February 20th 2026

SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

SECONDARY NEWSLETTER

WEEKLY ROUND -UP

Mr. Macpherson
Head of Secondary

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Ramadan Mubarak to all of our families and members of the South View community.

A quieter week across the Secondary school this week, providing valuable time for students to reflect and refocus on their learning, routines and preparation for the weeks ahead. Moments like these are important; to lay the foundations for strong learning and positive behaviour.

A key theme for us this term is our school values. Many of you may have noticed the words *Kindness, Integrity and Respect* being installed on the side of the school this week. These are not simply words on a wall, they represent the standards we hold ourselves to as a community and the behaviours we want to see lived every day.

As Headteacher, I hold these values very dearly. I actively encourage our staff to model them in every interaction and for our students to demonstrate them in their classrooms, corridors and wider lives. When these values are visible and consistent, they shape culture, strengthen relationships and create the environment in which young people thrive. I will be speaking about the importance of living our values daily and I would encourage families, where possible, to use this same language at home. When students hear and see kindness, integrity and respect reinforced both at school and at home, it strengthens the shared expectations and sense of belonging that sit at the heart of our community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr Macpherson

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Ms. Joanne McCue
Assistant Head of Secondary - Academics

📖 Different Ways of Reading to Support Learning at Home

🌟 **Key Message for Parents**
Not all reading is the same. Helping your child choose **how** to read is often more important than how long they read.

Children do not always need to read every word carefully. **Different tasks require different types of reading**. Encouraging the right approach helps children revise more effectively and avoid feeling overwhelmed.

1. Skimming – Getting the Big Picture

What it is:

Reading quickly to understand the **main idea** of a text.

What children look at:
- Headings and subheadings
- First and last sentences of paragraphs
- Key words in bold or italics

When to use it:
- Before starting a new topic
- To remind themselves what a text is about
- When deciding what needs more detailed reading

How parents can help:
Ask: *"What do you think this section is mainly about?"*

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Ms. Joanne McCue
Assistant Head of Secondary - Academics

📖 Different Ways of Reading to Support Learning at Home

2. Scanning – Finding Specific Information

What it is:
Looking through a text to **find one key detail**, not to read everything.

What children look for:
- 🕐 A date, name, definition, or keyword
- 🕐 Numbers, capital letters, or highlighted text

When to use it:
- 🕐 Answering specific questions
- 🕐 Finding evidence or quotations
- 🕐 Checking facts quickly

How parents can help:
Give a challenge: *"Can you find the definition of…?"*

3. Careful Reading – Understanding in Detail
What it is:
Slow, focused reading to fully understand meaning.

What children do:
Read sentence by sentence
Pause to think
Reread tricky sections

When to use it:
Learning a new concept
Analysing a text (especially in English)
Revising key exam content

How parents can help:
Ask: *"Can you explain that in your own words?"*

SPECIALIST UPDATES

PASTORAL UPDATE

Mr. Michael Macdonald
Assistant Head of Secondary - Pastoral

This week we have been speaking with students about their **digital footprint** and the importance of understanding that what they share online can have a lasting impact. Once something is posted or shared, it can be copied and redistributed beyond their control, in simple terms, once it is online, it is no longer their property.

Schools, universities and future employers increasingly review an individual's online presence. We are encouraging students to pause before posting and ask: *Is it kind? Is it necessary? Would I be comfortable if others saw it?* Online behaviour should reflect the same values of respect, kindness and integrity that we expect in school.

We also ask parents to support us by checking devices at home for VPN applications. VPNs can bypass safeguarding filters and allow access to unsafe content. They are not permitted on school devices or networks, and removing them helps us maintain a safe environment for all students.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our young people develop responsible and respectful digital habits.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Mr. Ryan Bladen
Assistant Head of Secondary Data and Assessment

Education Trends in the UAE – What This Means for South View School

The UAE continues to make significant progress in education, with recent national and international data highlighting both strengths and areas for continued development that are highly relevant to South View School.

One of the most positive indicators is the UAE's exceptionally high youth literacy rate, with nearly 99.6% of young people achieving literacy. This reflects sustained national investment in learning foundations and aligns closely with our focus on literacy across the secondary curriculum. At South View School, this reinforces the importance of developing not only basic literacy, but also higher-order reading, writing and subject-specific academic language skills needed for examination success.

In response to evolving educational trends, United Arab Emirates schools are increasingly adopting continuous assessment models, moving away from an over-reliance on high-stakes testing. This approach supports a more accurate understanding of student progress over time and places greater emphasis on learning, feedback and improvement rather than single assessment outcomes.

As a school community, these developments strongly support our data-informed approach to teaching and assessment. By analysing both internal and external data, we are able to identify strengths, address gaps, and ensure that teaching strategies and interventions are well aligned to student needs. This ongoing focus enables us to support sustained progress throughout the academic year and prepare our students confidently for future pathways.

ENTERPRISE AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Miss Elizabeth Charlton
Head of Enterprise and Technology

It has been another brilliant week in the Enterprise & Technology department. Students in Year 11 and Year 12 Business have been looking at Japanese philosophies of Kaizen (meaning continuous improvement) and JIT stock control.

Our BTEC students are working through unit 9: personal selling and it turns out we have some very natural sales people in our midst!

Saturday schools have been scheduled for GCSE students so please keep an eye out for announcements!

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ARABIC A UPDATE

Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

أولياء الأمور الأفاضل،

يسرّنا أن نتقدم إليكم بأصدق التهاني والتبريكات بمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان المبارك، سائلين الله تعالى أن يجعله شهر خير وبركة عليكم وعلى أبنائنا الطلبة، وأن يعيده عليكم وعلى أسركم الكريمة بالصحة والعافية، وأن يتقبل منّا ومنكم صالح الأعمال.

ونود إحاطتكم علمًا بأنه قد تم الانتهاء من أداء الاختبارات الإلكترونية الخاصة بمنصة «سين»، والتي هدفت إلى قياس مستوى الطلبة في المهارات اللغوية بصورة تشخيصية داعمة للعملية التعليمية. وقد جاءت هذه الاختبارات لتزويد المدرسة والمعلمين بمؤشرات واضحة حول مستويات الطلبة في عدد من المهارات الأساسية، بما يسهم في تحديد جوانب القوة التي ينبغي البناء عليها، والجوانب التي تحتاج إلى دعم إضافي، وذلك بهدف تحسين جودة التعلم ورفع مستوى التحصيل بشكل مستمر.

كما نحيطكم علمًا بأنه سيتم – بإذن الله تعالى – خلال الأسبوع القادم تنفيذ اختبارات قصيرة في مهارتي القراءة والكتابة، وذلك لمتابعة مستوى التقدم الأكاديمي للطلبة بصورة دقيقة ومنتظمة، والوقوف على مدى تطور مهاراتهم خلال الفترة الماضية. وستساعد نتائج هذه الاختبارات في اتخاذ قرارات تعليمية أكثر دقة، وتوجيه التدريس بصورة أفضل، بالإضافة إلى إعداد خطط دعم مناسبة (علاجية وإثرائية) تتوافق مع احتياجات الطلبة، وتضمن تعزيز أدائهم وتحقيق أفضل النتائج الممكنة.

وفي هذا السياق، نؤكد أن هذه الاختبارات القصيرة تهدف إلى المتابعة والتحسين، وليست مصدرًا للقلق؛ فهي جزء من منظومة تقييم تساعد على دعم تعلم الطلبة وتطوير مهاراتهم. لذا نرجو منكم طمأنة أبنائكم وتشجيعهم على التعامل مع هذه الاختبارات بثقة وهدوء، وبذل الجهد المطلوب بما يعكس قدراتهم الحقيقية.

ونأمل منكم دعم أبنائكم خلال هذه الفترة من خلال:

- تشجيعهم على المراجعة المنتظمة لما يتم تعلمه في الصف.
- تنظيم أوقاتهم ومساعدتهم على إدارة وقت المذاكرة بطريقة متوازنة تتناسب مع أوقات رمضان.
- الحرص على القراءة اليومية لمدة قصيرة وثابتة؛ لما لها من أثر كبير في تنمية المفردات وتحسين الفهم القرائي.
- متابعة الواجبات والمهام الصفية، والتأكد من إنجازها بدقة وفي الوقت المحدد.
- تعزيز ثقة الأبناء بأنفسهم من خلال الكلمات الإيجابية والدعم المعنوي، خاصة في هذه الفترة المباركة.

نثمّن تعاونكم الدائم وشراكتكم المستمرة مع المدرسة، فدعمكم في المنزل يُحدث فرقًا حقيقيًا في تقدم أبنائنا ونجاحهم. نسأل الله أن يكتب لأبنائكم التوفيق والسداد، وأن يجعل هذا الشهر الكريم بداية خير وتقدم للجميع.

شاكرين ومقدّرين تعاونكم، وكل عام وأنتم بخير.

مع خالص التقدير والاحترام،

ARABIC B UPDATE

Dear Parents and Guardians,
I hope this message finds you well.
This week, students have begun a new learning unit in Arabic B. Throughout this unit, they will be introduced to a carefully selected set of vocabulary, sentence structures, and key grammar rules that are designed to strengthen their accuracy and confidence in reading and writing. Lessons will focus on building students' understanding of language patterns and helping them apply these effectively through guided practice and independent tasks.
As part of our ongoing academic monitoring and assessment for this term, students will complete Reading and Writing examinations only. Please note that there will be no Speaking or Listening exams during this assessment period. This approach allows us to focus closely on the development of literacy skills, particularly comprehension, vocabulary usage, sentence construction, and written communication.
To support students in preparing effectively, a detailed study guide and revision materials have been uploaded to Microsoft Teams. These resources include key vocabulary lists, grammar explanations, and practice tasks aligned with the learning objectives covered in class. We strongly encourage students to use these materials regularly, in addition to completing any assigned homework and revision activities.
At the same time, we would like to emphasize that the class notebook remains the main and most important study resource. It includes the vocabulary and sentence structures taught in lessons, grammar notes, model answers, and a range of skill-based activities. It also reflects students' learning across the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), which supports deeper understanding even when the current assessment focus is on reading and writing.

You can support your child at home by encouraging them to:
- revise a little each day rather than leaving revision until the last moment,
- review vocabulary and practise using new words in sentences,
- read short texts and identify key ideas and details,
- plan their writing before starting and check their work for accuracy (spelling, punctuation, and grammar),
- keep their notebook organized and complete all classwork and homework tasks carefully.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's learning. If you have any questions regarding the unit content or the assessment arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Kind regards,

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ISLAMIC

Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

Dear Parents
Alsalam Alukom.
Ramadan Mubarak to you and your families. We pray that Allah blesses this month for you with peace, mercy, and acceptance, and that it becomes a time of growth and beautiful memories for our children.
As part of the spirit of generosity in Ramadan, we would like to kindly remind you about our Ramadan Collection to support our valued school support staff. If you would like to contribute, donations can be placed in the allocated donation boxes near Gate 1 and Gate 3, or at Reception. Every contribution, no matter the size, is sincerely appreciated and makes a meaningful difference.
Ramadan is also a special opportunity to strengthen children's faith, values, and family connection through simple, consistent routines at home. We encourage families to create a daily moment for Quran with their child, whether by reading together, listening to a short recitation, or reflecting on a brief meaning or message. Spending a few minutes each day on du'a is also a powerful habit to build, and you may find it helpful to encourage your child to keep a small "Ramadan du'a list" for themselves, their family, and others.
When possible, visiting the mosque as a family can help children feel the atmosphere of Ramadan and understand the importance of worship and community, while reinforcing respectful behaviour and good manners in a sacred space.
Alongside worship, Ramadan is an excellent time to nurture character. Encouraging children to practise kindness, patience, honesty, and respect through helping at home, caring for siblings, speaking gently, and giving to others helps them understand that Ramadan is not only about fasting, but also about improving our actions and behaviour. Some families also find it meaningful to create a simple "good deeds routine" each day, where the child shares one good action they completed, or one lesson they learned.
Academically, students will continue learning as normal throughout Ramadan in a supportive and well-paced way. In Islamic Studies, we will focus on strengthening key concepts and vocabulary, developing understanding through short tasks and discussions, and completing classwork that clearly demonstrates progress. Your support at home especially with routine, organisation, and calm revision when needed has a strong impact on students' confidence and achievement.
Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We wish you and your family a blessed Ramadan.
Warm regards,
Islamic Department

SOCIAL STUDY

أولياء الأمور الأعزاء،
تحية طيبة وبعد،
تحت شعار **« من المهارة إلى الصدارة»**، يسرّنا إحاطتكم علمًا بأنه قد تم الانتهاء من تدريس مجموعة من دروس **التربية الوطنية** المقررة ضمن منهج الفصل الدراسي الثاني. وقد أسهمت هذه الدروس في ترسيخ **الهوية الإماراتية** وتعزيز قيم **الانتماء** و**المواطنة الإيجابية** و**تحمل المسؤولية** لدى أبنائنا الطلبة، من خلال موضوعات ثرية ومتنوعة ركّزت على بناء الوعي الوطني وتنمية الفهم العميق لمقومات الدولة وإنجازاتها.
وقد تناولت الدروس محاور مهمة، من أبرزها:
•سيرة المغفور له الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان – طيب الله ثراه – ودوره الحضاري والإنساني في تأسيس دولة الاتحاد وبناء نهضتها.
•مفاهيم **الاقتصاد الأخضر** وأهميته في دعم الاستدامة والحفاظ على الموارد، بما ينسجم مع رؤية دولة الإمارات للمستقبل.
•مكانة **المرأة الإماراتية** بوصفها شريكًا فاعلًا في مسيرة التنمية، وإسهاماتها الواضحة في مختلف المجالات على مستوى المجتمع والدولة.
ونود التنويه إلى أنه سيتم عقد **اختبار الفصل الدراسي الثاني** خلال الأسبوع القادم؛ لذا نأمل منكم متابعة **منصة Microsoft Teams** بشكل مستمر للاطلاع على المواد التعليمية وملفات المراجعة والتدريبات المرفقة، ودعم أبنائنا في الاستعداد الجيد للاختبار من خلال المراجعة المنتظمة وتنظيم الوقت والالتزام بإنجاز المهام المطلوبة.
إن تعاونكم ومتابعتكم المستمرة لهما بالغ الأثر في رفع مستوى التحصيل الدراسي، وتعزيز الانضباط، وتنمية حس المسؤولية لدى الطلبة، بما ينعكس إيجابًا على أدائهم وثقتهم بأنفسهم.
مع خالص الشكر والتقدير،
قسم الدراسات الاجتماعية والتربية الوطنية

SPECIALIST UPDATES

MFL UPDATE

Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick
Head of MFL

It has been a fantastic and productive week in MFL, with students continuing their French and Spanish lessons with great enthusiasm and commitment. It is always a pleasure to see such positive engagement in the classroom and a growing confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

Our Year 9 Spanish students have been particularly creative this week. As part of their education topic, they have designed and built detailed model classroom layouts, incorporating key vocabulary and descriptive language in Spanish. The quality of work has been impressive, and students have demonstrated both linguistic understanding and creativity in their presentations.

Meanwhile, Year 10 students have now completed their recent assessments in both French and Spanish. We are proud of the focus and maturity they have shown during this important period, particularly as they continue building towards their GCSE courses.

A gentle reminder to parents that Key Stage 3 students (Years 7–9) will not be formally assessed this term. Lessons will continue to focus on developing core language skills and deepening vocabulary knowledge to ensure students are well prepared for future study.

PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

Ms. Charlene Rock
Head of Performing Arts

All Arts lessons continue as normal during Ramadan as students are busy completing exam work at GCSE and A Level and KS3 students complete their assessments. It has been great to see the level of improvement across all subjects in Term 2. Well done to everyone!

Best of luck to our Junk Kouture 2026 participants who will display their designs next week in a bid to make it through to the regional finals.

don`t forget t

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

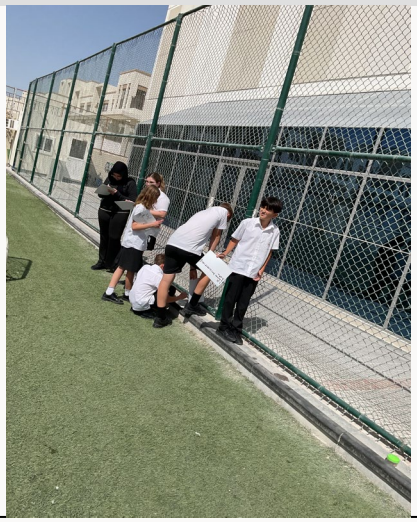
@artsatsvs

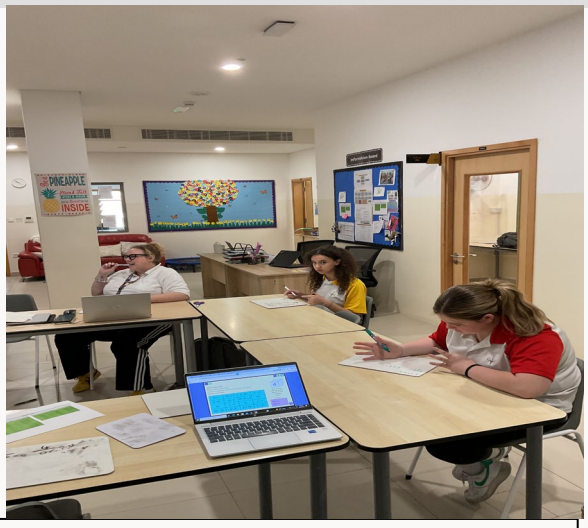
SPECIALIST UPDATES

INCLUSION UPDATE

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

Mrs Abigale Dunn
Head of Inclusion





Ramadam Mubarak to all our families celebrating!

This week our students have taken part in a variety of Maths and English interventions. Some of our Y7 and Y8 students, completed another Maths questions hunt around the school, which was super fun for them all.
We have also been trying to get our students Lexia minutes up this week, and the competition is hotting up, to see who the next student can be to get a Lexia certificate on the wall!

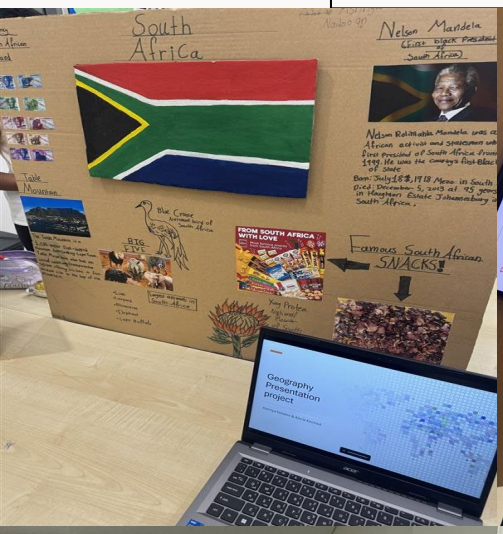
Another fun activity the students took part in was an exciting Maths game, which was about substitution where Mr. King and his team of students took on Ms. Dunn and her team of students. Mr. Kings team was victorious!

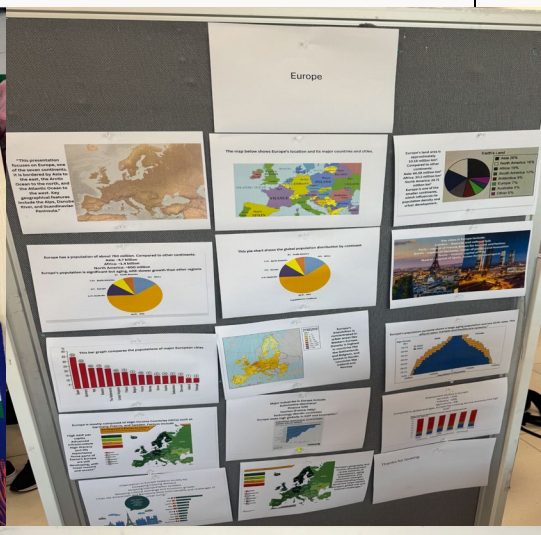
SPECIALIST UPDATES

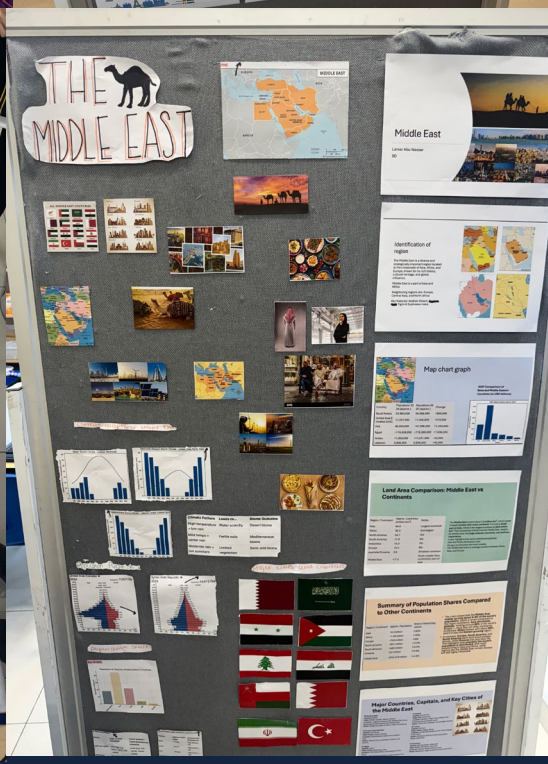
HUMANITIES UPDATE

Ms. Kirstin Scouller
Head of Humanities

Year 9 Geography:
This week in Year 9 Geography, students proudly presented their own regional tasks to the class. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they explained maps, compared climate graphs and explored population changes. They calculated totals, ranked countries by landmass and identified neighboring nations using maps. Students also discussed renewable and non-renewable energy, sustainability, adaptations and how humans impact ecosystems. We are very proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown in their presentations.







PE UPDATES

Ms. Michelle Rowcliffe
Head of Department - Secondary

It has been an exciting and energetic week in the PE Department, with students across the school embracing new activities, developing skills, and demonstrating fantastic commitment to their physical education.

KS3 – Striking and Fielding and Netball

Our Key Stage 3 students have begun their new units this week, and the enthusiasm has been brilliant to see.

- **Boys:** Started their *Striking and Fielding* unit, developing their knowledge of the rules and skills in softball.
- **Girls:** Have begun their *Netball* unit, focusing on developing skills and their knowledge of the rules.

KS4 & KS5

Our KS4 and VI Form students have continued to enjoy a diverse range of physical activities. This week they have taken part in:

- Fitness sessions in the gym
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Basketball

These sessions have offered a great mix of skill development, tactical understanding and opportunities to work on personal fitness goals.

GCSE PE – Badminton

GCSE PE students will now start their new unit on Badminton. Over the next few weeks, they will be developing their technical skills—such as serving, footwork and shot selection—while also learning the tactical elements of the game.

BTEC Sport

Our BTEC Sport students continue to work hard in lessons. This week they have submitted their first draft of their current assignments. They have also been carrying out their client consultations, gathering data and administering health tests.

PE during Ramadan

Students who are fasting are not required to participate in physical activity. They can choose to participate as much or as little as they wish.

don`t forget to
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!
@SportsatSVS

SQUADS UPDATES

Mrs. Teodoro
Director of Sports

Term 3 Sports Update – Basketball Trials & New sports opportunities

We would like to inform you that all squad training sessions have now stopped due to the upcoming Ramadan period. Training will resume from 30th March.
This week we have hold Basketball trials and we are also extending trials during the first week back in Term 3 to give more students the opportunity to take part, as per the following:

- **U12 & U14 Boys – Thursday, 2nd of April**
- **U12 & U14 Girls – Wednesday, 1st of April**

Both trials will take place at 7:00am in the Secondary Sports Hall.

We are also excited to share that we are looking for students who are interested in being part of the first **SVS Water Polo Team**. While we are not planning to enter the DASSA league this academic year, we aim to organise friendly fixtures with other schools. If your child is a confident swimmer — as water polo is played in deep water — they are more than welcome to attend and give it a try.
Registration for these sessions can be completed directly with the PE Department by speaking to Mr. Evans.
We are pleased to inform you that the Dubai School Games is planning to organise a **Wall Climbing Competition**. If your child is interested in representing the school at this exciting event, please contact Mrs. Rowcliffe or Mrs. Sonia in the PE Department for further information.
We encourage students to take on this new challenge and showcase their skills while representing our school with pride.

don`t forget to
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!
@SportsatSVS

South View School

www.southviewschool.com

admissions@southview.ae

+971 04 589 7904