



SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

# SECONDARY

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# NEWSLETTER



## WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Dear Parents and Guardians,



**Mr. Macpherson**  
Head of Secondary

This week's newsletter is a condensed edition, as our Heads of Year will soon be sharing their new Year Group specific monthly round-ups. These will give you more tailored insights into what has been happening in your child's year group and highlight key achievements, events, and reminders.

Even in a shorter newsletter, we are pleased to share some of the highlights from this week. On **Tuesday**, we marked **International Sign Language Day**, and it was inspiring to see our incredibly talented Year 12 students, **Tessa and Alula**, leading the way in educating and encouraging our students. Their enthusiasm and confidence was a true reflection of the leadership we love to see at SVS.

Today, we also celebrated the **European Day of Languages**. A big thank you to **Mr Fitzpatrick** for promoting this across the school and to the several members of our community who contributed to the fantastic *6:7 video*, a wonderful reminder of the rich diversity of languages and cultures we are fortunate to have within our school community.

Wishing you all a happy and restful weekend.

Kind regards.  
Mr Macpherson



# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## ACADEMIC UPDATE



**Ms. Joanne McCue**  
Assistant Head of  
Secondary - Academics

### **How Parents Can Support Their Children with Revision**

Supporting your child with revision doesn't mean doing the work for them — it's about helping them to feel confident, organised, and motivated. Here are some practical ways you can help at home:

#### **1. Create a routine**

Encourage your child to set a regular study timetable with short, focused sessions and built-in breaks. Consistency reduces stress and helps information stick.

#### **2. Provide a quiet, distraction-free space**

A calm environment away from phones, TV, and noise will help them concentrate more effectively.

#### **3. Encourage active revision**

Prompt them to use strategies such as flashcards, mind maps, or teaching the topic back to you. Active recall strengthens memory better than simply re-reading notes.

#### **4. Break it down**

Help your child to tackle revision in manageable chunks. Focus on one topic at a time rather than cramming everything at once.

#### **5. Celebrate effort, not just results**

Acknowledge the hard work they are putting in. Small rewards and positive feedback go a long way in keeping motivation high.

#### **6. Look after wellbeing**

Remind them to get enough sleep, eat well, and take regular exercise. A healthy mind and body are essential for effective learning.



# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## PASTORAL UPDATE



**Mr. Michael Macdonald**  
Assistant Head of  
Secondary - Pastoral

At South View, we place great importance on our school uniform as it reflects our shared values and sense of belonging. Wearing the correct uniform helps create a united school community where every student feels part of something bigger. It also sets a positive tone for learning and encourages pride in both personal presentation and our school identity.

As outlined in the Parent Handbook, all items of uniform including shoes should follow the guidance provided. We ask that parents continue to support us in ensuring students come to school dressed appropriately each day, ready to learn and represent South View with pride.

Thank you for working with us in maintaining these standards. Your partnership makes a real difference in helping us build a strong and united school community.

### 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

### University Applications: Moving Early Has its Advantages

As Year 13 students are now refining their university shortlists, it's useful to remember that applying early can bring real benefits:

- **More time to prepare strong applications** — Submitting early allows you to gather documents, recommendations, test scores, and polish your personal statement without the last-minute rush.
- **Better scholarship and financial aid opportunities** — Many universities reserve their best funding or have early deadlines. Applying early gives you the best chance of accessing these.
- **Less stress and greater peace of mind** — Having applications completed early means fewer things looming in the final months of Sixth Form, and if you have an offer in hand you can plan with more confidence.
- **Competitive advantage in some cases** — When universities operate rolling admissions or early action programmes, applying early can sometimes give you a better chance or more flexibility.

So, Year 13: if you can, aim to have your applications in as early as possible, while also making sure they reflect your best work.

### Khaleej Times UniExpo Trip — Year 11, 12 & 13

Many of our students in Years 11, 12, and 13 took part in the **Khaleej Times UniExpo**. It was a superb opportunity to:

- Explore universities and courses both in the UAE and internationally, from traditional disciplines like medicine, engineering, and business, to newer programmes in AI, data science, and media.
- Speak directly to admissions representatives and alumni, ask questions, learn about entry requirements, scholarships, and which programmes best align with their career goals.
- Gain clarity and start shortlisting realistically, identifying which universities and courses match personal strengths and interests.
- Discover emerging fields such as psychology, computing, and cybersecurity, which are opening exciting new career pathways.



### Looking Ahead

- **Year 13s:** keep refining your shortlist, and if possible, aim to complete applications early.
- **Years 11 & 12:** use this time to explore, research, and start shaping your ideas about potential courses and universities.
- **Everyone:** take advantage of school resources, university fairs, and guidance to make informed decisions.



# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE



**Mr. Ryan Bladen**

Assistant Head of Secondary  
Data and Assessment

### Why We Test – The Purpose of Assessment

Assessment can often feel daunting for students, but it plays a vital role in teaching and learning. At South View School, we see assessment as a way of finding out what students already know, what they can do, and where we can help them improve. It is not about attaching a label, but about guiding the next steps in learning.

Every assessment has a purpose. Short quizzes help us check whether recent learning has “stuck.” End-of-unit tests show how well students have understood bigger topics. Baseline assessments, like CAT4, give us a sense of strengths in reasoning, problem solving, and verbal ability. Mock exams allow students to practise exam skills and help teachers spot areas that need review before final exams.

Most importantly, teachers use the results to adapt their lessons. If many students struggled with a particular topic, that area can be revisited. If a student is excelling, extension work can be provided. For parents, assessment data provides reassurance and clarity — showing where progress is being made and where extra practice might help.

Assessment is, above all, a tool for progress.



# SQUAD UPDATES



**Mrs. Sonia Teodoro**  
Director of Sport



# FIXTURES

## SET / NOV

### Football

U12'S BOYS - 30 SET - REPTON AL BARSHA (AWAY)  
U14'S BOYS - 2 OCT - JESS ARABIAN RANCHES (HOME)  
U16'S BOYS - 29 SET - JESS ARABIAN RANCHES (AWAY)  
U12'S GIRLS - 30 SET - JESS RANCHES @ISD (AWAY)  
U14'S GIRLS - 2 OCT - TBC  
U16'S GIRLS - 29 SET - FAIRGREEN INT. SCHOOL (HOME)

### Swimming

U13 & U15 BOYS & GIRLS - 2 OCT - RELAY GALA - JPS (AWAY)

### Basketball

U16'S BOYS - 2 OCT - DWIGHT IS (HOME)  
U16'S GIRLS - 1 OCT - KINGS AL BARSHA (AWAY)

## Links:

[SVS Sports Website](#)

[SOCS Parents login](#)







SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

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