



SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

SECONDARY

NEWSLETTER



WEEKLY ROUND-UP



Ms. Joanne Billington

Assistant Head of
Secondary - Academics

As we look ahead, we are pleased to be preparing staff for school to resume in person learning soon. We recognise that returning to school after time away can bring a mixture of excitement and uncertainty.

Our priority will be to re-establish routines, rebuild confidence, and ensure that every pupil feels supported both academically and emotionally. Staff will be focusing on reconnecting with pupils, revisiting key expectations, and providing time for pupils to settle back into the structure of the school day.

There will also be a strong emphasis on wellbeing. Tutors and teachers will create opportunities for pupils to reflect on their experiences during online learning and to re-engage with their peers. This will help to rebuild a sense of community and belonging, which is central to a successful return.

For parents, we understand how important this is for you all. We encourage open conversations at home to help pupils prepare for the transition, including re-establishing routines such as sleep schedules and organisation for the school day.

We are looking forward to welcoming pupils back and working together to ensure a positive and successful reintegration into school life. Please look out for further updates from school on the next steps for in person learning.

ACADEMIC UPDATES

Head of Academic Operations Update Y11 – 13



Ms. Scarlett Whistlecroft

Head of Academic
Operations

Thank you to those who were able to join our webinar about the upcoming examination series and what the cancellation of external examinations means for our students. We hope you found the session informative and helpful.

For those who were unable to attend, the presentation slides have been shared with all families so that you can still access the key information.

You should now have a clearer understanding of which pathway each child's course will follow (extrapolation Vs portfolio). In the coming weeks, Head of Departments will share guidance on portfolio requirements and key timelines. We are working together to review what evidence we have, what we need and how to streamline our processes to manage student workloads.

Portfolios

For courses requiring a portfolio, the purpose of these is to show the exam boards what a student is capable of. If a student's mock exam already represents their highest capability and covers all necessary components then additional testing will not be necessary. For cases where students do sit more assessments these will only be included if they improve upon previous results. All new assessments are simply extra chances for students to prove their abilities now, as some pupils will have significantly improved since their mocks.

We appreciate that this may feel like an unsettling time, we want to reassure you that we are here to support both you and your child throughout this process. Please do not hesitate to reach out via email if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, no concern is too small.

We will continue to communicate regularly to ensure you feel informed and supported every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued support.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

PASTORAL UPDATE



Mr. Michael Macdonald
Assistant Head of
Secondary - Pastoral

Over the past period of disruption, many of our usual structures have shifted. That is understandable. What we know, though, is that young people thrive when there is consistency around them. Clear routines support not only academic focus, but also wellbeing, mood, and behaviour.

A consistent start and end to the day is one of the most important foundations. Encouraging your child to wake up and go to sleep at roughly the same time each day helps regulate their internal body clock. This has a direct impact on energy levels, concentration, and emotional regulation.

Sleep quality is just as important as sleep quantity. One of the biggest barriers to good sleep is device use. We strongly recommend that devices are kept out of bedrooms overnight, and that screen use stops at least 30 minutes before bed. This allows the brain to switch off properly and supports deeper, more restorative sleep.

Getting outside early in the day also plays a key role. Even 15 minutes of natural sunlight in the morning helps regulate cortisol levels and sets the body's rhythm for the day. In simple terms, it helps students feel more awake in the morning and more ready to sleep at night.

Regular eating patterns are another area that can make a significant difference. Consistent meal times help stabilise energy levels and support focus across the school day. Skipping meals or eating at irregular times can lead to dips in concentration and mood.

Alongside these core habits, small daily structures can have a big impact. Setting a clear time and space for schoolwork, building in short breaks, and maintaining some form of physical activity each day all contribute to a more settled and productive routine.

These are not complex changes, but they are effective. When routines are steady, students are better placed to engage, to learn, and to manage the demands of school life.

Recommendation for the week: Sunday Roast at The Guid!

SPECIALIST UPDATES

6th FORM and CAREERS UPDATE



Mr. Carl Burgess
Head of Sixth Form

Reducing Screen Time: Small Changes, Big Benefits for Our Kids

Even small reductions in screen time can make a real difference for children’s brains and well-being. Research shows that cutting just 10–20 minutes can increase daily steps and improve attention, while 30 minutes less often leads to better mood and sleep the same night. One striking study found that when people reduced their internet use for only 14 days, their attention span improved by an amount equal to reversing about 10 years of normal brain aging — and they also reported higher life satisfaction and better mental health.

Brain scans reveal that higher daily screen time is linked to weaker connections in areas responsible for focus and learning, as well as thinner cortex in thinking regions. On the positive side, swapping screen time for real-life activities brings clear wins: deeper sleep, lower anxiety, stronger mood, more physical movement, and better social connections.

Encourage your child to try simple swaps — a short outdoor walk, reading a physical book, drawing, playing a board game, or just spending time with family and friends. Even 20–30 minutes a day away from screens can help their developing brains thrive. Small consistent changes really do add up!



SPECIALIST UPDATES

DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE



Mr. Ryan Bladen

Assistant Head of Secondary
Data and Assessment

Top Tips for Supporting Learning at Home

As we continue with distance learning, we appreciate the important role parents play in supporting students at home. Establishing a consistent routine can make a significant difference, encourage your child to follow their usual school schedule, including regular start and finish times.

Creating a quiet, organised workspace will help minimise distractions and allow students to focus during lessons. It is also beneficial to encourage short breaks away from screens to maintain concentration and wellbeing throughout the day.

Above all, student wellbeing remains paramount during this time. We recognise that this is a challenging period, and it is important that students feel supported, balanced, and able to manage their learning alongside their wellbeing.

Finally, we recommend regularly checking Microsoft Teams and assignment deadlines with your child to ensure they are keeping up to date with their learning.

Your support in maintaining these routines is greatly valued and contributes positively to your child's progress.

ENTERPRISE AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



Miss Elizabeth Charlton
Head of Enterprise and
Technology

It has been fantastic to see the level of focus and engagement from our Business and Economics students during this period of online learning. Their commitment to staying on track, contributing thoughtfully, and taking ownership of their progress has been impressive.

As we continue, I would encourage all students to maintain a strong emphasis on key terminology and to keep developing their exam skills, particularly in applying knowledge and structuring responses effectively. We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back into the classroom and building on this momentum together.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

LITERACY UPDATE



Mr. David Archibald
Head of English &
Literacy Coordinator

As students return to on-site learning, literacy remains at the heart of their success across all subjects. Strong reading, writing, and communication skills support confidence in the classroom and help students engage more fully with new ideas, discussions, and assessments. Re-establishing routines such as regular reading at home, careful completion of written work, and responding thoughtfully to teacher feedback will make a significant difference as students settle back into face-to-face learning.

As Frederick Douglass famously said, “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” Literacy opens doors not only to academic achievement, but also to independence, curiosity, and opportunity. We encourage all students to continue developing their reading habits and taking pride in their written work as we move forward together this term.

ENGLISH UPDATE

As we look to return to on-site learning next week, I would like to share an update on the focus for our examination year groups in English.

Year 11 students will now be concentrating on completing their coursework for both International GCSE English Language and Literature. This coursework is particularly important as it will be used for contingency grading. Students are being supported in lessons to refine, edit, and finalise their pieces to ensure they are demonstrating their very best work. Meeting deadlines and acting on feedback will be key priorities over the coming weeks.

Year 12 students will be focusing on producing exam-style essays for Units 1 and 2. The emphasis will be on developing responses that meet the expectations of examination conditions, including clear argument, secure textual knowledge, and precise analytical writing. Students will practise structuring extended responses and refining their work in line with assessment criteria to strengthen their overall performance..

We encourage all students to stay organised, meet interim deadlines, and seek support where needed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

MATHS UPDATE



Ms Jo Griffin
Head of Maths

Thank you to students for their hard work and participation in the online Mathematics lessons over the last four weeks. It has been pleasing to see students maintaining a steady work ethic in unusual circumstances, completing assignments on time, and participating in live sessions. This level of dedication is noted and appreciated.

Based on recent updates, we anticipate a return to the classroom in the near future. We are particularly looking forward to resuming collaborative classroom activities, allowing students to work together on complex problems, and engage in the in-person mathematical modeling and questioning which promote the learning and deeper thinking that are such a key part of the mathematical learning journey.

Parents of Y11, Y12, and Y13 Students

Please don't hesitate to contact myself, Ms Whistlecroft, or your child's Maths teacher if you have any queries regarding their next steps in Maths.

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SPECIALIST UPDATES

SCIENCE UPDATE



Mr. Philip Mutton
Head of Science

We have been really pleased to see such strong engagement from students in their online science lessons over the last week. Across all year groups, students have continued to demonstrate a positive attitude, completing work to a high standard and contributing well during live lessons. This level of commitment has been fantastic to see.

Maintaining this focus remains incredibly important. Even though learning may be taking place in a different environment, the effort students put in now will have a significant impact on their progress and understanding moving forward. We would encourage all students to continue attending lessons, completing tasks carefully, and asking questions when they are unsure.

With the latest updates, we are hopeful that students will be able to return to school soon. We are particularly looking forward to resuming practical science lessons, allowing students to carry out experiments and develop their hands-on skills, which are such a key part of learning in science.

We would also like to celebrate the fantastic work of one of our Year 9 students - Tara, who has created an impressive podcast called *Coded*. The podcast is designed to help students memorise key topics, even while they sleep — a creative and ambitious idea! An excellent effort and a great example of independent learning. You can listen to the first episode, “*Sleep-learning: The science of scent*”, here: spoti.fi/3L6qy3u.

Well done to all students, and we look forward to seeing even more great work in the weeks ahead.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ARABIC A UPDATE



Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are doing well.

I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support of our Ministry of Education subjects: Arabic, Islamic Education, and Social Studies. Your support at home makes a real difference and helps us work together to give our students the very best experience in school.

These subjects are an important part of every child's learning journey. They help our students strengthen their language, deepen their understanding of values and identity, and build a stronger connection to the culture, history, and heritage of the UAE. Through Arabic, students develop their reading, writing, speaking, and understanding. Through Islamic Education, they learn values, respect, and important life lessons. Through Social Studies, they learn more about their country, its achievements, and their role in the future.

We are proud of the effort many students are making, and we would like to continue working closely with you to help every child make strong progress. Your encouragement at home has a powerful impact. Simple things such as making sure your child attends lessons regularly, completes homework on time, revises key learning, and speaks positively about these subjects can help build confidence and success.

As a school, we remain committed to providing engaging lessons, strong support, and meaningful learning opportunities for all students. Our teachers are working hard to support every learner and to help students grow both academically and personally in all MoE subjects.

We kindly ask for your continued support in encouraging your child to: attend lessons regularly, stay focused in class, complete all tasks and homework, revise when needed, and always try their best. When school and home work together, students are more confident, more motivated, and more successful.

Thank you once again for your trust, support, and partnership. We truly value working with you, and we look forward to continuing this journey together for the benefit of all our students.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ISLAMIC



MR. Hossam Bekhit
Head of Islamic Studies

Dear Parents,

We truly appreciate your ongoing support in guiding your child throughout their distance learning journey in Islamic Studies.

This week, our students focused on topics related to Islamic manners and rulings, exploring how these teachings guide their behavior and daily actions. They have been learning practical ways to apply these values in their everyday routines.

Next week, we will move on to *Seerah*, where students will learn about the biography of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and gain a deeper understanding of his life and character.

We kindly encourage you to support your child by ensuring they practice their assigned Surah, record their recitation, and upload it on Teams. Additionally, please remind your child to regularly use the Islamic Treasure App and complete the weekly activities, as these will help reinforce their learning.

Thank you for your continued support.

SOCIAL STUDY



MS Elham Bakry
Head of Social Studies

مع خالص الشكر والتقدير،

أولياء الأمور الأفاضل، تحية طيبة وبعد،
نعترّ بربابة دولة الإمارات رمز العزّة والوحدة، التي تجسّد مسيرة «ارفعه عالياً ليبقى شامخاً» تحت شعار وطن شامخ بإنجازاته وطموحاته، ماضٍ بثقة نحو مستقبلٍ أكثر إشراقاً وتميّزاً وانطلاقاً من هذه القيم، ارتبطت تعلّم طلابنا هذا الأسبوع برؤية الوطن وتوجهاته المستقبلية، حيث تعرّفوا على الابتكار وريادة الأعمال وأهميتهما في دعم الاقتصاد المعرفي، ودرس الأمن المائي والغذائي في دولة الإمارات ودوره في تحقيق الاستدامة، إضافة إلى دراسة إفريقيا طبيعياً من حيث المناخ والتضاريس، والكشوف الجغرافية البرتغالية وأثرها في التوسع التجاري والتواصل بين القارات. نرجو من طلابنا متابعة الواجبات واستكمالها في الوقت المحدد، لما لذلك من أثر مباشر في دعم تقدمهم الأكاديمي.



SPECIALIST UPDATES

ARABIC UPDATE



Mrs. Fatima Banafea
Head of Arabic - Secondary.

نرحب بعودة طلابنا إلى التعلّم الحضوري في المدرسة
ابتداءً من الأسبوع القادم، ونتطلع لاستقبالهم من
جديد. ونؤكد على أهمية التزامهم بالحضور والمشاركة
الفاعلة داخل الحصص، بما يساهم في تعزيز تعلمهم
وتحقيق أفضل النتائج.
وفيما يلي أبرز مستجدات قسم اللغة العربية لهذا
الأسبوع:

Exam Prep

- O-Level exams have been **cancelled**
- Replaced with Student Portfolio (Profilo)
- Further details will be shared soon.
- O-Level support class will resume in person.

Teaching & Learning: Arabic A

أولياء الأمور الكرام، طلابنا الأعزاء

انطلاقاً من حرصنا على دعم مستوى أبنائنا الأكاديمي، نثمن تعاونكم المستمر ودوركم الفاعل في نجاح العملية التعليمية. خلال هذا الأسبوع، ركّز الطلاب على فن الرواية، حيث عملوا على تحليل الأحداث واستنتاج الدلالات وتنمية مهارات القراءة الناقدة والتعبير المنظم. نؤكد على أهمية متابعة المهام عبر المنصة، والالتزام بإنجازها في الوقت المحدد، لما لذلك من دور أساسي في دعم تقدم الطلاب. كما نوصي بدعم طلاب الصف الحادي عشر (O-level) من خلال التدريب المستمر على نماذج الأسئلة والاختبارات السابقة. نقدّر دعمكم، ونتطلع إلى استمرار شراكتكم لتحقيق أفضل النتائج. مع خالص الشكر والتقدير،
المعلمة الهام.

Looking Ahead:

As we transition back to in-person learning next week, intervention support will continue at school, with targeted sessions to further support student progress. Please ensure all tasks are completed, as this is key to their progress.

Teaching & Learning: Arabic B

Dear Parents,

We would like to inform you that during this week, we have completed the speaking skill. The students worked on and submitted their audio recordings successfully. Next week, we will move on to the writing skill. Students will be guided to use a specific structure to help them organize and develop their writing effectively. To support their progress, students are expected to:

Follow the given writing structure carefully

Use appropriate vocabulary and complete sentences

Thank you for your continuous 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 incredibly pleased with the positive engagement shown by students during their online language lessons. Many students are taking part well and showing a strong commitment to their learning. To support their progress further, students are encouraged to download all lesson materials and save them in their own folders for future reference, particularly when preparing for assessments.

Active participation remains key to success in language learning. Students should aim to contribute as much as possible during lessons, including unmuting their microphones when appropriate, especially during pronunciation and speaking activities, as this is essential for developing confidence and accuracy.

However, we would like to remind all students of the importance of maintaining a focused learning environment. In some cases, students have been heard watching TV, listening to music, or working in noisy surroundings. We kindly ask that students join lessons from a quiet space, free from distractions, to ensure they can fully engage and make the most of their learning experience.

Lundi le treize avril 2026
Mon sportif préféré
LO: To describe your favourite sportsperson.

Pour commencer ... Starter Activity
DO NOW! Knowledge Recall Grid
Conjugate the verb (make the verb make sense).

| To play | Jouer | Support G |
|----------------|---------|-----------------|
| I play | Je joue | Il/Elles jouent |
| You play | | Nous jouons |
| He / she plays | | Tu joues |
| We play | | Vous jouez |
| You all play | | Il/Elle joue |
| They play | | |

Mosaic translation!

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| D'habitude | mon frère | la salle de bains | tous les jours | mais | avant-hier | J'ai fait | la voiture. |
| Normalement | mes parents | la vaisselle | tous les matins | mais | la semaine dernière | ils ont rempli | l'aspirateur. |
| D'habitude | je fais | l'aspirateur | tous les soirs | mais | hier | ils ont fait | le lavage-vaisselle. |
| D'habitude | je nettoie | la cuisine | tous les jours | mais | hier | J'ai passé | le lit. |
| Normalement | mes parents font | la chambre chaque semaine | mais | il y a quelques jours | il a lavé | le ménage. | |

- Usually I do the dishes every day but yesterday I cleaned.
- Usually my parents cook every evening, but a few days ago they filled the dishwasher.
- Usually my brother tidies the room every day but the day before yesterday he washed the car.
- Normally I clean the bathroom every week but last week I vacuumed.
- Normally my parents vacuum every morning but yesterday they made the bed.

Aim Higher! Can you demonstrate your knowledge and create a rule on how to form the present tense?

PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE



Ms. Charlene Rock
Head of Performing Arts

One good thing about online learning across the Performing Arts is the time to reflect on learning and practise our written responses. A Level and GCSEs in our subjects all have written elements to the course. It is great to be able to see our KS3 students articulating themselves in writing tasks as well as practical work during the online period. However, we can't wait to return to the classroom.

Our Year 8 students have been working on cross hatching in their Art lessons over the last week.



don't forget to
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!
@ artsatsvs

PERFORMING ARTS ONLINE WORK EXAMPLES

MUSIC

beats created by Y8s using Groove Pizza (music tech SOW) - CLICK THE LINKS TO LISTEN...

<https://apps.musedlab.org/groovepizza/?source=pub&museid=YiBZW2Aqc> **Hamza 8B**

<https://apps.musedlab.org/groovepizza/?source=pub&museid=LTDOfpxLK> **Karma 8B**

<https://apps.musedlab.org/groovepizza/?source=pub&museid=m8xz9sx-8&> **Iana 8C**

<https://apps.musedlab.org/groovepizza/?source=pub&museid=Jq5Bkprch> **Julia 8A**



YEAR 7 OPTICAL ART
TROY 7E

**YEAR 9 DRAMA - SILENT MOVIES
PINELOPI IN 9D USING HER BROTHER, PARES
TO ACT OUT THE STOCK CHARACTER OF HERO.**



SPECIALIST UPDATES

INCLUSION UPDATE



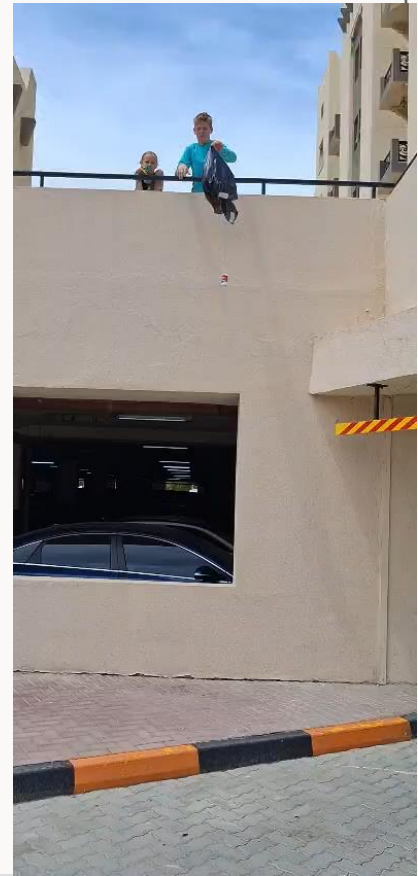
Ms. Nicola Quick

Head of Year 12 & Special
Education Needs
Coordinator- Secondary



Mrs Abigale Dunn

Head of Inclusion



Our inclusion students have once again proven their resilience this week and have been fantastic at taking part in our online intervention lessons. We could not be prouder!

Our Y7 students have had so much fun creating parachutes at home this week and our Y11s have been working hard on their English coursework

HUMANITIES UPDATE



Ms. Kirstin Scouller
Head of Humanities

Over the past few weeks, students in Humanities have engaged really well with online learning, showing resilience and independence across Geography, History, Psychology and Sociology. We have seen some fantastic and creative work being produced, with students demonstrating strong understanding and a real effort to apply their knowledge in different ways. It has been particularly encouraging to see students continuing to develop their analytical and evaluative skills while working remotely. We look forward to welcoming students back to work on building their knowledge further, refining their exam skills, and continuing to make strong progress across the Humanities subjects.

PE UPDATES



Ms. Michelle Rowcliffe
Head of Department -
Secondary

The PE department would like to commend our students for their ongoing effort and positive engagement with online learning this week. It has been fantastic to hear about all the activities that the students have been taking part in.

This week, KS3 and KS4 Core PE lessons have focused on developing power. Students were once again given choice and flexibility in how they approached their learning, selecting from activities such as interval training, circuits, fartlek training, HIIT sessions, yoga and pilates.

Our Year 10 GCSE PE students successfully logged on to The EverLearner platform to complete their end-of-topic Sport Psychology assessment. Students approached this task with focus and maturity and we are pleased with the way they engaged with this new digital resource.

Meanwhile, Year 11 GCSE PE students have been working hard on their Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) coursework. Alongside this, students have been actively collecting video evidence for their practical assessments, demonstrating determination and organisation under unusual circumstances. We would like to thank all the students that have submitted their video evidence.

Our BTEC Sport students continue to engage positively with online learning and have continued with their current unit on nutrition and assessing officials in sport.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in person when school returns and we resume practical PE lessons together.





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