

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

The Success of High School

Pearson Awards – you know you are doing something right when 20% of your graduating cohort are awarded with the prestigious Outstanding Pearson Student Award.

We were honoured by a visit of Ms Ameena Soysa - Senior Regional Development Manager for the Middle East and Turkey of the educational giant 'Pearson' based in Dubai last December. Ms Ameena awarded eight of our students this recognition (see photos). Ms Ameena pointed out that few schools achieve such a result relative to the size of the cohort.

Our Winners of the Outstanding Pearson Student Awards – congratulations and well done!



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Mr. Robert Thorn
School Principal | Belvedere British School

PEARSON AWARDING



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Mr. Robert Thorn

School Principal | Belvedere British School

While these successes are to be celebrated, they are also a call to address some other questions: What can we do to ensure more of our students go on to our A Level programme? How can we increase the cohort? If we increase the A Level cohort, can we maintain or increase our 20% of global achievers?

This is not just a challenge for the high school teachers – it's a challenge for all of us. Are we helping our children become confident learners? Are we ensuring early on in primary and middle school that they know themselves as learners and have the skills, dispositions and habits to take on a worthwhile high school programme like A levels? Are our students equipped and empowered to engage with their own learning and development before they get to high school?

We need to ensure that our young people are independent, responsible, self-aware and enabled to allow them to feel confident to take on high school – if that's what they want to do. So that's what we are setting out to do. Prior to the break, we began a series of professional development sessions with all teachers that aim to help them make a difference in transforming education away from training students for school and towards developing learners for life. This will see, at first, teachers identifying and creating opportunities for developing these skills, dispositions and habits through their subject teaching and then students themselves learning to identify and create opportunities for themselves to grow into learners for life individually and together.

Addressing KS3 – Learner Responsibility.

Related to this is learner responsibility. Do you know the expression, 'You can bring a horse to water, but you can't make it drink'? Our young people have a role in becoming educated. A teacher can explain, demonstrate, instruct, entertain, lecture, and provide as much in the way of activities and opportunities as they like but if young people do not engage and if they do not take responsibility for their own learning and development as learners then success is very unlikely. So when Dr Ahmed and I were invited by Key Stage 3 to address their return assembly we considered this issue. I began by inviting students to reflect on how much they take responsibility for their learning and how much they allow themselves to wait for the teacher to tell them what to do, how much they allow distractions to affect their learning; how much they allow issues like not liking the teacher or class or subject to prevent them from being successful. Teachers teach and of course, do their best for students, but it is ultimately up to the student to learn. You can send a student to school, but you can't make them learn.

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Mr. Robert Thorn

School Principal | Belvedere British School

You can only provide the support, encouragement and opportunities – they have to take them. That's why I don't like hearing people saying they provide education – they don't – they provide opportunities for young people to take education.

Dr Ahmed focused on reflections on the break – what do you regret wasting your time on in the break and how will you change that for next break? That was the question and 'subject' if you like but Dr Ahmed's approach to learners addressing this subject offered an opportunity to solve another – how do girls and boys talk to each other? He required students to get into boy-girl pairs to exchange ideas about what they regretted wasting time on in the break. It was clear that although these young people spend their days in class with each other, they are unused to having to talk to different people and especially a different person from a different gender. After a bumpy start though it was fine.



How can we all help young people take responsibility for their learning and development as learner sand how can we help them collaborate to help each other?

Things to Watch Out For.

Staffing – we have begun to ask staff their intentions for next year so that we can begin to get ahead of the game in recruitment. Recruiting early for next year is a wonderful thing to do but, of course, UAE labour contracts being as they are, the process is more of a continuous one.

Family Intentions

We are of course, also interested in our families' intentions for their children at our school. As usually we will be sending out details of admissions for next year but this year, prior to that, we will also send out a quick survey to ask parents about their current intentions for next year so that we can identify if we have unhappy parents who have not brought up their issues with us.

College and Careers Guidance

Finally, for this week, KS4 and 5 parents and students – watch out for an email with links to workshops arranged by ADEK designed to support college and careers guidance.

-Mr. Robert Thorn
School Principal



Department
for Education



دائرة التعليم والمعرفة
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND KNOWLEDGE





RACING COMPETITION IN OMAN

A student from Year 4A, **Vaibhav Sriram Ponna** has made BBS proud by showcasing his passion for automobile sports in the Oman Racing Competition held in Muscat, just before the winter break. His dedication and enthusiasm for the sport are truly commendable. BBS would like to Congratulate him on this incredible achievement! Well done!





LEGO Club



WITH MR. LORCAN O'MORDHA

BBS Kicks Off First Club Friday with Lego Fun!

Last Friday marked the launch of our highly anticipated Club Fridays, and what better way to start than with creativity and teamwork at the Lego Club! Under the guidance of the ever-enthusiastic Mr. Lorcan, students brought their imaginations to life, one brick at a time.

From towering skyscrapers to intricate models, the room buzzed with excitement as students collaborated on building challenges and showcased their engineering skills. Mr. Lorcan kept the energy high.

The session ended with a display of incredible creations, and students left eager for next week's challenge. Club Fridays are off to a fun start, and if Lego Club is anything to go by, we're in for a year filled with inspiration and innovation!

Stay tuned for more highlights from our vibrant club activities. Great job, Lego enthusiasts!





MADALA CLUB



WITH MS. NAOUEL ADDAR

A Memorable Madala Club

Last Friday, Madala Club with Ms. Naouel are energized and motivated the students.

Students actively participated in discussions, exchanging ideas and reflecting on ways to apply these lessons in their own lives. The engaging atmosphere made the session both educational and enjoyable, with many expressing how much they appreciated the opportunity to learn and grow.

Madala Club continues to be a space for inspiration and meaningful connections, and this session with Ms. Naouel was no exception.





BACK TO SCHOOL!

WELCOME BACK TO TERM 2!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable winter break. As we embark on Term 2, we are excited to welcome all our students back to school and look forward to another productive and successful term ahead.

Now is the perfect time to help your children get back into the study habit. With routines re-established, we encourage all students to stay focused and committed to their learning goals for the term.

We are pleased to inform you that report cards for Term 1 will be released next week. This will provide valuable insights into your child's progress and areas for further development.

*Additionally, we will be hosting a **Parents' Meeting** next **Friday, 17th January**, to discuss your child's achievements and ways to support their growth. This is a great opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school, and we look forward to seeing you there.*

Thank you for your ongoing support, and let's work together to make Term 2 a successful one for our students.

Regards,

*Ahmed
Vice Principal*





مسابقة مزمار داوود

Dawood's Flute Competition



☀ شكر وتقدير لجميع المشاركين في مسابقة مزمار داوود لتلاوة القرآن الكريم ☀ بفضل الله ، وبعد رحلة رائعة من الإبداع والتلاوة العطرة ، نتوجه بخالص الشكر والإمتنان لجميع الطلاب الذين شاركوا في مسابقة "مزمار داوود" لتلاوة القرآن الكريم التي تهدف الى إبراز أجمل الأصوات وأروع التلاوات . لقد كان التنافس قويًا بين طلابنا الأعزاء والتصويت لهم من قبلكم للمشاركة في إختيار أجمل صوت عبر مواقع التواصل الإجتماعي الخاصة بالمدرسة لتحفيز وتشجيع فلذة أكبادنا الذين كانوا نجومًا في سماء تلاوة كتاب الله وكانت بفضل الله جميع المشاركات مشرفة ومليئة بالخشوع والإتقان .

كما نتوجه بالشكر الخاص لمعلمات قسم التربية الإسلامية على ما بذلوه من جهد كبير في تنظيم هذه المسابقة والشكر الموصول أيضا لأولياء أمورنا الأكارم على المشاركة في التصويت ودعم الطلاب . سيتم تكريم الفائزين والمشاركين جميعًا الأسبوع القادم بإذن الله

After a magnificent journey of creativity and delightful recitation, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of the students who participated in the "Dawood's Flute" Quran Recitation Competition, which aspires to showcase the most beautiful voices and recitations. The competition was intense among our lovely kids, and you voted for them to participate in selecting the most beautiful voice via the school's social media to motivate and encourage our youngsters who were stars in the sky when reciting the Quran Kareem. Thank God, all of the participation were admirable and excellent.

We also want to thank the Islamic teachers for their tremendous efforts in organizing this competition, as well as our valuable parents for voting and supporting the students.

The winners and participants will be rewarded next week..



وظيفة الأحلام



The ongoing pursuit of youth dreams is the foundation that leads a person to success, and this activity might be the first step toward children's long-term goals of being a source of pride and inspiration in their community. Year 4 non-native students participated in a unique exercise called "Dream Job" inside the context of the professions the classroom, where they used the (body language) method. The students displayed enormous mastery of the goal set for them by representing the jobs in which they hope to work in the future. Thank you, Year 4 students. You did an excellent job.

إن السعي المستمر لتحقيق أحلام الطفولة هو الأساس الذي يدفع الإنسان نحو النجاح، ولعل هذا النشاط هو خطوة أولى نحو تحقيق طموحات الطلاب في المستقبل، ليكونوا دائماً مصدر فخر وإلهام لمجتمعهم. في إطار درس المهن، نفذ طلاب السنة الرابعة غير الناطقين نشاطاً مميزاً بعنوان "وظيفة الأحلام"، حيث قاموا بتطبيق استراتيجية (لغة الجسد). وقد أظهر الطلاب إتقاناً كبيراً للهدف المرجو منهم، من خلال تجسيدهم للمهن التي يطمحون للعمل بها في المستقبل. شكرا طلاب.. السنة الرابعة لقد قُمتُم بعمل رائع.





The 5 Pillars of Islam



Year 3 students include practicing Salah (prayer), one of Islam's pillars. As one of Islam's essential pillars, students will learn about its significance, the steps required, and how to perform it properly.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Dear BBS,

Good day.

As we all know, BBS has always been supportive and encouraging of its pupils' achievements in external activities. We are delighted to share the accomplishments of Haroun Addoor Koyyar (Year 3A) and Silya Addoor Koyyar (Year 1B), who have successfully earned their new belts after their dedicated hard work and extensive training.

We believe these achievements, along with the accompanying pictures, will inspire other pupils to engage in similar external sports and strive for excellence. It would be wonderful if this accomplishment could be featured in the upcoming newsletter.

Best regards,

Parents:
Mohammed Gulshan A.K.
Anissa Toufali



Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

We are pleased to announce that our PTSCs will take place on **Friday, 17th January 2025**. On this day, all students will be off timetable and are encouraged to attend school with their parents to meet with teachers and discuss their progress.

Parents and students may visit the school between **8:30 am and 11 am**, with meetings beginning promptly at 8:45 am. Please note that it usually gets busy after 9:30am, and this may result in longer wait times, therefore we encourage you to visit as early as possible.

Subject teachers, form teachers, middle leaders and senior leaders will be present to provide further insights into your child's achievements this term, set goals, and offer guidance on the best path forward to support their continued success.

For families preferring online meetings, please contact the relevant teacher directly. A list of teachers' email addresses will be shared in the coming days, and they will coordinate with you to find a mutually convenient time between 7:30am - 8:30am on Friday the 17th of January, and at various times between the 20th and 21st January.

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating your child's progress together!



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Congratulations to our Employees of the Month! Your hard work, dedication, and positive energy inspire us all and make BBS a better place every day. Thank you for going above and beyond for our students and staff!





Term 1

END-OF-TERM Report Card



**WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW
14TH JANUARY 2025**



You can check the Term 1 End-Of-Term
Report Card in ISAMS Parent App

If you are having trouble logging in
ISAMS please email us at
bbsmis@belvederebritishschool.com