



Belvedere
British School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Edition 2422 | 7 April, 2025

Topics of the week!

- 01 ✓ Message from the Principal
- 02 ✓ Message from the Deputy Head/Head of Arabic Department
- 03 ✓ Arabic Department - Break the Fast
- 04 ✓ Emirati Children's Day
- 05 ✓ Message from the Head of Primary
- 06 ✓ Comic Strip Competition
- 07 ✓ Message from the Vice Principal
- 08 ✓ Maths Recognition Corner - February Highlights
- 09 ✓ Announcing Our New Alumni Instagram Page!
- 10 ✓ Community Capital - Greater than the Sum of the Parts
- 11 ✓ SEE YOU SOON - **CHECK THIS OUT!**

RECYCLE



Sustainability Tips of the Month



Reduce



This month, focus on enhancing your recycling habits by keeping recyclables clean and free from contamination to ensure they are properly processed. Be mindful of your local recycling rules and always choose products with minimal or recyclable packaging. Consider repurposing items before recycling and properly dispose of e-waste through designated programs. Additionally, support the recycling loop by purchasing recycled products and spreading awareness to others. Small changes can make a big impact in creating a more sustainable future!

Service Learning Fridays initiative.

Let's keep moving together to keep our Earth sustainable!



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MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

BELVEDERE BRITISH SCHOOL STRIVES 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.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope that you have all had a wonderful time through Ramadan and Eid. Whether it has been just a break for you or a part of your faith, I hope you have been able to spend time with family, relax, refresh, and continue learning for life.

I noticed two situations which were different in detail but similar in nature. In both cases, people I know were preparing for Eid with their families. In both cases, they were faced with a call for help from others in distress. In the case of one person, I could see that they were so wrapped up in their own celebration and their own perceived entitlement to that time with their family that they turned their back on those in distress. So, while they tried to relax with their families, others had a stressful Eid. I am happy to say that in the second case, the whole family came to the aid of those in need, and although their planned celebration was spoiled, the joy they received from helping others was palpable.

We need to remember what our customs and celebrations are for. We need to know what breaks are for (allowing our minds to make sense of what we have experienced and to reflect on our experiences and ready ourselves for our next ones).

However you spent the last few weeks, I hope you emerged better for it.



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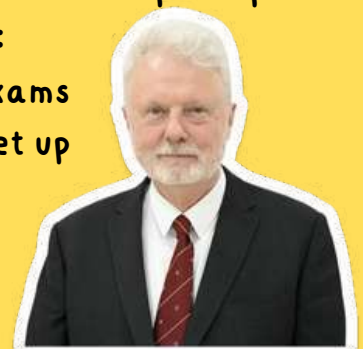
Term 3

As we move towards the final semester, we need to put all our energies into getting the most out of our time at school. What are your objectives? What are the objectives of our young people? What are the objectives of the school community?

One issue we would like to address is the matter of what happens after exams. It seems that we have a negative feedback loop in terms of parents taking students out of school after exams because 'nothing much is happening', and teachers not planning much because not many students are attending school, and students saying not much is happening in classes after exams, so why attend? And so it goes on.

Examinations measure but one aspect of the education that a good school provides. There are many other aspects of education that occur at school. These are perhaps too implicit currently, but we need to refer to our vision statement: *'We provide a holistic education'*. To this effect, the period after exams in the third term will be devoted to learning experiences that will set up our students and teachers for the summer and next year. Please, therefore, plan your holidays for after the official school end date.

I wish you all a happy and successful Term 3.



MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY HEAD

أبنائي وبناتي الطلاب الأعزاء، السادة أولياء الأمور :

الحمد لله الذي منّ علينا بالنجاح في إنهاء امتحانات الفصل الثاني ، التي شهدت جدية ومثابرة منكم جميعاً. اليوم، ومع انتهاء هذه المرحلة الهامة من العام الدراسي، أود أن أهنئكم جميعاً على ما بذلتموه من جهد وتفانٍ لتحقيق التفوق. إن اجتياز الامتحانات ليس بالأمر السهل، وقد أثبتتم لأنفسكم ولنا أنكم قادرون على تحدي الصعاب والمضي قدماً نحو أهدافكم. فإن النجاح الذي تحقق ليس فقط في العلامات التي حصلتم عليها، بل في الجهد الذي بذلتموه، وفي التزامكم بالاستذكار والتحضير ، أنتم بالفعل مثال للمثابرة والإصرار.

فأنتم اليوم على أعتاب مرحلة جديدة من الراحة والانتعاش، وهي الإجازة الفصلية إنها فرصة ثمينة للاستراحة والتجديد والتمتع بوقت ممتع مع العائلة والأصدقاء. ولكن تذكروا أن هذه الإجازة ليست فقط للراحة، بل هي أيضاً فرصة للمراجعة الخفيفة لما تعلمتموه وللتخطيط لما هو قادم. فالفصل الدراسي الثالث قريب، ويحتاج منكم العودة بكل طاقة وحيوية أرجو أن تستفيدوا من هذه الإجازة لتجديد نشاطكم، واستعادة طاقتكم، والاعتناء بأنفسكم. واثقة أنكم ستعودون بحماسة أكبر لمواصلة دراستكم وتحقيق المزيد من النجاحات، ولا تنسوا أن العلم هو أساس النجاح والتقدم، ونحن في انتظاركم بفرار الصبر في الفصل الدراسي المقبل لتحقيق المزيد من الإنجازات.

كما أود أن أشكر معلمينا الأفاضل الذين بذلوا الكثير من الوقت والجهد في توجيه الطلاب وإعدادهم للاختبارات، كما أتوجه بالشكر الجزيل إلى أولياء الأمور على دعمهم المستمر ومساهمتهم في نجاح أبنائهم. أتمنى لكم إجازة سعيدة ، وأن تعودوا إلى المدرسة بحالٍ أفضل وبهمم عالية ولا ننسى شعارنا دائماً معاً معاً نحو القمم

Dear Students & Parents,

Praise be to Allah for providing us success in completing the End of Term 2 exams, which you all took with seriousness and commitment. Today, as we conclude the most important stage of the school year, I would like to congratulate every one of you on your hard work and dedication to success. Passing tests is not simple, and you have demonstrated to yourself and to us that you are capable of overcoming obstacles and progressing toward your objectives. Your success is shown not just by your marks but also by your hard work and commitment to learning and preparation. You show perseverance and determination.

We began our spring vacation, a valuable opportunity to rest, refresh, and spend time with family and friends. However, keep in mind that this vacation is not just for relaxing, but also for a quick review of what you've learned and planning for the future. The third term is approaching, and you must return with fresh energy and enthusiasm.

I'd also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our respected teachers for spending so much time and effort to guiding and preparing the students for the examinations, as well as to the parents for their continuous support and commitment to their children's achievement.

I wish you all a great holiday filled with comfort and joy, and may you return to school in better condition and with a higher spirit. Let us frequently remember our slogan:

Together, Together Towards the Heights



ARABIC DEPARTMENT

كسر الصيام
Break the Fast

In accordance with the spirit of charity during the month of kindness in the country of generosity, Break the fast activity was held with the participation of our beloved students, who showed the best examples of giving and unity throughout the month. This activity allowed us to display the spirit of cooperation and teamwork as we all collaborated to serve the community and spread kindness. We would like to thank the Emirates Red Crescent for their continued humanitarian efforts and for inviting us to take part in this amazing activity. We feel that such efforts play a vital role in promoting the principles of unity and compassion, which we recognize and value in the UAE.

ماشياً مع شهر الخير في بلد الخير، انطلقت فعاليات نشاط كسر الصيام بمشاركة طلابنا الأعداء، الذين تجسدوا بأروع صور العطاء والتكافل خلال هذا الشهر المبارك. فقد كان هذا النشاط فرصة لنعبر عن روح التعاون والعمل الجماعي، حيث اجتمعنا جميعاً من أجل خدمة المجتمع والمساهمة في نشر الخير.

نود أن نشكر هيئة الهلال الأحمر الإماراتي على كل ما تبذله من جهود مشكورة في خدمة الإنسانية، وكذلك على دعوتهم الكريمة لنا للمشاركة في هذا المشروع النبيل. نؤكد أن هذه المبادرات تسهم بشكل كبير في تعزيز قيم التضامن والتراحم التي نعتز ونفتخر بها في دولة الامارات الحبيبة.



ARABIC DEPARTMENT

يوم الطفل الإماراتي EMIRATI CHILDREN'S DAY



On Emirates Children's Day, which occurs on March 15th, we value our children's innocence and dreams, as they are the future of our beloved nation. This day highlights the UAE's dedication to protecting children's rights and providing them with a safe and educational environment. We offer moments from our students' activities, where they demonstrated their creativity and energy in a fun and collaborative environment. Let's see how they shone on this special day!

في يوم الطفل الإماراتي، الذي يُحتفل به في 15 مارس من كل عام، نحتفل ببراءة وأحلام أطفالنا الذين هم مستقبل وطننا الغالي. هذا اليوم يعكس التزام دولة الإمارات برعاية حقوق الأطفال وتوفير بيئة تعليمية وآمنة لهم. نشارككم لحظات مميزة من الأنشطة التي شارك فيها طلابنا الأعزاء، حيث عبروا عن إبداعاتهم وطاقاتهم في جو من الفرح والتعاون.



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HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

Reflecting on Our Achievements: Have We Accomplished Our Goals?

As the term comes to an end, it is the perfect time to pause and reflect on our journey. Have we made the most of the opportunities presented to us? Have we reached the goals we set at the beginning of the term? More importantly, what have we learned along the way?

Think about your progress this term—both academically and personally. Have you improved in subjects that you once found challenging? Have you developed new skills, whether in writing, mathematics, or teamwork? Have you built stronger relationships with your teachers and classmates?

Self-reflection is an important part of growth. Ask yourself:

- What were my biggest achievements this term?
- What challenges did I face, and how did I overcome them?
- Have I developed better study habits or time management skills?

Evaluating Our Goals: Did We Stay on Track?

Now is the time to ask:

- Did I stay committed to my goals?
- If I didn't achieve everything I wanted to, what held me back?
- What can I do differently next term to ensure more success?

Moving Forward: How Can We Improve?

Reflection isn't just about recognising our accomplishments—it's also about learning from our experiences. As we prepare for the next term, let's think about how we can improve. What new strategies can we use to stay motivated? How can we manage our time better? How can we make learning even more enjoyable?

What will you do to make next term even better than this one?

A Final Thought

Every term is a stepping stone in our educational journey. Whether we have fully achieved our goals or faced setbacks, what truly matters is our commitment to growth. How will you take what you've learned this term and apply it to the next? What small but meaningful changes will you make?

As we close this chapter and look forward to a fresh start, let's celebrate our achievements, learn from our experiences, and step into the next term with confidence and determination.

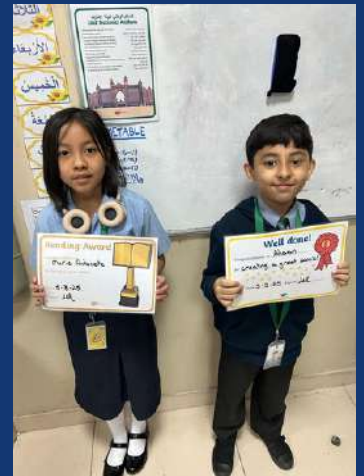
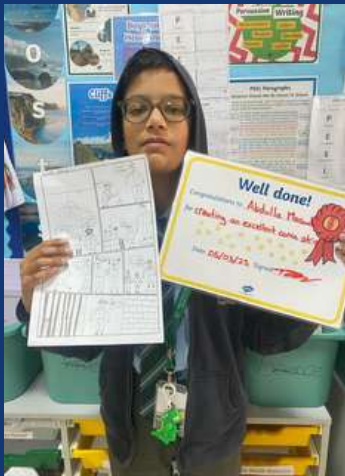


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COMIC STRIP COMPETITION

The English Department recently held a comic strip writing competition in KS2. The students had such a great time creating their own comic strip based on a scene or chapter from the book they were reading in class. The entries were creative and clever, highlighting the imaginations and abilities of students across KS2. One to two winners were chosen from each English class to receive a certificate, and the comic strips will be proudly displayed on class English boards for all to enjoy. Well done to each and every contributor!



VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The Global Movement to Restrict Mobile Phones in Schools: Enhancing Student Focus and Well-being

Dear Parents,

The debate over mobile phone usage in schools has intensified worldwide, with numerous countries implementing policies to limit or ban these devices during school hours. The primary objectives are to reduce distractions, improve academic performance, and promote healthier social interactions among students.

Global Trends in Mobile Phone Restrictions

- **France:** Since 2018, France has enforced a nationwide ban on mobile phones for students aged 3 to 15 during school hours, aiming to enhance focus and reduce cyberbullying.
- **China:** In 2021, China prohibited students from bringing mobile phones to school without explicit parental consent, emphasising the importance of minimising distractions and protecting student well-being.
- **Australia:** Several Australian states have implemented bans on mobile phones during school hours. Notably, New South Wales reported that 87% of students were less distracted, and 81% observed improved learning outcomes following the ban.
- **Brazil:** In early 2025, Brazil enacted a law restricting smartphone use in elementary and high schools, permitting usage only for emergencies or educational purposes. This move aligns with global efforts to create better learning environments.

Initiatives in the United Arab Emirates

The UAE has proactively addressed mobile phone usage in educational settings:

- **Ministry of Education Directive:** In February 2025, the UAE Ministry of Education issued a circular enforcing the "Student Behaviour Code," which bans the use of mobile phones within schools. This regulation applies to both public and private schools following the Ministry's curriculum, aiming to ensure student safety, privacy, and well-being.
- **School-Specific Policies:** Several UAE schools have adopted stringent measures to enforce this directive: (School names redacted)
 - School A - Dubai: Students are required to place their mobile phones in Fixby pouches upon arrival, which remain locked and stored in their bags throughout the day, ensuring a distraction-free environment.
 - School B - Sharjah: Implemented lockable Yondr pouches to limit smartphone use during school hours, allowing students to keep their phones with them but preventing access during school time.

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VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

- **School C – Abu Dhabi:** Students in Years 7-9 are required to hand in their mobile phones at morning registration, which are then kept in lockers until the end of the school day. Smartwatches are also prohibited across all year groups.

Impact on Student Behaviour and Academic Performance

Schools that have implemented mobile phone bans have observed notable improvements:

- **Behavioural Improvements:** Educators have reported enhanced student interactions, increased physical activity during breaks, and a decline in behavioural issues. For instance, schools utilising lockable pouches for phones noticed immediate positive changes, with students engaging more with peers and participating actively in school activities.
- **Academic Benefits:** A study by the London School of Economics found that banning mobile phones in schools could increase pupils' academic performance, equating to an additional week of schooling annually.

Considerations for Our School Community

As we reflect on these global and local developments, it's crucial to consider the potential benefits and challenges of implementing similar policies in our own school community. Key questions include:

- **Academic Focus:** How might limiting mobile phone usage during school hours enhance our students' concentration and academic achievements?
- **Social Interaction:** Could a phone-free environment promote better face-to-face communication and stronger interpersonal relationships among students?
- **Digital Well-being:** What role does reduced screen time play in supporting the mental and emotional health of our students?

We invite you to share your perspectives on this topic. Your insights are invaluable as we strive to create an optimal learning environment that balances technological benefits with the developmental needs of our students.

Note: While banning the use of tools that are used in the adult world gives young people a chance to develop without them, more needs to be done for when they are able to access phones, games and social media - we need to guide young people towards habit recognition and habit management and towards being able to independently make and take wise decisions.



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MATHS RECOGNITION CORNER – FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS!

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding efforts and achievements of our brilliant mathematicians!

A round of applause for our newest Maths Master!

Joining our list of medal-worthy achievers is:

Bronze Medalist – Nourani, Muhammad Affan

Well done on your fantastic accomplishment – your hard work and determination have truly paid off!



CELEBRATING OUR FEBRUARY MATHS MINDS

These students have demonstrated excellent mathematical thinking, perseverance, and problem-solving skills throughout the month. We are proud to recognise their commitment to excellence:



Keisha 7A



Georgina 7B



Sara 7C



Josiah 8A



Mohamed 8B



Marko 8C



Shahmeer 9A



Aizaz 9B



Miral 9C

MATHS MOTIVATED SUPERSTARS – KEEP SHINING!

These students have shown wonderful enthusiasm and steady progress in their maths journey. Their positive attitude and resilience are truly commendable:



Shayan 7A



Fatima 7B



Parisa 7C



Baraa 8A



Daffania 8B



Saanvi 8C



Yousuf 9A



Sultan 9B



Talha 9C

👏 A huge congratulations to each and every one of you. Keep up the fantastic work – we can't wait to see who will shine next month!

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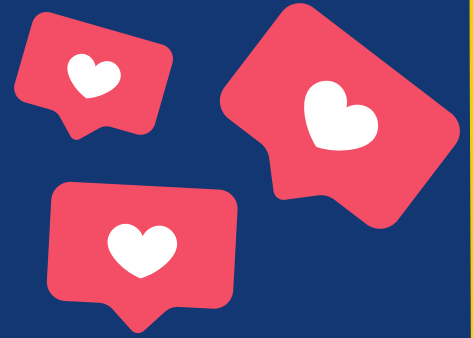
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ANNOUNCING OUR NEW ALUMNI INSTAGRAM PAGE!

We are excited to announce the launch of the Belvedere British School Alumni Instagram page! This new platform aims to connect our alumni community, celebrate their achievements, and share their journeys after leaving Belvedere.

We encourage you to follow our page at @bbsalumniofficial to stay updated with news, success stories, and upcoming events. This is also a great opportunity for our current students to gain inspiration from the paths taken by past students.

We invite all alumni to engage with us by sharing updates, achievements, or experiences that they would like to showcase on the page. If your child is an alumnus, we would love to hear from you! Thank you for supporting this initiative.



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دائرة التعليم والمعرفة
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND KNOWLEDGE



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COMMUNITY CAPITAL – GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS



In any organisation or community – be it a family, a class, a year group, school, business, city, or even a country – when levels of trust are high, when communication and collaboration are effective, when there is a shared vision that people are invested in working towards the realisation of – then a greater effectiveness will emerge.

When we have high levels of the first three attributes in our diagram and have a truly shared vision what can be accomplished together is far greater than what we could do otherwise. An example: Two people in a good partnership, friendship, or marriage can accomplish far more than just two people with little trust communication or collaboration or who don't share the same vision.

Another example is a national sports team – managers and coaches have to work hard to raise the levels of trust, communication, collaboration and develop a shared vision if they are to turn a group of highly talented individuals into a highly functioning team. We won't just have a group of individuals the output of which relies on their individual talents but a learning community of people whose output is greater than the sum of the parts. This is called 'professional capital' and is the sum of human capital, social capital, and decisional capital.



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COMMUNITY CAPITAL – GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS

Professional Capital = >

Human Capital	Social Capital	Decisional Capital
The capability to do well as an individual – sometimes called 'talent'	The capability to work with and learn from others in a sociable way	The capability to make the right decisions, be confident in taking the right action when the wrong decision has been made and in developing responsibility for oneself
=> Community Capital		

Personally, I prefer to call it 'community capital' so that it includes students, parents, and non-teaching staff but community capital is often confused with the term 'social capital'. Let's be bold and use community capital for what we want it to mean –

Community capital is the collective capacity of a school community, encompassing learners, parents, educators, staff, and local partners, to foster a thriving learning environment.

So, how do we get there? Apart from striving to do all we can as educators, parents, and learners; to raise levels of trust, communication, and collaboration, we need to take seriously our shared vision. Then, we need to explicitly recognise the opportunities we have to realise that shared vision and realise also the emergence of community capital.



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COMMUNITY CAPITAL – GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS

We have seen several examples of the emergence of community capital recently. The first was International Day where we could see examples of trust – leaders listening to those who had experience of organising at BBS; communication – parents, teachers, staff having a say in how things could work; collaboration – parents of different nationalities helping each other and working with staff as well as students helping to make stalls work; and a shared vision – knowing what we wanted the outcome to be; but most of all, the emergence of community capital and the creation of a day far more successful than many expected. A second example came last week when teachers challenged Year 10 students to get Years 1-9 to consider service learning and come up with service-learning projects. Working together as a team, school leaders, teachers, and year 10 students quickly created wonderful opportunities for younger students to think, create and innovate their own ideas for, what we hope will be, an enhanced tradition of service-learning at BBS.



So, what can you do to nurture community capital in your lives and those of others?

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SEE YOU SOON!

CLASS RESUMES ON 14TH OF APRIL 2025

