been perfect, but the willingness to keep going and to stay focused has been clear. The message remains consistent. Keep showing up. Keep meeting expectations. Keep doing the right thing. These habits matter, particularly when things are not as straightforward as usual.

Recommendation of the week: *The Art of Resilience* by Ross Edgley. The book follows his record breaking swim around Great Britain and offers a clear perspective on discipline, mindset and persistence over a sustained period of challenge.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

6th FORM and CAREERS UPDATE



Mr. Carl Burgess
Head of Sixth Form

AI-Smart, Not AI-Dependent

Helping Students Use Artificial Intelligence Responsibly

Artificial Intelligence is now part of everyday life for many sixth form students. From revision support and summarising notes to creating quizzes and explaining difficult concepts, AI can be a powerful learning tool when used appropriately.

The conversation in education is no longer “*Should students use AI?*” but “*How can students use it responsibly without becoming dependent on it?*”

Used well, AI can:

- explain concepts clearly,
- support revision,
- help organise study,
- and encourage independent learning.

However, there is growing concern about over-reliance. Reading a strong AI-generated answer can sometimes create the *illusion* of understanding without students actually practising the thinking themselves.

Real learning comes from:

- making mistakes,
- practising retrieval,
- planning responses,
- and thinking critically.

These are the skills that build confidence in examinations and prepare students for university.

Universities are also placing increasing importance on distinctly human skills such as communication, problem-solving, creativity, and critical thinking — skills that AI cannot easily replace.

Students should aim to use AI to *support* learning rather than replace it.

A useful question to ask is:

“Is this helping me learn — or helping me avoid learning?”

The students who will thrive in the future will not necessarily be those who avoid AI completely, but those who learn how to use it thoughtfully, responsibly, and alongside genuine understanding.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE



Mr. Ryan Bladen

Assistant Head of Secondary
Data and Assessment

Upcoming GL Assessments

Students in Years 7-10 (Years 7, 8, 9 and 10) are scheduled to complete their GL assessments in the week beginning Monday 18th May. At present, we are awaiting confirmation from KHDA as to whether these assessments will proceed as planned this academic year, given the recent period of distance learning.

Once confirmation has been received, we will share further details with parents. In the meantime, we are continuing to prepare on the basis that the assessments will take place during this week. The current schedule is as follows: English on Monday, Mathematics on Tuesday, and Science on Wednesday (Science assessments will be for Years 8, 9 and 10 only).

Revision materials will be shared by our Core Subject Leaders, and preparation for these assessments is already taking place within lessons.

We encourage all students to engage fully with this preparation to ensure they are confident and ready.

ENTERPRISE AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



Miss Elizabeth Charlton
Head of Enterprise and
Technology

Students are now preparing for assessments across Y10-Y12 in all subjects. We encourage students to use all revision resources on Teams, as well as Brainscape to practice key terms and definitions. Past papers are always the best form of revision to build understanding of exam questions and mark schemes.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

LITERACY UPDATE



Mr. David Archibald
Head of English &
Literacy Coordinator

LITERACY UPDATE

Author in Focus: Maha Gargash

This newsletter, we are shining a spotlight on some of the most exciting voices in contemporary literature. This week, we are celebrating **Maha Gargash** — one of the UAE's most celebrated novelists and a pioneering voice in Emirati fiction.

Born and raised in Dubai, Gargash studied in the United States before returning to the UAE, where she has dedicated her writing to bringing Emirati culture, tradition, and identity to a global audience. Her novels offer a rare and intimate window into Gulf family life, the tension between tradition and change, and the experiences of women navigating a rapidly modernising world.

Key Work:

The Sand Fish (KS4 & KS5) — Set in 1950s Arabia, this is the story of Noora, a young Emirati woman navigating an arranged marriage and a life she did not choose. Rich in historical detail and written with warmth and sensitivity, it is a beautifully crafted portrait of a world that has now largely disappeared. An ideal read for students interested in history, culture, and the power of the human spirit.

Why Read Her? Gargash writes about the world right on our doorstep — its history, its people, and its traditions. Reading her work helps us understand the rich cultural heritage of the UAE and reminds us that the most powerful stories are often the ones closest to home.

The Sand Fish is available in bookshops across the UAE.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

MATHS UPDATE



Ms. Jo Griffin
Head of Maths

Last Week's Puzzle – Solution

The answer is **10 handshakes**.

Here is the breakdown:

- The **1st person** shakes hands with **4** others.
- The **2nd person** has already shaken the 1st person's hand, so they have **3** new people to shake hands with.
- The **3rd person** has **2** new people left.
- The **4th person** has **1** new person left.
- The **5th person** has already shaken everyone's hand!

Calculation: $4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 10$. (In maths, this is part of a pattern called 'Triangular Numbers'!)

The Power of Visualisation: Moving Beyond the Abstract

As students move through the Mathematics curriculum, they often encounter concepts that feel increasingly abstract. One of the most effective pieces of advice for parents is to encourage your child to "**sketch the problem**." Whether it is a complex algebraic identity, a trigonometric function, or a probability tree, the ability to translate words and symbols into a visual model is a hallmark of a high-level mathematician.

When students hit a "mental block," it is usually because they are trying to hold too many variables in their working memory. Encourage them to draw it out—even if it's just a rough diagram. This process of **dual coding** (using both words and images) helps cement the logic in the long-term memory. Next time they are stuck on a homework problem, instead of asking "What is the answer?", try asking: "*What does this look like on paper?*"

The Quote

"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas." — *Albert Einstein*

Maths Joke of the Week

Q: Why did the student get upset when their teacher called them "average"?

A: Because it was a **mean** thing to say!

The Family Challenge: "The Chessboard Square Puzzle"

Most people look at a standard 8x8 chessboard and see 64 squares. But if you consider squares of *all* sizes (1x1, 2x2, 3x3, and so on), how many are there in total?

Hint: Don't count them one by one! Look for a pattern. The number of 1x1 squares is 8^2 (64), and the number of 2x2 squares is 7^2 (49). Keep that logic going until you reach the single 8x8 square!

How to Help at Home

- **The "Fermi Problem" Game:** Ask questions that seem impossible to answer exactly, like "*How many liters of water are in that swimming pool?*" or "*How many hairbrushes are sold in the city every year?*" This teaches "Fermi Estimation"—breaking a massive problem into logical, smaller guesses.
- **Measurement Conversion in the Kitchen:** When following a recipe, ask your child to convert units on the fly. "*If the recipe calls for 250ml but our jug is in fluid ounces, roughly how much do we need?*" This builds fluency between different systems of measurement.
- **Percentage "Mental Hacks":** At a restaurant or shop, teach them the 10% rule. To find 15%, find 10% (move the decimal point), halve it to get 5%, and add them together. It's a fast, non-calculator way to handle finances.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students become versatile, real-world problem solvers!

The SVS Mathematics Department

SPECIALIST UPDATES

SCIENCE UPDATE



Mr. Philip Mutton
Head of Science

For something a little more interactive, we recommend exploring the PhET Interactive Science Simulations, which provide engaging virtual experiments on topics such as circuits, energy, and forces: [PhET Interactive Science Simulations](#)

This week we have transitioned back to online learning, and we have been extremely pleased with how well our students have responded. Attendance in science lessons has been consistently strong, and students have shown a positive attitude, engaging well with their teachers and completing work to a high standard. Online learning presents its own challenges, but our pupils have demonstrated resilience, independence, and a commitment to maintaining their progress. This is a real credit to both them and the support they are receiving at home.

Your support continues to make a significant difference during this period. Simple strategies at home can really help students stay on track, such as maintaining a consistent daily routine with a quiet workspace, asking your child to explain what they have learned to check understanding rather than just completion, encouraging active revision through quizzes or flashcards rather than passive reading, and allowing them to attempt tasks independently before stepping in to help. If your child is unsure or needs additional support, we strongly encourage them to contact their science teacher who will be happy to provide further guidance and resources.

As a simple way to engage with your child's learning, you might ask them this question at home: "Why does metal feel colder than wood, even when both are at the same temperature?" Encouraging them to explain their thinking is a powerful way to deepen understanding and build confidence.

Try this short family science quiz together:

- What gas do plants take in for photosynthesis?
- Why do we see lightning before we hear thunder?
- What is the main gas found in the air we breathe?
- And for a bonus challenge, why does adding salt to ice make it colder?

These small conversations can make a big difference in reinforcing learning – answer will be in next weeks newsletter!

SPECIALIST UPDATES

MOE Subjects Updates

Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are well.

I would like to share academic update regarding our Secondary Ministry of Education subjects: Arabic, Islamic Education, Social Studies and Moral Education. As we move through this important stage of the academic year, our main focus is to ensure that students continue to make strong academic progress and remain fully prepared for the upcoming revision and assessment period. Whether learning takes place in school or online, our teachers will continue to provide structured lessons, clear guidance, purposeful revision activities and regular support to help students consolidate their learning.

Over the coming period, lessons will focus on reviewing key topics, strengthening important skills, revisiting previous learning and addressing any gaps. Students will be guided through revision tasks, reading and writing activities, vocabulary practice, discussion work, exam-style questions and subject-specific preparation. This will help them approach their assessments with greater confidence and a clear understanding of what is expected.

The upcoming assessments are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate the progress they have made throughout the term. They also help teachers identify students' strengths, areas for development and the next steps needed to support further improvement.

We kindly ask for your support at home by encouraging students to attend lessons on time, engage positively, complete all revision tasks, review their notes regularly and ask their teachers for support when needed. Consistent study habits during this period will make a real difference to students' confidence and achievement. For more detailed instructions and subject-specific guidance, please read the Head of MoE Subjects area, where further information will be shared to support students during the revision and assessment period.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We greatly appreciate your role in helping students remain focused, motivated and well prepared during this important academic period.

Kind regards,

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ISLAMIC

Dear Parents,



MR. Hossam Bekhit
Head of Islamic Studies

Thank you for your continued support in guiding your child throughout their learning journey in Islamic Studies.

Over the past week, students have begun revising for the Term 3 assessments during their Islamic Studies lessons. Please note that the revision materials have been uploaded on Teams.

In the coming week, revision will continue in class to further prepare students. The assessments will commence in the week beginning 18 May for Years 7, 8, 9, and 11, and in the week beginning 1 June for Years 10 and 12, during their first Islamic Studies lesson.

We kindly encourage you to support your child by ensuring they regularly practice their assigned Surahs and review the revision materials provided to prepare effectively for the assessments.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

SOCIAL STUDY



MS Elham Bakry
Head of Social Studies

أولياء الأمور الأفاضل،

تحية طيبة وبعد،

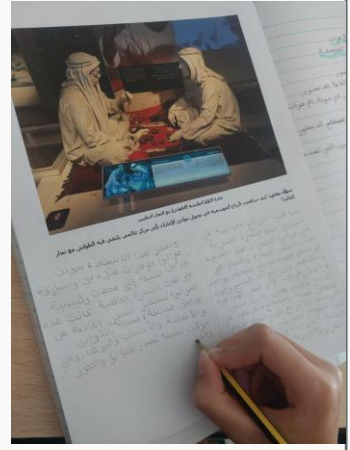
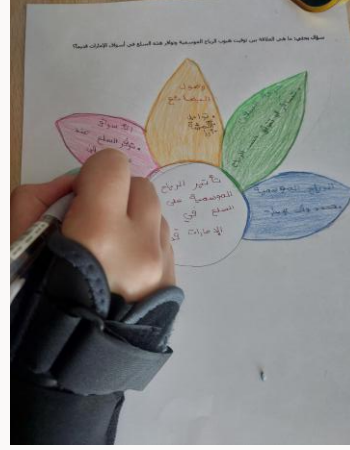
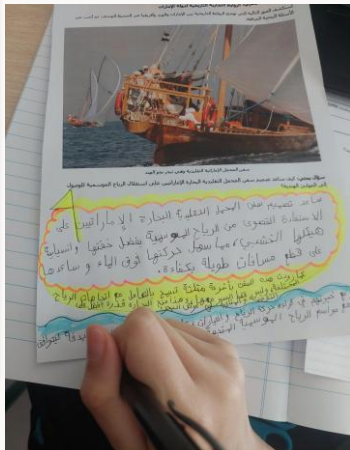
تحتفل دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة في السادس من مايو 2026 باليوبيل الذهبي لذكرى توحيد القوات المسلحة، التي أقيمت عبر تاريخها أنها نموذج مجتهد به في الانضباط والإصرار وروح المسؤولية، كما تأسست على مبادئ الوحدة والولاء للوطن، وأسهمت بدور بارز في حفظ السلام وتعزيز الأمن الإقليمي والدولي.

ومع بداية فترة المراجعات النهائية، بدأ طلاب الصفوف من السابع إلى التاسع الاستعداد للاختبارات التي ستبدأ اعتبارًا من أسبوع 18 مايو، بينما تبدأ اختبارات الصف العاشر في الأسبوع الذي يبدأ من 1 يونيو.

وقد تناول الطلاب خلال المراجعات عددًا من الموضوعات المهمة، منها الرياح الموسمية وتجارة أهل الإمارات، ودورها في تعزيز التواصل التجاري والثقافي وتوثيق العلاقات مع مختلف دول العالم.

كما تم مشاركة جميع أوراق المراجعة والمواد التعليمية الداعمة مع الطلاب عبر منصة **Microsoft Teams**. دعماً لاستعدادهم الأكاديمي وتعزيزًا لجاهزتهم للاختبارات القادمة.

نسعى دائماً إلى تحقيق أفضل مستويات الدعم والتقدم لأبنائنا الطلاب، ونتمن دعمكم المستمر وتعاونكم الدائم مع خالص الشكر والتقدير.



SPECIALIST UPDATES

ARABIC UPDATE



Mrs. Fatima Banafea
Head of Arabic - Secondary.

أسبوع حافل بالتعلّم عبر المنصات الإلكترونية،
وقد كان من الجميل أن نرى مرونة طلابنا
وقدرتهم على الانتقال بسلاسة بين التعلّم
الحضوري والتعلّم عن بُعد
فيما يلي أبرز مستجدات قسم اللغة العربية
لهذا الأسبوع:

O-Level Arabic

All students have **completed** the portfolio tasks.
The tasks will be graded by Cambridge, not by the teachers.

Teaching & Learning: Arabic A

أولياء الأمور الكرام، تحية طيبة وبعد،
نحرص دائمًا على مواصلة دعم أبنائنا أكاديميًا وتعزيز مهاراتهم لتحقيق أفضل مستويات التقدّم.
خلال هذا الأسبوع، ركّز الطلاب على فنّ الرواية والنصّ المعلوماتي، حيث تم تنمية مهارات الفهم، والتحليل، واستخلاص الأفكار الرئيسة، والتعامل مع الأساليب اللغوية المختلفة، وقد أظهر الطلاب تفاعلًا جيدًا أثناء الأنشطة والتطبيقات الصفية.
كما يستعد طلابنا خلال الأسبوع القادم لاختبارات سيين المعيارية، لذا نؤكد أهمية الاستعداد التام، والمتابعة المستمرة لمنصة Microsoft Teams؛ لضمان تقديم الاختبار وفق المعايير المطلوبة وتحقيق أفضل النتائج. نثمن دعمكم المستمر، ونتطلّع إلى استمرار تعاونكم في متابعة أبنائنا وتحفيزهم. مع خالص الشكر والتقدير. المعلمة الهام.

Supporting Your Child at Home

A few minutes of daily Arabic practice can make a big difference. Encourage your child to read aloud, review new vocabulary, and use it in simple sentences. Your support helps build their Confidence,

Teaching & Learning: Arabic B

Dear Parents,
Over the past two weeks, students completed a comprehensive review of Units 3 and 5. They revised key vocabulary and grammar, practised using language structures in writing, and developed their reading, writing, and speaking skills through targeted activities. Next week, students will sit for their External Skills Exams, which will be conducted online and assess all four language skills.
To support your child:
1. Please ensure they bring headphones/earphones for the listening exam
2. Kindly check they have working login access to the exam platform
Thank you for your continued support.. Ms. Mays

Enrichment

Students are encouraged to engage with online platforms to support reading and develop their Arabic language skills.
Arabic A Arabic B
I READ ARABIC I START ARABIC



SPECIALIST UPDATES

MFL UPDATE



Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick
Head of MFL

We are delighted to share that students in MFL have re-engaged with online learning with great enthusiasm. Their positive attitude, active participation, and commitment to their studies have been fantastic to see. It has been especially encouraging to witness students embracing the opportunities provided, supporting one another, and continuing to make strong progress.

For Term 3 in MFL, students in Years 7, 8, and 9 will not have end-of-term assessments. Instead, their report grade will be based on the work completed in lessons, both in school and online.

Year 10 students will be completing assessments in Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking, beginning the week commencing **1st June**.

Year 11 and Year 12 students will also be completing their official speaking assessments the same week:

Y12: 2nd June 2026

Y11: 3rd June 2026

PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE



Mrs. Charlene Rock
Head of Performing Arts

Despite being online, our students are powering through to practise their skills ahead of their term 3 assessments.

Please see the advert about our first meeting for SVS Has Talent 2026! To be held Monday lunchtime whether online or in person. Everyone who would like to be involved should join this meeting and students should check their Teams pages for more information on Monday morning.



PERFORMING ARTS UPDATES

★ SVS Has Talent 2026! ★

It is our favourite time of year when we invite our students with their fantastic talents to woo the school and judges to become SVS Has Talent winners.

It is showtime!!!

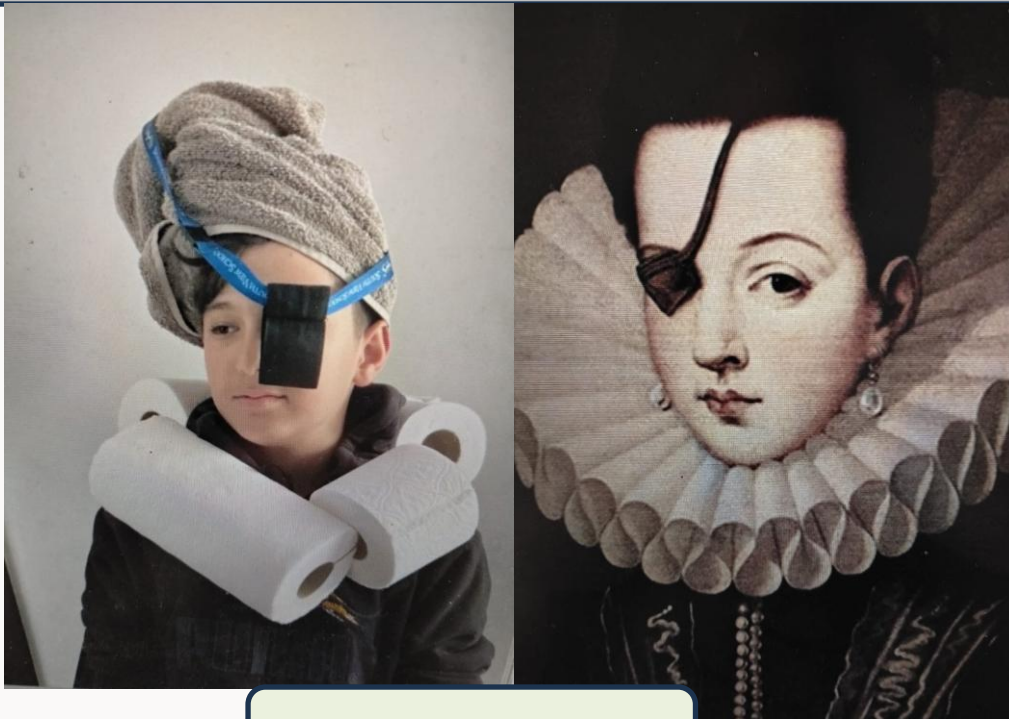
Whatever your talent, come and get involved in the show!

You must have a successful audition in order to progress to the final show!

Monday 11th May (Lunchtime- Drama Studio)	optional- come along for advice and guidance on your talent before the auditions.
Monday 18th May (Lunchtime- Drama Studio)	AUDITIONS – please make sure you sign up to a slot on the noticeboard outside the music room.
Monday 1st June, Monday 8th June and Monday 15th June- Lunchtime- Drama studio	Optional / requested rehearsal slots
Friday 19th June p2-p3	The live Final

Any questions? Please speak to one of the Performing Arts Team!

KS3 Artists have been using their imagination and creativity this week to recreate famous pieces of Art. Can you recognise the Artwork?



Faris 7B

SPECIALIST UPDATES

INCLUSION UPDATE



Ms. Nicola Quick

Head of Year 12 & Special
Education Needs
Coordinator- Secondary

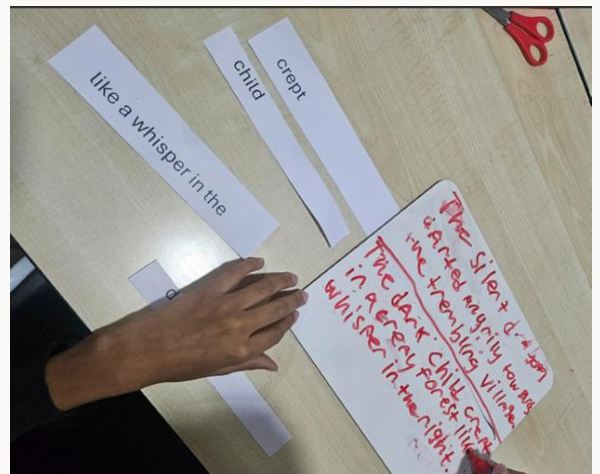
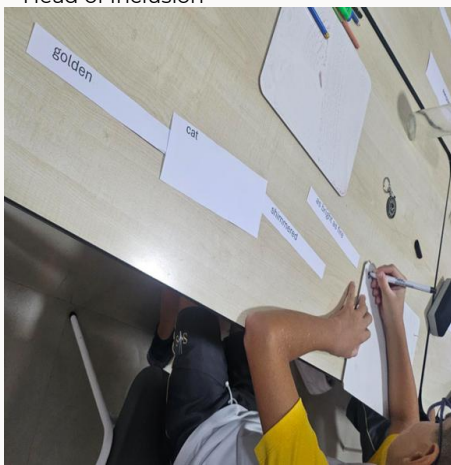


Mrs Abigale Dunn

Head of Inclusion

This week our inclusion students have made a seamless transition back to online learning and we are all extremely proud of them.

Our Year 7 students have been looking at formulating descriptive sentences using word mat manipulatives to add nouns, verbs, adjectives, and similes to add extra detail.



HUMANITIES UPDATE



Ms. Kirstin Scouller

Head of Humanities

Our Year 9 Historians have been working through the Holocaust topic with great insight and analysis. Here 9A are using their critical thinking skills to evaluate the significance of events taking place in Germany in the 1930s. These are skills that will serve them well not only in History IGCSE, but across all subjects that use higher order thinking. Well done Year 9!



PE & SQUAD UPDATES

Next week update



Mrs. Sonia Teodoro
Director of Sport

As we are still uncertain about what next week's school days will look like, we would like to ensure that all students are prepared for any outcome.

If Distance Learning Continues:

Students will continue to have live lessons on Teams.

If Face-to-Face Learning Resumes:

This will be subject to confirmation through an official communication sent by the school.

Squad Training and Fixtures:

At this stage, we are still unsure if squad training sessions will resume from Monday. We will update parents & students as soon as possible. Please note that next week's DASSA league fixtures have been cancelled, and we will continue monitoring the situation for the following week.

Please ensure that you have access to SOCS and contact helpdesk@southview.ae if you require any further support.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.

DASSA Secondary Aquathlon competition

Please complete this form if your child would like to compete in the Aquathlon event next week. 6.45am start at Hamdan Sports complex [AQUATHLON REGISTRATION FORM](#)



One Flag. One Walk. One Pride

The Spirit of the UAE Walk – 3KM is a community event celebrating unity and national pride, taking place on Saturday, 9th May 2026 at Dubai Digital Park, Dubai Silicon Oasis. This free event invites students, families and staff to come together in a shared display of togetherness.

Participants are encouraged to wear plain T-shirts in the UAE flag colours (red, green, white and black), creating a vibrant and unified atmosphere as they walk. With family-friendly activities, entertainment and refreshments available at the Walk Village, it promises to be an enjoyable and meaningful event for all.

Free Entry for All Participants – Register now and walk with the UAE in unity, pride and purpose.

<https://listmysport.com/spirit-of-the-uae-walk-2026-registration/>





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