



SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

# SECONDARY

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# NEWSLETTER



## WEEKLY ROUND -UP

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your support at our *Meet the Tutor Evening* on Wednesday and our *Maths Coffee Morning* with Mrs Griffin on Thursday. Both events were extremely well attended, and it was wonderful to see so many of you engaging with our staff and school community. Your involvement makes a real difference, and we are very grateful for the partnership we share with you.

Looking ahead, I would like our Newsletter to evolving in line with the growth of our school. From next week, you will receive an SLT-only Newsletter, while Heads of Year will share Year Group specific updates directly with parents. This will allow us to provide both a whole-school perspective and more tailored information for each year group.

We are also keen to develop a parent-focused section in the Newsletter, where we invite you to actively contribute to our culture and community. We are always encouraging students to reflect not only on their learning goals, but also on the way they contribute to our school community, whether that is supporting a classmate, respecting our environment or showing gratitude to those around them.

I would encourage you to echo this at home. Perhaps ask your child: *"What did you do this week that showed kindness or integrity?"* These conversations strengthen the partnership between school and home, ensuring that our shared values are lived out in every context.

Wishing you all a happy and restful weekend.

Mr Macpherson.



**Mr. Macpherson**  
Head of Secondary

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## ACADEMIC UPDATE



Ms. Joanne McCue  
Assistant Head of  
Secondary - Academics

### The Power of Reading at Home in a Digital World

In today's fast-paced digital world, where screens dominate much of our children's attention, fostering a love of reading at home has never been more important. While technology offers incredible opportunities for learning and communication, research consistently shows that regular reading—both digital and print—has a profound impact on academic success, cognitive development, and emotional wellbeing.

### Why Reading at Home Matters

Reading at home helps students:

- Develop critical thinking skills: Engaging with a variety of texts encourages pupils to analyse, evaluate, and make connections.
- Expand vocabulary and literacy: Exposure to new words and sentence structures improves language comprehension and writing skills.
- Cultivate focus and concentration: Unlike scrolling through social media or quick videos, reading requires sustained attention, enhancing mental stamina.
- Nurture empathy and creativity: Stories allow pupils to experience diverse perspectives and imagine possibilities beyond their immediate environment.

### Balancing Digital and Print Reading

**Digital devices are a valuable tool for learning, but they** cannot replace the depth and engagement of traditional reading. Encourage your child to explore a mix of formats: e-books, audiobooks, and printed books. Even 20–30 minutes a day can make a significant difference over time.

### Practical Tips for Parents

- Set aside a dedicated reading time each day, free from screens.
- Create a comfortable reading space at home with good lighting.
- Discuss what your child is reading, ask questions, share opinions, and make connections to real life.
- Encourage reading for pleasure, not just for school assignments, to develop intrinsic motivation.

At SVS, we are committed to nurturing lifelong learners. By supporting reading at home, families play a vital role in ensuring our students not only succeed academically but also develop the curiosity, imagination, and resilience needed for the future.

Let's work together to make reading a cherished part of every home in Dubai, beyond the screen and into the world of stories, knowledge, and discovery.

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## PASTORAL UPDATE



Mr. Michael Macdonald  
Assistant Head of  
Secondary - Pastoral

I was delighted to see so many of you at the *Meet the Form Tutor* event this week. As we now settle into the rhythm of the term, it's important to keep a focus on both physical and mental wellbeing. Our recent student surveys show that sleep is an area many students feel they can improve on. Research shows that good routines around sleep, alongside staying hydrated and eating a balanced diet, make a real difference to concentration, mood, and overall development.

One helpful resource is the short video [How Your Child's Diet Affects Their Sleep](#), where Dr. Blair Rolnick explains that "the foods children eat during the day can directly impact the quality and length of their sleep at night." Encouraging children to enjoy plenty of fruit and vegetables, limiting sugary or processed snacks in the evenings, and helping them switch off from screens before bed are all simple steps that can support healthier sleep patterns and, in turn, better learning.

### Reminders

Year 11 Options Evening has moved from Thursday 20th November to Wednesday 19th.

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## 6<sup>th</sup> FORM and CAREERS UPDATE



Mr. Carl Burgess  
Head of Sixth Form

This is a reminder that our students in Years 11, 12, and 13 will be attending the *Khaleej Times University Expo 2025* on **Tuesday, 24th September**. The event is an excellent opportunity for students to explore a wide range of universities, meet admissions representatives, and gather valuable information to help them make informed decisions about their future pathways. Thank you to those who have handed in their permission slips on time.

### Focus For Next Week

A key focus in form time this term is helping students develop their organisation and time-management skills. Learning how to plan and structure their week effectively allows them to balance academic commitments, extracurricular activities, and personal time. By setting clear priorities, breaking tasks into manageable steps, and preparing for deadlines in advance, students can reduce stress, improve productivity, and build the independent study habits that will serve them well both in school and beyond.



# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE



**Mr. Ryan Bladen**

Assistant Head of Secondary  
Data and Assessment

At South View School, we are committed to understanding the full learning profile of every student. As part of this, students in Years 7-10 will complete the NGRT (New Group Reading Test) Form A in English lessons next week, and all students in Years 7-13 will sit the PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School) test in extended form on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. For these assessments, can we please ask that all students have their laptop, charger and headphones.

### **NGRT (New Group Reading Test):**

The NGRT is designed to assess reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge. It provides valuable insights into students' literacy skills, which are essential across all subjects. The results allow us to identify strengths and pinpoint areas where additional support may be needed. By understanding each student's reading ability, teachers can adapt teaching methods and ensure that all learners can access the curriculum effectively.

### **PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School):**

The PASS test measures students' attitudes towards themselves as learners and their feelings about school. It helps us to better understand motivation, confidence, and possible barriers to learning, including wellbeing concerns. This information is invaluable in supporting not only academic progress but also student welfare.

Together, NGRT and PASS provide a more complete picture of each student, combining academic ability with attitudes and perceptions. This helps us tailor teaching, intervention, and pastoral support, ensuring that every child has the best opportunity to thrive.



# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## SCIENCE UPDATE



Mr. Philip Mutton  
Head of Science

This week has been a busy and exciting one in the Science Department, with pupils continuing to explore a wide range of topics through engaging, hands-on lessons, with examples such as:

**Year 8** pupils have been learning about digestion, following the journey of food step by step as it travels through the digestive system. Practical activities helped them visualise and understand this process in action.

**Year 9** pupils have been investigating *speed*, using cars and marbles rolling down ramps to calculate speed. They also attended an assembly on their *Science iGCSE options*. If you have any questions about this, please contact **Mr Mutton**.

In **year 10 Biology**, pupils had the opportunity to dissect cows' eyes, gaining valuable insight into anatomy and structure.

In **Chemistry**, our **A level students** have been working on core practical, such as measuring gas volumes and rates of chemical reactions.



Across all year groups, pupils are being challenged to think scientifically and apply their knowledge in practical contexts. As we move through the topics, short progress tests will be taking place. Results and resources will be shared via Teams—please support your child with their revision and preparation.

It has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and curiosity in lessons this week. We are proud of the amazing learning experiences happening every day in Science!

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## ARABIC A UPDATE



Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba  
Head of MOE Subjects.

أولياء الأمور الأعزاء،

تحية طيبة وبعد،

انطلاقاً من حرص قسم اللغة العربية على إبقائكم على اطلاع دائم بمستجدات العملية التعليمية، يسعدنا أن نشارككم أبرز ما تم إنجازه هذا الأسبوع، وخطة العمل للأسبوع القادم. خلال هذا الأسبوع، أنهى أبنائنا دراسة القواعد النحوية بصورة متكاملة، حيث قاموا بتطبيق ما تعلموه من خلال أنشطة كتابية وشفوية متنوعة. وقد أظهر الطلاب تفاعلاً إيجابياً وتقدماً ملحوظاً في اكتساب المهارات اللغوية، الأمر الذي يعكس جديتهم وحرصهم على التطور في مادة اللغة العربية.

أما في الأسبوع القادم، فسيبدأ أبنائنا دراسة القصة القصيرة، حيث سيتعرفون على عناصر القصة من شخصيات وأحداث وبنية سردية، كما سيعملون على تحليل المغزى العام والرسائل الفكرية التي تتضمنها النصوص. وسيتم أيضاً تنمية مهارات القراءة النقدية والتعبير الإبداعي لديهم من خلال تدريبات وأنشطة تطبيقية مصممة بعناية. ونود أن نلفت عنايتكم إلى تنويه هام، وهو ضرورة الاطلاع على متطلبات الجامعات فيما يخص مادة اللغة العربية، حيث تُعد هذه المتطلبات شرطاً أساسياً في القبول الجامعي. لذا نرجو منكم التحقق من تسجيل أبنائكم في المساق المناسب بما يتوافق مع شروط الجامعات المستهدفة، والتكرم بالرد على البريد الإلكتروني المرسل من (O-Level أو GCSE) المدرسة لتأكيد اختياركم.

مع خالص التقدير والاحترام،

قسم اللغة العربية

## ARABIC B UPDATE

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on our students' progress this week.

Throughout the past few days, our focus has been on **listening comprehension and spelling development**. Students practiced attentive listening to spoken texts, identifying main ideas as well as supporting details. In addition, they completed spelling tasks differentiated according to their levels, which helped to further enhance their writing accuracy and attention to detail.

Looking ahead to next week, the primary focus will shift to **speaking and oral expression**. Students will engage in guided conversations, practice using question words, and apply newly acquired vocabulary, sentence structures, and grammar rules to form clear, accurate, and confident sentences. These activities are designed to promote fluency, develop effective communication skills, and encourage self-expression.

Your continued support plays a vital role in sustaining your child's progress, and we are deeply grateful for your cooperation and trust.

**With sincere appreciation,**

*The Arabic Department*

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## ISLAMIC



Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba  
Head of MOE Subjects.

Dear Parents,

Thank you always for your continuous support in your child's Islamic learning journey.

This week, our students focused on their assigned Surah in the Qur'an. They explored the overall meaning of the Surah and have been encouraged to begin memorizing some of its opening verses. Next week, we will shift our focus to Hadith topics based on the teachings of our beloved Prophet (PBUH).

Furthermore, all students have now received their login credentials for the Islamic Treasure App via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this app is to help them strengthen their understanding by completing weekly activities that correspond with their class learning.

We kindly encourage you to remind your child to use the app regularly and keep up with the activities.

Thank you

## SOCIAL STUDY

أولياء الأمور الأفاضل،

تحية طيبة وبعد،

تحت شعار: "من المهارة إلى الصدارة"

في إطار حرصنا على تنمية مهارات طلابنا وربطهم بهويتهم الوطنية، نعرف أبناءنا هذا الأسبوع على أهمية الموقع الجغرافي لشبه الجزيرة العربية ودوره في ازدهار التجارة والحضارات، وناقشوا أهمية الدستور في دولة الإمارات كضامن للحقوق والاستقرار. كما تعمقوا في دراسة خصائص السكان وكيفية تفاعلهم مع البيئة لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة. وبمناسبة اليوم العالمي للسلام (21 سبتمبر)، ناقش الطلاب معنى السلام ودور الإمارات في نشر ثقافة التسامح عالمياً، وربطوا ذلك بمسؤوليتهم في بناء عالم يسوده الوئام.

يرجى متابعة الواجبات على منصة Teams والتأكد من تسليمها في الوقت المحدد لدعم تقدم الطلاب. مع خالص التقدير،





# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## MFL UPDATE



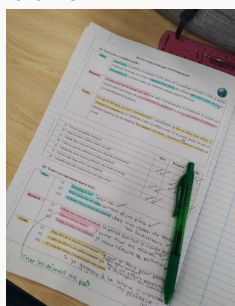
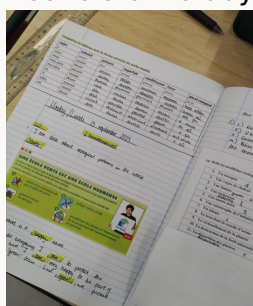
Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick  
Head of MFL



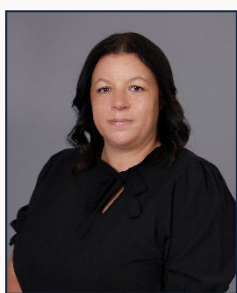
Students in French and Spanish have now completed nearly four weeks of lessons, and it has been fantastic to see their progress and enthusiasm for languages. Over the past week, students have been engaged in a wide range of activities designed to build their confidence and enjoyment of learning. These have included interactive games to reinforce vocabulary, speaking tasks to practise everyday conversations, and listening activities to develop comprehension skills.

Our students are already showing greater independence and creativity in their work, and their positive attitude is making a real difference in the classroom. We look forward to seeing this momentum continue as we move further into the term.

As a reminder, we kindly ask parents to sign the Homework Tracker once their child has completed their tasks, as this helps us to monitor progress and encourage consistent study habits.



## PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE



Ms. Charlene Rock  
Head of Performing Arts

We were blown away on Thursday lunchtime as 98 students in secondary came to the first meeting for our Secondary School show... The Wiz Jr. All students should have been added to The Wiz Jr teams page to go through what is required and how to audition. Auditions will be held at lunchtimes next week and we are really looking forward to casting this production.

This week I got to go around and see our Year 10 GCSE students across Drama, Art and Music and we are all very pleased with their progress and dedication so far. Keep up the good work Year 10!

In Music, Mr. Themis' band sessions have become so popular that we now need 3 sessions per week and have divided into a Junior and Senior Band. This is very exciting as we prepare for our school show as well as a very exciting Dubai competition. More details to follow very soon.

Tunes 4 Tuesday begins again next week. We have some special guests for our first show and are still looking for secondary performers for the following weeks. Students who wish to take part, should get in touch with Ms. Rock or Mr. Themis.

Join us at 7:20am at the Ampitheater on Tuesdays for some excellent musical entertainment.

don't forget to

FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM!

@artsats

VS



BE KIND. BE GREAT. BE YOU.

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# Performing Arts UPDATES

## Important Notices



Can you sing, dance or play a musical instrument?  
We need you!

### Tunes 4 Tuesday

TIME: 7:20AM - 7:40AM

EVERY TUESDAY MORNING FROM TUESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER IN THE AMPITHEATRE

SIGN UP ON THE PERFORMING ARTS NOTICEBOARD OR WITH MR THEMIS OR MS. ROCK.



Auditions for The Wiz Jr at lunchtimes next week. Students should sign up on the Music Room Noticeboard.

Last call for instrument and vocal lessons for Term 1.



don't forget to

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@artsatsvs



مركز الفنون الموسيقية  
CENTRE FOR MUSICAL ARTS

Learn To Play an Instrument at  
**Southview School**



For more details and information please visit our website at the link below or to register, scan the QR code with your smartphone:  
[www.cmadubai.com/en/southviewschool](http://www.cmadubai.com/en/southviewschool)

\* Trial Lessons available upon request at time of registration.

Registration does not guarantee a place on the instrumental program. You will be contacted when a space becomes available for your child. Lessons take place during the school day and are subject to terms and conditions agreed upon at registration.

Call: 056 766 6527 | Email: [southview@cmadubai.com](mailto:southview@cmadubai.com) | Visit: [www.cmadubai.com](http://www.cmadubai.com)





# Performing Arts UPDATES

If you would like an extra Drama or Musical challenge, why not try out for Collab Company's winter production this weekend?

Please register ASAP!



don't forget to

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INSTAGRAM!

@artsatsvs

REGISTER:

[www.collabcompany.org/elf](http://www.collabcompany.org/elf)

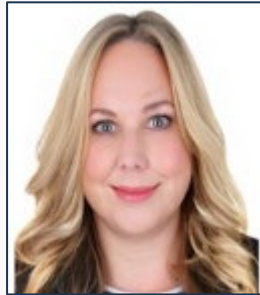
(also on teams or speak to Ms Rock)

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## INCLUSION UPDATE

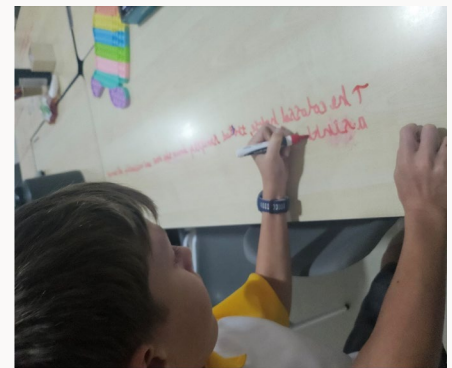
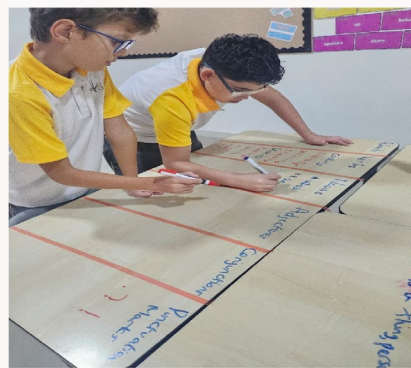


**Ms. Nicola Quick**  
Head of Year 12 & Special  
Education Needs  
Coordinator- Secondary



**Mrs Abigale Dunn**  
Head of Inclusion

It was great to see so many of our parents at meet the tutor evening on Wednesday, the students have really settled in well to their new year groups and timetable and I'm sure the evening reassured you of this as well. This week the students have been continuing to work hard in their interventions. The Year 7s this week have been focusing on Grammar & have been organising words into the correct grammatical group. They then had to use those words in a complex sentence using a least one subordinating conjunction. They really enjoyed drawing on the tables!



Inspire Therapy Clinic



### 6-Week Group Program for Teens to Explore Confidence & Navigate Anxiety

A psychologist-led group program for teens to explore confidence, self-compassion, and coping strategies for anxiety – all while connecting with peers.

*Confidence. Connection. Coping skills.*

**Start Date: Thursday 23rd October**

**Interested?**

**Phone: 055 306 4456**

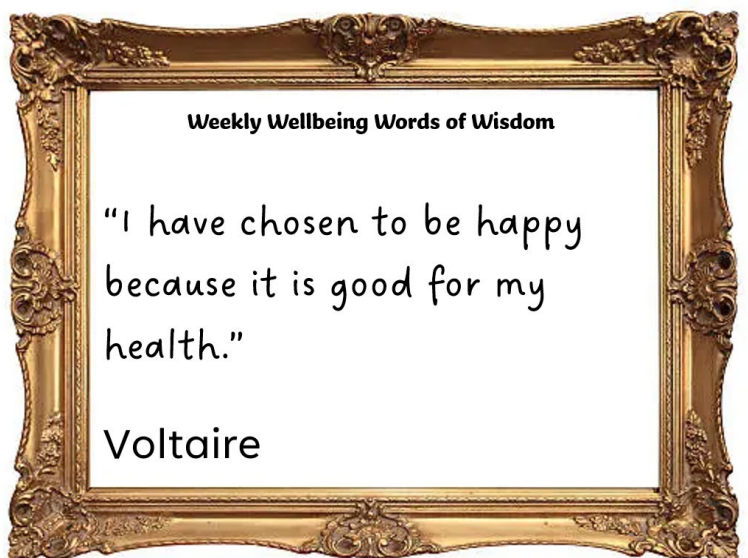
**Email: [admin@inspiretherapy.ae](mailto:admin@inspiretherapy.ae)**



#### Weekly Wellbeing Words of Wisdom

"I have chosen to be happy  
because it is good for my  
health."

Voltaire





# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## HUMANITIES UPDATE

### Psychology and Sociology

### Display Boards Supporting Students Learning



Ms. Kirstin Scouller  
Head of Humanities



#### **In the Classroom:**

Display boards provide students with a quick reference to key exam content, helping them recall important topics, structures of papers, and assessment requirements without needing to constantly check their notes. Visual prompts, such as paper breakdowns, key theories, and topic summaries, support memory retention by reinforcing learning through repeated exposure. They act as support during lessons, allowing students to independently check information and focus more effectively on applying their knowledge in class discussions and practice questions.

#### **Beyond the Classroom:**

By clearly showing how topics are assessed, display boards help students develop stronger exam technique and revision strategies. They encourage independent learning, as students can use the boards to identify areas they need to review in greater detail at home. Display boards make subject content more accessible and less overwhelming by presenting it in an organised, student-friendly way. Over time, repeated use builds confidence, supports long-term memory, and fosters good learning habits that are valuable both in class and in independent study.

# PE UPDATES



**Ms. Michelle Rowcliffe**  
Head of Department -  
Secondary

It's been a busy and energetic week in PE! In volleyball, students have been developing their serving techniques, with many confidently using the underarm serve and beginning to serve under pressure in game situations. Pupils have been coaching one another to improve their techniques and it has been great to see them progressing. In football lessons on the astro this week, the focus has been on shooting technique. Students have been working on striking the ball with both power and control and applying their skills. In the gym, Y9, 10, 11 students tackled high-intensity fitness circuits, making use of the SkiErg, rowing machine, dumbbells and assault bike. These sessions are pushing fitness levels while also building motivation and determination. Years 12 & 13 enjoyed netball, football and gym work outs in their PE lesson this week.

The GCSE PE students have continued developing their skills in netball and badminton. The level of performance is improving each week. Well done to the GCSE PE students for their focus and determination to improve.

Participation and enthusiasm levels are high in lessons. Well done to all students for another fantastic week of effort and engagement!

— The PE Team



# SQUAD UPDATES

## U13 & U15 BSME Netball teams



Mrs. Sonia Teodoro  
Director of Sport

### Links:

[SVS Sports Website](#)

[SOCS Parents login](#)

It was fantastic to see so many girls showing great interest in representing our school in such a prestigious competition. Congratulations to those who have been selected for the **U13 and U15 BSME Netball teams!**

Over the next couple of weeks, we will also be finalising selections for the remaining U15 BSME teams, including Boys' and Girls' Football, Athletics, and Boys' Volleyball. Mrs. Whettell will oversee the girls U13 teams, while Mrs. Rowcliffe will be responsible for the U15 girls. **Training sessions** will take place every **Friday at 7:00 am** at the SMPH.

Please note, in our last newsletter there was an error in the competition dates. Kindly find the correct dates below:

**15<sup>th</sup> November – U13 BSME Netball @ Dubai 7's**

**21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of November – U15 BSME games @ BC Dubai**

**16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of January – U13 BSME games @ RGS**

**31<sup>st</sup> of January – U15 BSME Netball (venue TBC)**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

## Squads & fixture communication

All communication regarding fixtures and squad training will be **shared through SOCS**. Please ensure that you have activated your parent account and completed the consent form for each fixture.

If your child is unable to attend a training session or fixture, we kindly ask that you inform the teacher in advance to allow us time to arrange a substitute.

## Squad teacher contacts

U12 & U16 Boys Football – [Daniel.walsh@southview.ae](mailto:Daniel.walsh@southview.ae)

U14 Boys Football – [Jonathan.cook@southview.ae](mailto:Jonathan.cook@southview.ae)

U12 & U16 Girls Football, U13 BSME Netball – [Sarah.whettell@southview.ae](mailto:Sarah.whettell@southview.ae)

U14 Girls Football, U16 Girls Basketball, U15 BSME Netball – [Michelle.rowcliffe@southview.ae](mailto:Michelle.rowcliffe@southview.ae)

U16 Boys Basketball – [carl.burgess@southview.ae](mailto:carl.burgess@southview.ae)

## Upcoming fixtures:

29.09 – U16 boys Football @ Jess Arabian Ranches

29.09 – U16 girls Football vs Fairgreen @SVS 4pm

30.09 – U12 boys Football @ Repton Al Barsha

30.09 – U12 girls Football @ Jess Arabian Ranches

don't forget to



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# SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

[www.southviewschool.com](http://www.southviewschool.com)

[admissions@southview.ae](mailto:admissions@southview.ae)

+971 04 589 7904