

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Vision, Mission and Values

Belvedere British School to provide an excellent teaching and learning environment where students achieve more due to the high standards expected from our educational philosophy. Ultimately we aim to prepare students for life, based on our values of Tolerance, Respect, and Responsibility.

We provide a holistic education and inspire lifelong learning. Our students are motivated to apply themselves so they achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life. We encourage high and realistic expectations, so our students have aspirations that take them beyond school to their own futures, in the UAE and internationally.

#advitamparamus

☎ 02-5090000

#preparationforlife

🌐 belvederebritishschool.ae



Mr. Robert Thorn

School Principal | Belvedere British School

Assessment and Inspection

Irtiqaa Inspection

We hosted four very experienced and helpful Irtiqaa inspectors this week along with an equally helpful ADEK quality assurance officer. I am pleased to say that the inspection went very smoothly from our side (ADEK had a few issues with their system for uploading data). Support staff and several teachers came in the weekend before to get the school ready and to prepare special observation folders required by inspectors.

By the time they came on Monday, we were all ready. Inspectors made over forty observations before the end of Monday and visited around one hundred and fifty by the end of Thursday.

I was very impressed with the mutual support between teachers, between students and teachers, and between teachers and inspectors. Of course, there were things that didn't work out and there were surprises that made a good impression on our guests but that's normal and they came to see a school working normally.

The inspectors are not allowed to give detailed feedback – they just collect evidence, write a report with their recommendations and send it to ADEK for approval or editing. The post-visit part takes weeks if not months.

At school, we will go over what we noticed, what we learned, and what the visit showed us as strengths and weaknesses we need to improve on. Here though, I can say that they noticed one indicator of success that we perhaps all have a hand in and actually tells us a lot about ourselves – they noticed that, on the whole, our students are very open, engaging, and confident when asked questions and in going about their daily life at school. This is an indication of a healthy school. BBS has huge potential to do something incredible and that is what we will be working on over the next few months and years.

Thanks to all those who went above and beyond and to those who came in especially – our new Parents-in-Partnership association and Board Members.

Assessment

Before coming to Belvedere British School, I worked with schools to help them make improvements to their teaching and learning. I would often start by asking people about assessment – 'What do you do for assessment here?' or 'How does assessment work at your school?'

In many schools, the school leaders and teachers would start talking about the tests and examinations they had and the preparation they gave students to help them with these assessments. Of course, for improvement, assessments are of no use without grades and grades are of no use without understanding what they mean and how they were gained.

I remember one school in particular where the vice principals said, we do regular assessments and collect a lot of data from them to help us improve. That sounds good. I asked, 'What do your assessments assess?' 'Progress' said one. 'Progress in what?' I replied. The vice-principals looked at each other and thought about it – 'In the subject they are learning', they said I pursued the line of inquiry and asked, 'What aspects of the subject are you assessing?' I went on to explain what I meant – were they assessing aspects such as 'knowledge, understanding, application of knowledge and understanding, how fast they learn it or how well they have learnt it, how it connects with other subjects and other areas of their lives or how innovative and creative they can be with what they are learning? Are you assessing how well they are learning to do the assessment or how well they actually understand and apply what they have learnt? How well do they communicate or how well do they understand?'

Cont.....



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND KNOWLEDGE





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School Principal | Belvedere British School

It turned out that, like many schools, they assessed what they had explicitly taught. They assessed the uptake of the syllabus and the syllabus was mostly content – things to know, remember, regurgitate. In most modern schools, students learn to interpret content, manipulate data, represent what they learn in some way, compare and contrast, and draw conclusions. If they have a good teacher, this is also taught explicitly and assessments – especially external assessments written by experts – contain questions which get kids to not just remember and recall information but use it to answer questions. Teachers see the sorts of questions that are asked and so help students to practice doing those questions using the techniques they have learnt to answer them. There's a whole industry around doing well in assessments.

If you take a hundred children and put them through thirteen years – or let's say just nine years - of teaching them things that other people say are important; that are listed and written about in textbooks by people elsewhere; of nine years of telling them that grades are important and so they have to learn what they are being told to learn and of that, the important stuff is what will appear in a test; of nine years of telling them that they need to comply, try harder and catch up if they miss or misunderstand something... how many do you think will be excited about learning at school?

On top of that, if you tell teachers what to teach and how to teach (especially when it is the opposite of how they were trained to teach) and how to assess what they teach and ask them to teach lots of material directly to young people without a lot of context – how many teachers will be really happy with their work? How many young people will be happy with school? How many will have learnt to comply towards success?

Of course, at school, we do learn a lot of subject matter but there's a different approach we can take to learning and teaching at BBS. To quote the lead inspector,

'You don't fatten a sheep by weighing it.'

He was referring to the frequency of assessment in certain grades. You can teach kids all you want, but it is only they who will learn. It is an awful waste of resources, time, childhood, and potential to teach children subject matter in order for them to be good at passing exams in subject matter.

What is needed is a way to ensure that young people are happy learning. This doesn't mean some form of 'edutainment' where we place kids in front of videos or clown around in class making jokes or use tech to distract them into learning through games – it is simpler, more fundamental and yet far harder than that. We have to create opportunities for young people to engage in their own learning. When young people are meaningfully engaged, they are happy in the healthiest of ways. Behaviour issues evaporate, they look forward to going to school, and I have known them even to set their own home assignments and get angry when the teacher forgets to assess them – they have spent good time learning and so want to know how well they are doing at it.

So, at BBS, we're in a great place when it comes to what we can do. When inspectors asked me what I thought was good about BBS, the first thing I said was that we have a lot of teachers and students who are ready to engage in the next phase of our improvement. To some, it may seem like we are barely a 'very good' school but, in fact, we are actually very close to being an outstanding school. Let's see. As I said to the inspectors, if they came back in the third term, they'd see an outstanding school.

So, one place for us to start is assessment. We will begin reviewing this now and ensure that we (teachers, students and parents) know what is being assessed, how and why. Assessments will stimulate learning and tell our young people more about themselves rather than just teachers about teaching.



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ART



ARTS RECOGNITION AWARDS

This week, we celebrated the creativity and talent of our primary students with the Arts Recognition Awards. These awards highlight exceptional artistic achievements and the dedication of our young artists across years 3-6.

Congratulations to all recipients for their inspiring work and to every student who shared their creativity—you make our school community proud!





Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the final stretch of this term, we would like to remind you that this week is dedicated to revision, with some exams scheduled to begin on **Thursday**. This is a crucial time for our students to consolidate their learning and prepare for the assessments ahead.

We kindly request your support in helping your children establish a consistent and effective study routine at home. Encouraging a structured approach to revision, with regular breaks and dedicated time for each subject, will greatly enhance their focus and retention.

Please note that while revision sheets have been provided as a resource, they are intended as a **guideline only**. The exams are designed to assess both knowledge and skills, including the ability to apply concepts to new and unfamiliar questions. It is important for students to review all their class notes, practice problem-solving, and ensure a thorough understanding of the material covered this term.

We encourage students to approach the exams with confidence, knowing that they have been well-prepared in class. A positive mindset and disciplined study habits will be key to their success.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your children are well-prepared and motivated during this important time. Should you have any questions or require further guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out. I have put some pointers for the students during the coming weeks.

Pointers for Students During Revision Week

1. Create a Study Schedule

- Divide your time effectively across all subjects. Focus more on challenging topics but don't neglect any subject.
- Include short breaks to stay refreshed and focused.

2. Review Class Notes and Textbooks

- Go through all your class notes, handouts, and textbooks to ensure you understand the material covered this term.

3. Practice Past Papers and Questions

- Attempt practice questions and past papers to familiarise yourself with exam-style questions and time management.

4. Focus on Understanding, Not Memorisation

- Ensure you understand the concepts, as exams will test your ability to apply knowledge, not just recall facts.

5. Use Revision Sheets Wisely

- Treat revision sheets as a guide, not the only source of preparation. Be ready for questions you haven't seen before.

6. Ask for Help if Needed

- Reach out to your teachers or classmates if there are topics you find difficult or unclear.

7. Stay Organised

- Keep all your materials (notes, books, and stationery) organised so you can easily access what you need.

8. Maintain Healthy Habits

- Get enough sleep each night to stay focused and alert during study sessions.
- Eat balanced meals and stay hydrated to keep your energy levels up.

9. Limit Distractions

- Study in a quiet, well-lit space and avoid distractions like phones and social media during study time.

10. Stay Positive and Confident

- Believe in your abilities and focus on doing your best. Stressing too much won't help; stay calm and composed.

Good luck with your revision! Preparation is key to success!

“People do not plan to fail, they fail to plan”



BASKETBALL PRODUCTIVE MEETING

We recently held a productive meeting in the library with our basketball team. We focused on discussing positions, each player's role, and their responsibilities on the court. It was a great session to align our strategies and goals. Looking forward to seeing this translate into success on the court!

-Mr. Adel Masmoudi





الفعل الماضي والفعل المضارع

النجاح ليس إنجازاً بقدر ما هو قدرة مستمرة على الإنجاز

نقدّ طلاب السنة الرابعة أنشطة متنوعة على درس الفعل الماضي والمضارع ، فقد أظهر الطلبة إتقانهم للهدف المرجو منهم وتم ذلك باستخدام استراتيجيات التعلم التعاوني





قصة

الخبز



لتعزيز مهارات التعبير الفني والإبداعي لدى الطلاب وتطبيقًا

لاستراتيجية لعب الأدوار .

نفذت السنة الحادية عشرة تمثيل أحداث قصة الخبز



CONGRATULATIONS!



STAR OF THE GRADING TEST

WE PROUDLY INTRODUCE OUR STUDENT

LEANNE ELSADDIG ABDELRAHMAN

(ROLL NO.29438) SUDANESE NATIONAL, WHO ACHIEVED 'A' GRADE, DURING THE KARATE GRADING TEST HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2024, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF RENSHI YOOSUF (7TH DAN KARATE, 6TH DAN KOBUDO). SHE IS TRAINING AT OUR KHALIDIYA(HQ) BRANCH UNDER SENSEI NASEEF, SENSEI FAHAD & SENSEI NIBRAS



LEANNE ELSADDIG ABDELRAHMAN

You are the kind of student every instructor loves! Keep it up!!!



Greetings!!

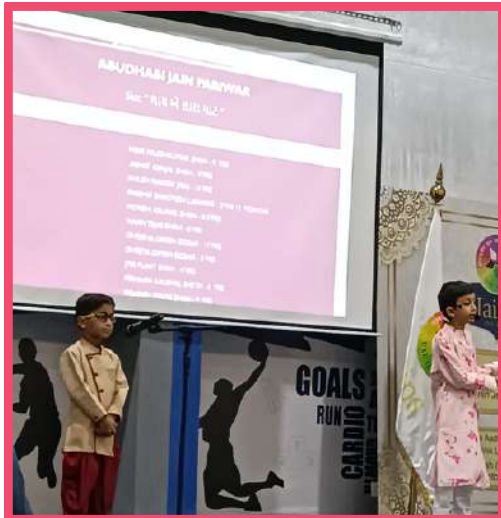
I am writing to share the wonderful news that my child, *Viaan Tejas Shah* studying in year 1C was recently recognized and awarded a certificate for their participation in a skit at a cultural event held at Dubai by UAE Jains.

This achievement has been a proud moment for us and a testament to the skills and confidence *Viaan* has developed, thanks to the school's encouragement and holistic approach to education. The values and learning environment provided by the school have played a significant role in his ability to excel in such external opportunities.

I sincerely thank his teacher and school for nurturing *Viaan* and instilling in him the confidence to participate and succeed in such events.

Also please find attached some of his snaps from the event.

Warm regards,
Khyati Shah





»» **FOOTBALL ACADEMY** ««
PLAYER OF THE MONTH*

CONGRATULATIONS!

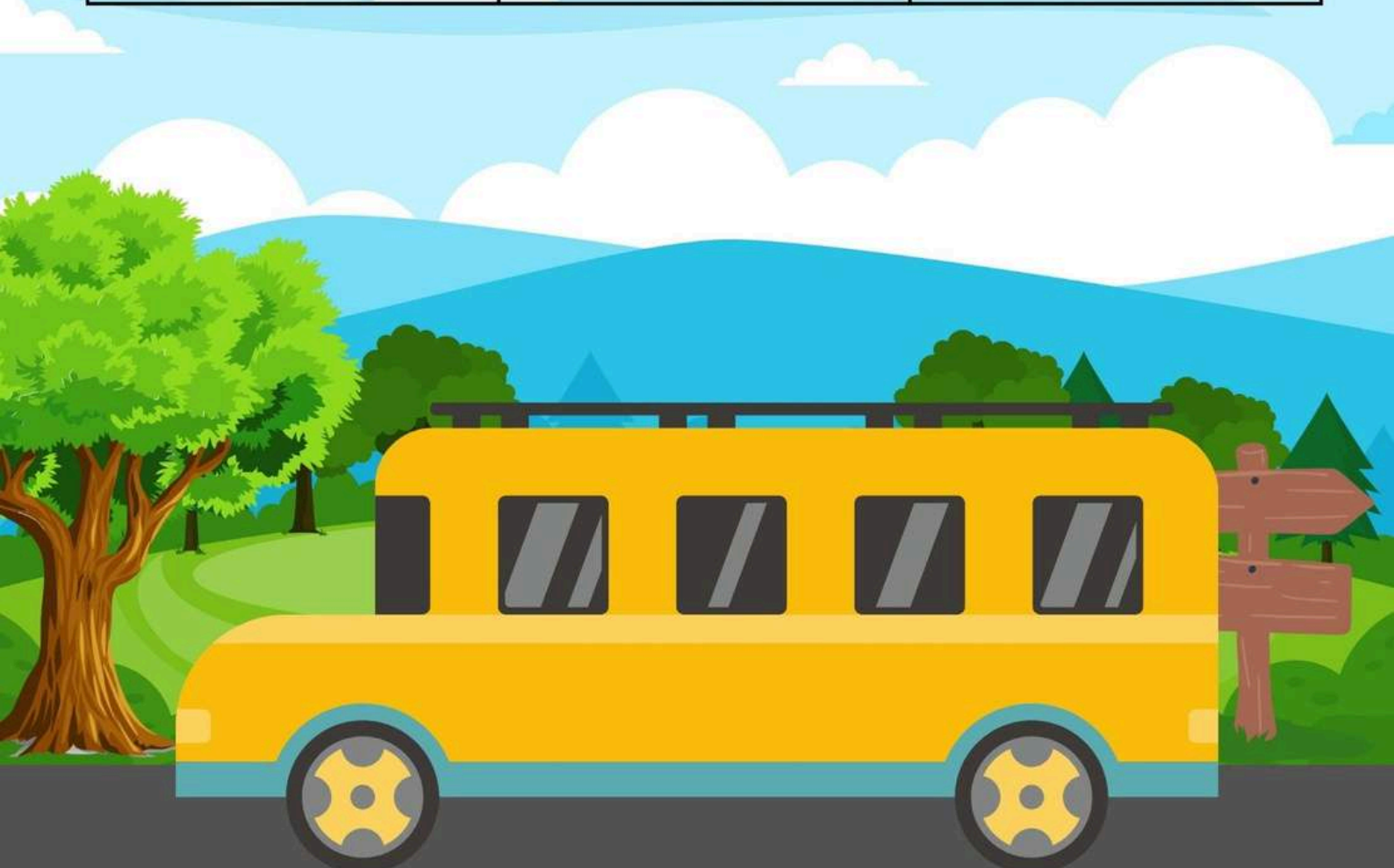


SCHOOL TRIP



UPCOMING TRIPS

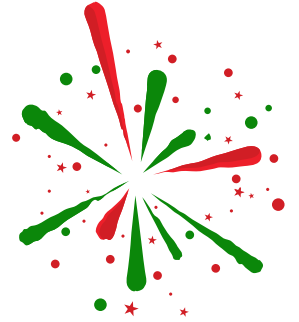
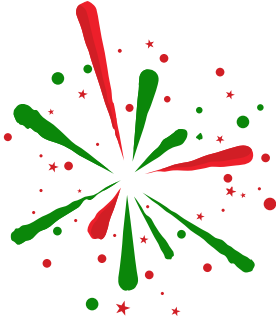
YEAR LEVEL	WHERE	WHEN
Year 11	Louvre (Abu Dhabi)	27 November 2024



CONSENT FORM HAS BEEN SENT SEPARATELY

UAE

اليوم الوطني



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BBS National Day Celebration

28 November 2024 | 11:30 AM - 01:30 PM

National Day Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/XMLSbX1ZwQWTPHd18>