



SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

# SECONDARY

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# NEWSLETTER



## WEEKLY ROUND-UP



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to start by thanking all the parents who joined us for this week's Coffee Morning, where Mrs Billington and Mr Bladen spoke about Assessment Week expectations and how best to support our students during this important time. A special thank you also goes to our Year 11 parents for attending Thursday's Parents' Evening, your continued support is greatly appreciated and makes a huge difference when it comes to improving student outcomes. Please note that this week's newsletter is a little more condensed than usual, as our Heads of Year will be sending out year-group specific updates directly to parents.

**Mr. Macpherson**  
Head of Secondary

This week, I have been taking some time to step back from the day-to-day operations of the school and focus on the bigger picture, particularly around the growth and direction of our Sixth Form. Preparing students for life beyond school, whether that is university, apprenticeships, or the workplace, is central to what we do. We are passionate about providing opportunities that allow our students to experience the real world, step outside their comfort zones, and discover where their interests might develop into genuine passions.

With that in mind, I would love to strengthen community links and hear from any parents working in interesting or dynamic fields, from entrepreneurs and business owners to architects, engineers, doctors, designers, or those in media, law, or technology, who would be willing to share their career journeys or offer work experience opportunities to our Sixth Form students. Your insights and experiences could inspire the next generation and help them take their first steps toward their future careers. Please do get in touch at [secondaryhead@southview.ae](mailto:secondaryhead@southview.ae).

Wishing everyone a restful weekend, and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr Macpherson



# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## ACADEMIC UPDATE



Ms. Joanne McCue  
Assistant Head of  
Secondary - Academics

### **Digital Learning Spotlight: The Latest Tools to Support Students at Home**

At South View School, we are always exploring innovative ways to help students extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Technology plays a key role in helping pupils consolidate knowledge, revise effectively, and become independent learners. This term, our Teaching & Learning team have curated a list of the latest educational platforms and apps that are making a real difference for secondary and sixth form students.

#### 1. Seneca Learning

An interactive platform that turns revision into a game! Students can access free courses tailored to their exam boards, including Pearson Edexcel GCSE, IGCSE, and A Level content.

Why we love it: Adaptive learning adjusts to your child's strengths and weaknesses, providing instant feedback and retrieval practice aligned with Rosenshine's "Daily Review."

 [www.senecalearning.com](https://www.senecalearning.com)

#### 2. Quizlet

Perfect for creating flashcards, vocabulary lists, and quick recall quizzes. Teachers and students can build custom sets that match current topics, making it ideal for retrieval practice and independent study.

Why we love it: Encourages spaced repetition, self-quizzing, and collaborative learning between peers.

 [www.quizlet.com](https://www.quizlet.com)

#### 3. BBC Bitesize & BBC Teach

Reliable, curriculum-aligned resources across all key subjects. Video explainers, step-by-step guides, and interactive challenges make complex concepts more accessible.

Why we love it: High-quality explanations linked to the British curriculum, ideal for homework support and pre-reading.

 [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## ACADEMIC UPDATE



Ms. Joanne McCue  
Assistant Head of  
Secondary - Academics

### 4. Physics & Maths Tutor

A favourite for GCSE and A Level students! It provides practice papers, topic summaries, and mark schemes for multiple exam boards.


Why we love it: Excellent for exam preparation and self-assessment. Students can identify weak areas and track progress independently.

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

### 5. YouTube Learning Channels (Free & Safe)

Channels such as *Free Science Lessons*, *Mr Bruff (English)*, *Cognito*, and *Crash Course* offer engaging visual explanations that bring subjects to life.

Why we love it: Perfect for visual learners and for reinforcing classroom content through short, focused clips.

 Search directly on YouTube for “Free Science Lessons GCSE” or “Mr Bruff English.”

### 6. Microsoft Teams & OneNote Class Notebooks

Our school's digital backbone! Students can access lesson resources, submit work, receive feedback, and review class notes anytime.

Why we love it: Encourages organisation, accountability, and independence, skills vital for exam success and lifelong learning.

### How Parents Can Help

Encourage students to set aside 20–30 minutes each evening for digital revision or retrieval tasks.

Ask them to *teach back* what they've learned — explaining a topic aloud is one of the best ways to strengthen understanding.

Check Teams regularly for updates, assignments, and revision resources posted by teachers.

### Our Vision

By blending research-informed teaching with the best digital tools, we're helping every South View learner to become curious, confident, and capable — both in school and at home.

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## PASTORAL UPDATE



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

At South View, we are committed to helping students develop skills that will serve them well beyond their school years. One of the simplest yet most valuable of these skills is punctuality. Being on time demonstrates respect for others, strong self-management, and readiness to learn, all qualities that contribute to success in further education and the workplace.

While some students may view the after-school reflection as overly strict, it is entirely preventable. Arriving punctually to lessons requires little effort and is completely within each student's control. By moving quickly and purposefully between classes, every student can avoid unnecessary sanctions and make the most of their learning time.

To support smoother transitions between lessons, we will be introducing a one-way system in the school from Tuesday morning. Students will receive clear instructions about this new system during form time on Monday. We are confident this will ease congestion on the stairways and help everyone arrive to class promptly.

We appreciate your continued feedback and your support in reinforcing the importance of punctuality at home. Please encourage your child to move promptly between lessons and take pride in being ready and on time for every class.

# SPECIALIST UPDATES

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



**Mr. Carl Burgess**  
Head of Sixth Form



### Avoiding Burnout During Revision: Finding the Right Balance

In my last letter, I spoke about revision and the importance of preparing effectively for assessments. This week, I want to focus on something just as important — **avoiding burnout** and finding a healthy balance.

As students start revising more intensely, it's easy to fall into the trap of overworking. However, revision is only effective when your mind is fresh and focused. Here are a few simple ways to maintain balance:

- **Plan realistic study sessions:** Break your revision into manageable chunks and include regular short breaks. The *Pomodoro technique* — 25 minutes of focused study followed by a 5-minute break — can work wonders.
- **Mix it up:** Change subjects or topics regularly to keep your brain active and avoid fatigue.
- **Stay active:** Light exercise, even a short walk, helps clear your mind and improves concentration.
- **Rest properly:** Sleep is essential for memory and focus. Aim for at least 7–8 hours each night.
- **Make time for you:** Keep doing the things you enjoy — hobbies, socialising, or relaxing — so revision doesn't take over completely.

Remember, effective revision isn't about how *much* you study, but *how well* you manage your time and energy. Finding that balance now will help you perform at your best when it matters most.



# SPECIALIST UPDATES

## DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE



**Mr. Ryan Bladen**

Assistant Head of Secondary  
Data and Assessment

### Assessment Week 1 – Starting Next Week

A reminder that Assessment Week 1 begins next week for all secondary year groups. These assessments are an important part of the learning journey, helping students and teachers to reflect on progress and plan the next steps in learning.

### Why Do We Assess?

Assessment plays a key role in supporting academic progress across all year groups. It helps us to:

- Measure current attainment and identify areas for improvement.
- Provide valuable experience of formal assessment conditions.
- Inform next steps in teaching, learning, and support.

These assessments are not designed to create pressure but to give both students and teachers a clear understanding of how learning is developing. They act as checkpoints that help students build confidence, refine study skills, and prepare effectively for future examinations and assessments.

### Topics and Resources

The Assessment Timetable and Overview have been shared with parents and students. Each subject has outlined the key content and skills that will be assessed, along with useful resources to guide preparation. These are designed to help students revise in a structured and balanced way.

Thank you for your continued support in helping students approach Assessment Week with confidence and a positive attitude toward their progress and learning.

# PE & SQUAD UPDATES



## Emirates NBD Unity Run 2025



**Mrs. Sonia Teodoro**  
Director of Sport

We are delighted to share that the **annual Emirates NBD Unity Run** will take place on **Sunday, 16th November 2025**, at **Expo City Dubai**. Organized under the **Hamdan bin Mohammed Community Sports Initiative**, this inspiring event is the UAE's leading community run for **people of determination and their buddies**, celebrating inclusion and raising awareness for a disability-friendly Dubai.

The Unity Run supports the **'My Community' initiative** launched by **His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum**, aligning with the **UN International Day for Persons with Disabilities**.

If your family is interested in taking part, please contact **[sonia.teodoro@southview.ae](mailto:sonia.teodoro@southview.ae)** for registration.

For more details, visit the [Event Website](#).



### DUBAI 30x30 SVS MILE CHALLENGE

In each PE lesson the pupils will be completing the mile challenge. The aim is to complete a mile each lesson and gradually increase the speed each week. We will be counting up the miles each week and seeing how many miles SVS can complete.



### DUBAI 30x30

During lunchtimes (1.15-1.45pm) the **WELLS COURT** will be open to play volleyball. On arrival, students need to report in with the **BTEC** students to be placed on a team,





# SQUAD UPDATES



# FIXTURES

## RESULTS

### Football

U12'S BOYS VS NAS - LOST  
U14'S BOYS VS GEMS IS - LOST  
U16'S BOYS VS JAS - WIN

U12'S GIRLS VS KINGS AL BARSHA - LOST  
U14'S GIRLS VS BLOOM WA - LOST  
U16'S GIRLS VS GEMS WIS - LOST

### Basketball

U16'S BOYS VS AIS - LOST



## NEXT WEEK

### Football

U12'S BOYS - 4 NOV - RGS (AWAY)  
U14'S BOYS - 6 NOV - JAS (AWAY)  
U16'S BOYS - 3 NOV - SIS (HOME)

U12'S GIRLS - 4 NOV - GEMS MET (HOME)  
U14'S GIRLS - 6 NOV - GEMS FIRST POINT (HOME)  
U16'S GIRLS - 3 NOV - GEMS IS AL KHAIL (AWAY)

### Basketball

U16'S BOYS - 6 NOV - GEMS METROPOLE (AWAY)  
U16'S GIRLS - 5 NOV - RAFFLES IS (AWAY)



FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM!

@SportsatSVS





SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

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