January 23rd 2026

SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

SECONDARY
NEWSLETTER

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Mr. Macpherson
Head of Secondary

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to start by recognising the outstanding achievement of our Under 13 BSME team, who performed superbly at the BSME Games last weekend, securing an impressive 3rd place overall. This is a fantastic accomplishment and a real testament to the students' commitment, teamwork and determination. Huge thanks must also go to the PE team for their excellent preparation and support in helping our students perform at such a high level.

Thank you to all our Year 9 parents who attended the Options Evening on Tuesday. It was a pleasure to see so much excitement and positivity from students as they begin to think seriously about the next phase of their educational journey.

Well done as well to our Year 11 students, who completed their mock examinations today. We very much hope that their hard work, discipline and preparation are reflected in their results and provide valuable guidance as they move towards the summer exams.

Wishing everyone a restful and happy weekend.

Kind regards
Mr Macpherson

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Ms. Joanne McCue
Assistant Head of Secondary - Academics

Teaching and Learning beyond the classroom

At South View, we believe that some of the most powerful learning happens outside the traditional classroom. Visits to museums, cultural festivals, science centres, and interactive exhibitions allow pupils to connect what they learn in lessons to the wider world. These experiences spark curiosity, develop critical thinking, and encourage discussion at home and at school. By exploring real-world contexts, children gain a deeper understanding of subjects, practise new skills, and see the relevance of their learning in everyday life. We encourage families to take advantage of these opportunities, as they enrich classroom learning and inspire a lifelong love of discovery.

Please see below some exciting events taking place locally:

Dubai Family Learning & Cultural Events – Jan–Apr 2026

📚 Emirates Literature Foundation – *Emirates Airline Festival of Literature*

Dates: 21–27 January 2026
Where: InterContinental Dubai Festival City (various venues)
Opening Times: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm daily during the festival (family sessions available)
A week-long celebration of books, authors and stories with family sessions and workshops perfect for children and teens interested in reading, storytelling and creative writing. Sessions are generally in English and Arabic, with activities suitable for all ages.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Ms. Joanne McCue
Assistant Head of Secondary - Academics

🎨 Alserkal Avenue – *Quoz Arts Fest 2026*

Dates: 24–25 January 2026
Times: ~10:00 am – 11:00 pm both days
A vibrant arts and culture festival celebrating creativity with installations, live performances, creative workshops and family-friendly activities across the Al Quoz creative area.

🎭 Sikka Art & Design Festival *(part of Dubai Art Season)*

Dates: 23 January – 1 February 2026
Where: Al Shindagha Historic District
Typical Schedule: Evenings from ~5:00 pm – 10:00 pm on weekdays; extended into late evening on weekends
This annual festival features interactive art, live performances, workshops and exhibitions — great for families with older children and teens who enjoy creativity, visual arts and design exploration.

🔬 Children's City

Opening Times:

- Mon–Fri: *9:00 am – 8:00 pm*
- Sat & Sun: *2:00 pm – 8:00 pm*
  An interactive educational space with science, space, environment and human body exhibits designed especially for younger children — ideal for hands-on learning and early STEM engagement.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

PASTORAL UPDATE

Mr. Michael Macdonald
Assistant Head of Secondary - Pastoral

Our school's mobile phone policy is clear and designed with students' learning and wellbeing in mind. Students are expected to leave mobile phones at home, or alternatively, use a school purchased phone pouch which can be bought from the Finance Office. These pouches are locked at the start of the school day and unlocked at the end, ensuring phones are not accessible during learning time.

Research consistently shows that reducing access to mobile phones during the school day improves students' focus, engagement, and academic outcomes. Studies have found that even the presence of a phone can be distracting and can pull attention away from learning tasks and peer interaction. When distractions are reduced, students are better able to concentrate, participate, and retain information.

Beyond academic benefits, limiting phone use at school also supports students' social development. Face to face interaction, problem solving, and collaboration are essential skills that grow when students are fully present in their learning environment.

We encourage families to continue conversations at home about responsible and appropriate mobile phone use. Discussing boundaries, screen time, and expectations helps students develop healthy habits that extend beyond school.

It is also important to talk with children about their digital footprint. This refers to the permanent trail created by online posts, messages, and images. What may feel like a harmless moment now can have long term consequences for future education, employment, and personal relationships. Helping students understand why their online choices matter empowers them to make safer, more thoughtful decisions.

By working together, school and home can supports tudents to stay focused, develop positive digital habits, and build skills that will benefit them well into the future.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

6th FORM and CAREERS UPDATE

Mr. Carl Burgess
Head of Sixth Form

Turning Your Grades into Growth: A Positive Path Forward

As we receive our latest grades, it's easy to feel a surge of joy or disappointment — sometimes both at once. But what if we shifted the way we *think* about grades entirely?

Grades as Feedback, Not Final Judgments

Recent educational research shows that when students change their mindset about learning, they can actually *improve* their academic performance. A study from Stanford University found that students who cultivated a **growth mindset** — the belief that intelligence and ability can develop with effort — earned higher grades and were less likely to receive failing marks.

In other words, grades are **not fixed labels** of your worth, but useful feedback on your current understanding.

Reflect First, Then React

Instead of asking, "Why did I do badly?" or "Why didn't I ace it?" — try this:

- **Reflect on your effort and strategies:** What study habits worked? Where did you stumble?
- **Ask specific questions:** Not just "Why is this grade low?" but *"Which steps in my process led to this outcome?"*
- **Talk to your teachers:** Research suggests that students gain more accurate self-awareness when they compare their expectations to actual results and learn how to adjust.

This kind of reflection helps develop *metacognition* — the ability to think about how you think and learn — and that actually predicts better performance over time.

Small Improvements, Big Impact

Grades don't define your future on their own. What matters more is:

- Setting **specific short-term goals**
- Tracking progress
- Adjusting strategies when needed

Even tiny shifts in how you approach learning — like reorganising how you revise or tackling practice questions earlier — build confidence and competence.

Be Kind to Yourself — Progress Is Not Linear

It's normal to feel disappointed when a grade doesn't match your hopes, but beating yourself up doesn't help. Research on academic psychology shows that **acknowledging emotions** and then refocusing on actions leads to better outcomes than ignoring feelings or dwelling on them.

Remember:

A grade is a *measurement* — not a sentence.

Your Grades Can Be Tools for Growth

Here's a simple process you can follow after you get your results:

- **Pause and reflect** — consider what the grade is *telling you* about your process.
- **Identify one change** you can try next time (study method, environment, schedule).
- **Plan and act** — set a clear, achievable goal before your next assessment.
- **Check in with yourself** — what worked? What didn't?

When we focus on growth instead of perfection, every grade — high or low — becomes a step forward.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Mr. Ryan Bladen

Assistant Head of Secondary
Data and Assessment

Curriculum and Progress

Over the past two weeks, the Senior Leadership Team has been conducting data analysis meetings with all Heads of Department to review student attainment and progress from Term 1.

These meetings have provided an important opportunity to look closely at patterns across subjects, identify strengths in teaching and learning, and highlight areas where students may need additional support or challenge. By engaging in these discussions early in the academic year, departments are able to respond proactively rather than reactively.

This process is particularly important as we move into the remainder of the academic year. It ensures that progress is monitored consistently, that expectations are clearly understood, and that targeted strategies can be put in place to support all learners in making at least expected progress, and, where possible, exceeding it.

Regular analysis of attainment and progress data will continue to inform departmental planning, teaching approaches, and intervention strategies, helping to ensure that every student is supported to achieve their full potential.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

LITERACY UPDATE

Mr. David Archibald
Head of English &
Literacy Coordinator

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
Joseph Addison

Now that Year 11 mock examinations have finished, this is an ideal time for students to reflect on feedback and strengthen their literacy skills in preparation for the summer exams. Strong reading and writing skills underpin success across all subjects, and small, consistent habits at home can make a real difference.

Students are encouraged to revisit exam papers and teacher feedback carefully, paying close attention to subject-specific vocabulary, command words, and common errors. Creating a glossary of key terms and practising using them accurately in sentences or short exam-style responses can help improve precision and confidence.

Regular reading remains one of the most effective revision strategies. This might include revision guides, model answers, high-quality non-fiction articles, or set texts, with a focus on understanding meaning, structure, and writer's intent. Parents can support by encouraging students to discuss what they have read, summarise key points aloud, or explain ideas in their own words.

For writing-based subjects, planning answers before writing, practising timed responses, and proofreading for clarity, spelling, and punctuation are essential skills. Reading work aloud is a simple but effective way for students to check whether their writing makes sense.

Finally, short, frequent revision sessions are far more effective than long, infrequent ones. Even 15–20 minutes of focused literacy work each day can have a significant impact over time.

ENGLISH UPDATE

We would like to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 12 students on the effort and resilience they have shown during the recent mock examinations. Completing a full set of mocks is a significant milestone, and students should be proud of the focus and commitment they demonstrated throughout this period.

With the mocks now complete, this is an important time for students to reflect carefully on feedback and begin targeted preparation for the final examinations. Revisiting set texts, refining exam technique, and practising extended responses will be key to building confidence and improving performance over the coming weeks.

To further support students, a new English masterclass schedule will be shared by the school shortly. These sessions are designed to strengthen core skills, revisit key content, and develop exam strategies. All Year 11 students are welcome to attend, and those for whom attendance is mandatory, they will be contacted directly.

In addition, coursework catch-up and resubmission sessions will take place on Monday and Tuesday next week. The students concerned have been contacted and will be required to attend for some or all of this time, depending on their individual needs.

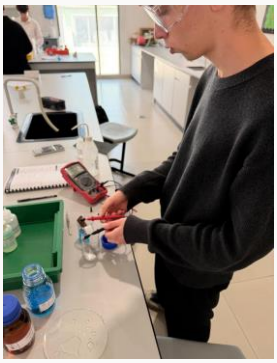
We look forward to continuing to support our students as they move into this crucial phase of their exam preparation.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

SCIENCE UPDATE

Mr. Philip Mutton
Head of Science

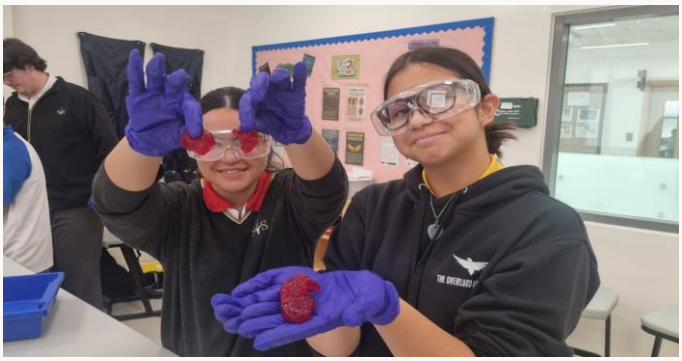
It has been another busy and exciting week in the science department, with fantastic learning taking place across all year groups. Our Year 11 students have been getting hands-on in their polymer lessons, creating slime while exploring the properties and behaviour of polymers in a memorable and engaging way. Meanwhile, Year 8 students demonstrated excellent critical thinking skills as they debated climate change, considering scientific evidence and developing well-reasoned arguments on this important global issue.



In chemistry, Year 10 students have been deepening their understanding of redox reactions, applying key concepts that form the foundation of much of GCSE chemistry. At the other end of the school, our Year 13 A Level chemists have been busy constructing and analysing electrochemical cells, putting theory into practice with impressive focus and independence.

We would also like to thank all parents who attended the Year 9 Options Evening. It was great to see such strong interest in science, with many thoughtful questions and engaging conversations about GCSE Science pathways. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like any further information as students continue to make their subject choices.

Finally, congratulations to our A Level students on receiving their results this week – a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work and commitment. Well done as well to all Year 11 students for completing their mock examinations. We know how demanding this period has been, and their effort and resilience have been excellent. Results will be shared very soon.



SPECIALIST UPDATES

ARABIC A UPDATE

Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

أولياء الأمور الأفاضل،

تحية طيبة وبعد،

انطلاقًا من حرص المدرسة على تعزيز المستوى الأكاديمي لأبنائنا وبناء مهاراتهم اللغوية، يواصل طلابنا مسيرتهم التعليمية في الفصل الدراسي الثاني، ملتزمين بالجدية واستثمار الوقت لتحقيق أفضل النتائج.

خلال هذا الأسبوع، تناول الطلاب في مادة اللغة العربية مهارة النحو ودراسة القواعد؛ بهدف فهمٍ أعمق لتركيب الجملة العربية، وإتقان إعراب الكلمات وتحديد مواقعها داخل الجملة، بما يعزز قدراتهم في القراءة والكتابة والتعبير السليم.

كما نؤكد على أهمية القراءة المنتظمة، والاستفادة من منصة «اقرأ بالعربية»، لما لها من دور مباشر في تنمية الثروة اللغوية، وتحسين الفهم القرائي، ودعم مهارات الكتابة.

تنويه هام لطلاب الصف الحادي عشر – مسار :OL

أنهى طلابنا الامتحانات التجريبية لمادة اللغة العربية للوقوف على نقاط القوة ومجالات الدعم، ويتم دعمهم ومتابعتهم من خلال الحصص الإضافية المخصصة لهم لتعزيز مستواهم وتحقيق أفضل أداء.

نثمّن دعمكم المستمر لمسيرة أبنائنا التعليمية،

ومع خالص تمنياتنا لهم بدوام التوفيق والنجاح.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير.

ARABIC B UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope you are well.
Here is a brief update from Arabic B:

This week: Listening

Students practised listening comprehension by identifying key vocabulary, understanding main ideas, and answering short questions.

Next week: Speaking

Students will focus on speaking skills, including pronunciation, using key phrases, and taking part in short paired conversations.

How to support at home

Encourage your child to review the vocabulary list and sentence structures learned in this unit. They can also use *I Start Arabic* to complete their target activities.

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Arabic B Department

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ISLAMIC

Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope you are well.
Reminder: Quranic Garden Trip – Year 7 & Year 8 (10–11 February 2026)
This is a friendly reminder about our upcoming Islamic Studies trip for **Year 7 and Year 8** to the **Quranic Garden**, taking place on **10–11 February 2026** (the final day will be confirmed based on student numbers).
The visit will support students' learning through an engaging, curriculum-linked experience focused on:
•Qur'anic stories and the prophets
•Qur'anic miracles and values
•Reflection on moral lessons from the Holy Qur'an
Students will explore interactive exhibits, the Miracle Cave, and the gardens featuring plants mentioned in the Qur'an—helping them connect classroom learning with meaningful real-life experiences.
Next steps for parents:
•Please ensure your child registers for the trip once the registration/payment link is shared.
•Places are limited, so we encourage early sign-up.
Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Kind regards,
Islamic Studies Department

SOCIAL STUDY

أولياء الأمور الكرام،
تحية طيبة وبعد،
في إطار رؤيتنا التعليمية وحرصنا على تحقيق شعار «من المهارة إلى الصدارة»، يواصل طلابنا خلال هذا الأسبوع دراسة مجموعة من الموضوعات الهادفة في مادة الدراسات الاجتماعية، التي تسهم في تعزيز الهوية الوطنية وتنمية الوعي المعرفي لدى أبنائنا.
يتعرّف الطلاب إلى قارة آسيا بشريًا من حيث الخصائص السكانية وأنماط التوزيع البشري، كما يدرسون خصائص السكان في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة من حيث النمو والتركيبة السكانية. إضافة إلى ذلك، يتناول الطلاب درس «الإمارات: من سفينة الصحراء إلى مسبار الفضاء» الذي يبرز مسيرة التطور الحضاري والعلمي للدولة، ودرس «الإمارات والاقتصاد المعرفي» الذي يوضح دور المعرفة والابتكار في دعم التنمية المستدامة.
ونؤكد أهمية متابعة أولياء الأمور لأبنائهم، والاهتمام بحل الواجبات المدرسية والالتزام بتسليمها في الوقت المحدد؛ لما لذلك من دور فاعل في تعزيز الفهم وترسيخ التعلّم.
وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

MFL UPDATE

Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick
Head of MFL

Students have been fully immersed in their language learning this week, exploring a wide range of engaging topics. From speaking confidently about holidays and discussing how to spend money, to developing accuracy through key verb conjugations, learners have built both their communicative skills and grammatical understanding. It has been great to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow across listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities.

It was fantastic to see so many parents and students at the Options Evening. We really appreciated the positive conversations and engagement around future subject choices. Completing an IGCSE qualification in a language offers significant benefits, including improved communication skills, enhanced cultural awareness, and strong preparation for further study and future career pathways. We encourage students to keep their options open, as a language qualification can be a valuable asset in a wide range of academic and professional contexts.

PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

Ms. Charlene Rock
Head of Performing Arts

It is full steam ahead in the Performing Arts faculty this week as we edge closer to our first performance of the Secondary Production 'The Wiz Jr'. The costumes are ready and our performers and production team are busy putting the final touches together. Please see the following page for details of the dates and how to secure your ticket. This very well could be our best show yet!

Thanks to our Dorothy, Addaperle and ensemble 2 for performing at Tunes 4 Tuesday this week. Come along to the Amphitheatre on Tuesday mornings between 7:20am and 7:40am to catch some more sneak previews of the show.

Thanks also to our Year 9 options evening performers (from our Year 10 GCSE Drama cohort) for giving up their evening to entertain our parents. Well done Maha, Selma, Poppy and Zaina! We are really excited about next Year's intake of performing Arts students- they certainly are a talented bunch.

Our work with the Centre for Musical Arts continues and the uptake in Music is increasing at a fast pace. There are a few spots left for lessons this term. Please contact southview@cmadubai.com for more details about how you can sign up for extra music lessons in school with a free trial.

Performing Arts UPDATES

Year 10 GCSE Drama students- Options Evening Performances

don't forget to
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

It has been another busy week in the inclusion department. Our Y11 students have finished their Mock examinations, in which we are incredibly proud of their efforts and focus over the past 2 weeks. On Tuesday we had our Y9 options evening where we could showcase our current ASDAN students fantastic work. And our Y7 students completed some amazing lessons, including a science lesson focusing on muscles looking at how they move and how they are connected to the bones. The students balanced in different positions and were able to describe the which muscles they were moving and which ones are stretching.

HUMANITIES UPDATE

Ms. Kirstin Scouller
Head of Humanities

We would like to congratulate all of our GCSE and A Level Humanities students in Geography, History, Psychology and Sociology on completing their mock examinations. These assessments required sustained effort, organisation and resilience, and students should be proud of the commitment they have shown throughout the mock period. The mocks provide valuable insight into students' strengths and areas for development, allowing teachers to give targeted feedback and support in preparation for the final examinations. We would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support at home and congratulate students on their hard work.

PE UPDATES

Ms. Michelle Rowcliffe
Head of Department - Secondary

It has been another active and exciting week in the PE Department. Our KS3 students have shown fantastic energy and enthusiasm as they continued with athletics and swimming this week. Their effort and work rate in the pool has been particularly impressive. KS4 students have been honing their teamwork and tactical skills in netball, volleyball, and football. Y10 GCSE PE students have been focusing on Goal Setting, examining the role of SMART targets in improving performance. In addition, they have been developing their exam technique. Our KS5 BTEC students have continued with their Rules and Regulations unit. This week, they have been busy collecting video evidence of their officiating in practical settings.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work and positive attitude shown by all our students.

If your child needs to be excused from PE or swimming, please email: michelle.rowcliffe@southview.ae

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

PE & SQUAD UPDATES

U13 BSME Games – A Weekend to Remember

Mrs. Sonia Teodoro
Director of Sport

Our U13 students delivered an outstanding performance at the BSME Games, showing determination, teamwork, and excellent sportsmanship across athletics, football, netball and Volleyball.

Athletics Highlights

🥇 Gold: Ekaa – 100m
🥉 Bronze: Ekaa – 400m
🥉 Bronze: Aiden – Triple Jump
🥉 Bronze: Mustafa – Long Jump

Girls Relay A Team finished 4th by just 0.01 seconds

Overall Results:

🏐 Volleyball: Boys achieved SVS's best-ever result, finishing 4th
🏐 Netball: Girls finished 4th after qualifying for the semi-finals
⚽ Football: Girls finished 8th
🏃‍♀️ Girls Athletics: 4th
🏃‍♂️ Boys Athletics: 3rd
⚽ Boys Football: 1st🏆

Overall: 3rd Place

We are incredibly proud of our students for their commitment, resilience, and attitude throughout the weekend. Thank you to our parents for your continued support, and special thanks to Mrs. Whettell and Mr. Powell for their dedication and care.

We Are South View! 💙💛

Football Noon Kit Return

We would like to request to all students that in Term 1 were part of the football squads to return their football kit to the PE department during next week.

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

PE & SQUAD UPDATES

SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL
Imagine Greatness
"Summum Contemplare"

FIXTURES

RESULTS

Girls Volleyball

U19'S VS GEMS WA -
U14'S VS SCS- WIN
U16'S VS GEMS IS - LOST

Netball

U19'S VS SCS - WIN
U16'S VS SCS - WIN
U12'S VS KAB - LOST
U14'S VS DBS JP - LOST

Boys Volleyball

U14'S VS DIS - WIN
U16'S VS DIS - LOST

NEXT WEEK

Girls Volleyball

NO GAMES

Boys Volleyball

28.01 - U14'S VS SCS (AWAY)
29.01- U16'S VS HIS (HOME)

Netball

26.01 - U16'S VS KAB (AWAY)
27.01 - U12'S VS BC (AWAY)
28.01 - U19'S VS DC (HOME)
29.01 - U14'S VS RGS (HOME)

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