



Belvedere
British School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Edition 2424

2 May, 2025

Topics of the week!

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RECYCLE



Sustainability Tips of the Month



Recycle



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!

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



Belvedere British School

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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 – MY IDENTITY

This is not an article about my identity, but more about who our children are and who they are becoming (and how ADEK and school policy help with that).

I have worked on many school inspections, accreditations, and authorisations for international schools, and one question I always like to ask is, 'If you took this school and moved it to another country, what would change as a result of leaving here?' What this question is really asking is, 'What effect does the local community and culture have on our school and the experience our young people have from attending it?' Perhaps that doesn't grab you? Another perspective on this is, 'As your child grows here, to what extent are they affected by the community and culture around them?'

How are we affected in our daily lives from living in a relatively safe, multi-cultural, secure, fast-growing, affluent economy? To what extent does the history and the future of this country affect our young people? To what extent do local beliefs and customs affect foreigners who are born here, foreigners who have been here for a long time and those who are just short-term residents?

Learning from the Future: Did you know that the UAE has a 'We the UAE 2031' vision? Did you know that there's a 'UAE Future Roadmap'? To build the future of the UAE, our young people will need certain fundamental skills and dispositions – compassion, respect, global understanding, the power to communicate well, collaborate and to be creative, innovative and entrepreneurial, to be able to grow from difficulties, care enough to be determined, and proactive. These are the attributes that we can help young people develop at school and home.



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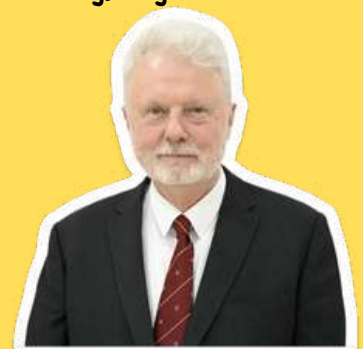
PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – MY IDENTITY

Then there's trust. In most British, American, International (etc) schools around the world, parents worry that their children will lose their national identity. You place your local children in such a school, and so there may be, later, aspects of their development that you don't recognise. Of course, to a great extent, that happens with teenagers as they often have a different culture from adults, but do locals and expats in our community fear sending their children to Belvedere in case they lose their culture? How do you deal with the question of your child's cultural identity?

Of course, attentive to detail as they are, the UAE authorities, through ADEK, help us address these questions through a programme called *'My Identity'*. We at school must pay attention to the above questions. However, as a learning community, it is vital that we have parent support with this. So here are some questions that we wonder if you know the answer to (as residents and citizens of Abu Dhabi) and if your children know (And if they don't, perhaps you can find out together...)

What are Emirati values, and how do they compare to those of others? Actually, if you use an AI bot, it is quite interesting to ask this: 'Compare the similarities and differences between UAE national values and those of (Jordan/India/Pakistan/Iraq/ Nigeria/etc).

How, why, and when did the Emirates become united? What roles does it play in the world? What lessons about collaboration, trust, respect and compassion can we learn from this?



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

How does what we learn at school connect with where we live?

- Connections to the past in the present: Local customs and culture.
- Connection to the present: What the UAE does – industry, trade, etc
- Connection to the future: What are the aims and goals of We the UAE 2031 and Pathway

Do you know how life here affects you? What positive things are you learning from being in Abu Dhabi? What positive attitudes are you able to develop here that would have been more difficult elsewhere?

And finally, there is the question (one that in many countries often embarrasses me) – ‘So, spending that time in the country – you must have learnt the language?’

Luckily, at Belvedere, we have a great Arabic programme for non-natives taught by wonderful teachers. Everyone who stays with us – even for a short time – should leave with at least some basic Arabic.

So, let's help our young people become more aware of their surroundings, of the past and the present and the future and how our life here influences our positive outcomes.



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE' WITH 'BEING PROACTIVE

Learning to Take your Education Rather than Waiting to be Given It.

I have been meeting with teenagers from Y7 and Y8 this week. They are special people in that they are the interesting ones who have all failed more than three of their subjects in Term 2.

My objective is to have them identify why they have done so poorly in their exams. I start by assuring them that they are not in trouble, that what we are doing is like a visit to the doctor and that their symptoms are poor results in their reports. The symptoms might seem bad but what's more important is that we need to find out the cause. We needed to get to the heart of the matter. I asked them, 'How did you end up with such poor results?'

Most start off by saying, 'I don't know.' A few look sad and say, 'I have to work harder.'

That's a terrible place to be some two weeks into term 3. Learners have to know what went wrong otherwise how are they going to improve? How are you going to move forward?

Young people fail at school for a number of reasons:

- Not taking school seriously, not being mature enough, not realising the consequences of procrastination.
- Not being able to focus due to negative situations at home or at school; being in love; having more interesting/relevant interests outside school,



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE' WITH 'BEING PROACTIVE

- Not understanding what school is really for; finding school oppressive; lessons boring; teachers weird; having language difficulties that are not addressed or compensated for.
- Having missed a crucial concept; fear of high-stakes assessment; being perfectionist so that they spend too much of their childhood trying to do too much homework; being so perfectionist they can't do anything in case it's wrong; having parents that don't care or pass on a weak culture of learning.

Notice that none of the reasons include laziness (doesn't exist); being dumb (so few children are actually unable to learn that we probably don't have any here); 'not being language/mathematical/scientific/artistic/sporty/etc people' – at this level everyone can pass if the conditions are right.

So, what I say to such young 'failures' is at this age at least the most important thing is not their grade but their understanding of themselves and why they achieved such low grades and what their next steps might be to achieve better grades no matter what's holding them back.

We'll take a look at what these might be in the next issue (and when more learners have told me what their next steps will be)



ARABIC DEPARTMENT



المطبخ العالمي - نكهات من ثقافات مختلفة



Fifth-grade students prepared an enjoyable "International Cuisine" project in a spirit of enthusiasm and teamwork. Each group selected a country and created a traditional dish that reflected its culture. The first group offered Emirati harees, the second group created Indian dosas, and the third group presented Malaysian honey cornflakes. Students participated in presenting and discussing the meals in Arabic, which helped them improve their conversational skills and learn about different cultures through cuisine.

في جو من الحماس والتعاون، نظّم طلاب الصف الخامس نشاطًا ممتعًا بعنوان "المطبخ العالمي"، حيث قامت كل مجموعة باختيار بلد معين وتحضير طبق تقليدي يعكس ثقافته. قدمت المجموعة الأولى طبق الهريس من المطبخ الإماراتي، بينما أعدت المجموعة الثانية طبق الدوسا من المطبخ الهندي، وشاركت المجموعة الثالثة طبق رقائق الذرة بالعسل من المطبخ الماليزي. شارك الطلاب في تقديم الأطباق والتحدث عنها باللغة العربية، مما ساهم في تطوير مهارات المحادثة والتعرف على ثقافات متنوعة من خلال الطعام.



HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

Dear Belvedere Families,

As we step into a new and exciting chapter of Term 3, we are reminded that learning does not only happen in the classroom — it happens all around us!

At Belvedere British School, we are passionate about helping our learners grow academically, but we also know how important it is to develop new skills beyond school life. Whether it's trying out a new sport, learning to cook a simple meal, joining a music class, or practising kindness and teamwork with friends, every new skill makes you stronger, smarter, and more confident.

Have you thought about a new skill you would like to learn this term? Perhaps you could challenge yourself to read a book from a different genre, start learning a new language, or even help a younger sibling with their homework. What talents might you discover if you tried something new?

Learning something outside of school helps to build independence, creativity and resilience — all important qualities for your future! We encourage all of our learners to set a small personal goal this term: something new, something exciting, something that makes you proud. We would love to hear what new skills you choose to explore! Don't forget — every small step you take is part of your incredible journey.

Please feel free to share pictures of these new skills learnt at home, and we can add them to future newsletters.

Keep aiming high and believing in yourselves. This term is full of possibilities!



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YEAR 4 SCIENCE FUN!

This week, Year 4 had a bubbly time in Science! We asked the question: "Does the gas in fizzy drinks weigh anything?" We tested three different cooldrinks by weighing them before and after letting the fizz out. The results surprised us, the drinks were lighter after the bubbles were gone! That means the gas does have weight! The class loved being real scientists and making predictions, doing careful measurements, and sharing ideas. It was a fun way to learn how gases work and how they can be part of everyday things, even our favourite drinks! Well done, Year 4!



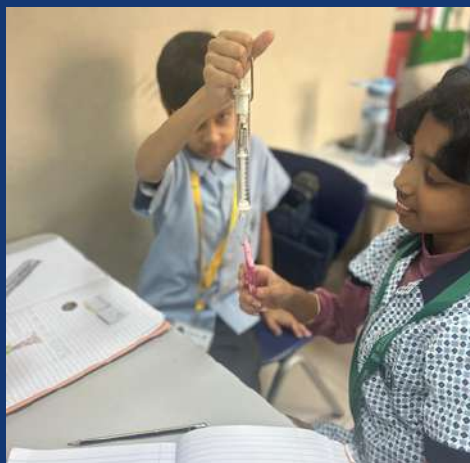
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YEAR 5 SCIENTISTS AT WORK!

This week, our Year 5 students became young scientists as they explored forces using Newton meters. As part of their science lessons, the children investigated how to measure the weight of different classroom objects. They carefully used Newton meters to find the force of gravity acting on various items, recording their findings with great accuracy.

Through this hands-on activity, the students developed a deeper understanding of the relationship between mass and weight, and how gravity affects everything around us. It was wonderful to see their excitement as they made predictions, conducted experiments, and discussed their results with their classmates. Well done, Year 5!



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BBS WORLD BOOK DAY

On Wednesday, 23rd April, BBS celebrated World Book Day! It was a huge success with many primary students dressed as their favourite book characters and sharing their favourite books in class. The day started at form time with DEAR, which is short for Drop Everything and Read. A reading exchange coordinated students from KS2 to read with small groups in the KS1 classrooms, an activity that was enjoyed by all. KS2 also welcomed select students from Y12 into classrooms to share a book. These fun and engaging activities highlighted the importance and enjoyment of reading and literacy not only on World Book Day, but every day. Thank you to all who participated and made the day special!



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BBS WORLD BOOK DAY

For World Book Day, the KS1 children had a very special treat. Some KS2 students came to their classrooms to read them stories. The students were happy and excited to have visitors reading to them. They listened carefully and loved every minute!

The KS1 students thought the older children were amazing readers. Some said they want to read just like them when they grow up. It made story time extra fun and showed everyone how great reading can be. It was a fantastic day full of smiles, books and fun!



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FOOTBALL FUN TODAY

5B vs 5C in an exciting match, with Sufiyan (6C) and Zaid (6B) as our game officials under the supervision of Miss Jo. Great teamwork and sportsmanship all around!



VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

🌍 Global Spotlight: Robots Join the Race in Beijing Half Marathon

In an extraordinary blend of technology and athletics, the Beijing Half Marathon recently featured 21 human-like robots running alongside 12,000 human participants. This groundbreaking event marked the first race of its kind, showcasing the advancements in robotics and their potential applications in sports and beyond. While only six robots completed the race, their participation highlighted the rapid progress in artificial intelligence and robotics. This event entertained spectators and sparked conversations about the future integration of robots in various aspects of our lives.

What can our students learn?

This is a perfect reminder of how science, technology, and creativity can come together to do something unexpected. Whether you're passionate about coding, robotics, or engineering, your ideas could shape the future. Perhaps your next robotics project could involve fitness, motion tracking, or even building something that moves! Share your ideas with our Key Stage leaders and let's make it happen.



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VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

UAE Highlight: McDonald's UAE Transforms Restaurant into Minecraft Wonderland

Bringing virtual worlds to life, McDonald's UAE has launched a Minecraft-themed restaurant experience in Jumeirah Lakes Towers (JLT), Dubai. This creative initiative coincides with the release of the Minecraft movie, offering fans an immersive dining experience. The restaurant features pixelated décor, interactive games, and menu items inspired by the popular game, providing a unique and entertaining environment for families and gamers alike. This innovative approach demonstrates how global brands leverage popular culture to create memorable customer experiences.

How can our students be inspired?

This is an excellent example of creative thinking and marketing. Students can explore how games like Minecraft can be used to design real-world environments, create interactive experiences, or even inspire a school event. Why not build your own "Minecraft-themed" layout and bring it to school?



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SCIENCE WEEK



During this year's Science Week, our KS4 and KS5 students took the lead in inspiring a love of science across the school with their incredible projects:

From exploring the states of matter in Year 1 to building disaster-proof structures in Year 9, every STEM subject came to life - with erupting volcanoes, homemade solar ovens, buzzing string phones, and even experiments with reaction times and breathing rates!



It was fantastic to see older students mentoring younger ones, sharing their passion and curiosity. Also, we would all like to say a huge thank you to Ms Dina for her help in preparing all the materials and assisting the Y10/11 students in their preparation.

As Albert Einstein once said, "Learning is experience. Everything else is just information."

Our young scientists truly embodied this spirit, getting hands-on, making a few (safe!) explosions, and proving that science isn't just something you read about - it's something you do. Who knew learning could be this much fun?



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KS3 PI DIGIT COMPETITION

Last week, Key Stage 3 students showcased their incredible memory skills during the annual Pi Digit Competition, led by Miss Nash from the Maths Department, and what a step up it was from last year.

A huge congratulations to all our brilliant participants. First place was taken by Sarim Khan (9C), who remains our reigning champion after recalling an astonishing 541 digits. In second place, we proudly celebrate Alyaa Elsayed (7C) with an impressive 426 digits, and in third place, Keisha Kirk (7A) with a fantastic 211 digits.



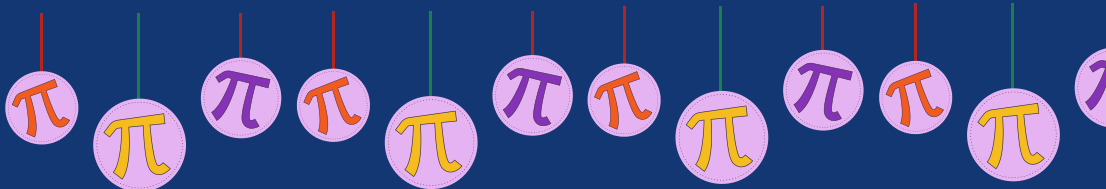
Participants



A special thank you goes to our wonderful student judges: Layla, Omar Abdelmalik, Faris and Hijjawi, all from 8C, for their excellent support and accuracy throughout the event.

Well done to everyone who took part. You have made this year's competition one to remember.

Judges



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SPORTS TOURNAMENT

Last 19th of April 2025, our Under-11 team proudly participated in the ADEK Cup, playing a total of four matches:

1. BBS (Win) 3-0 Dar Al Uloom Private School
2. BBS (Draw) 3-3 Al Watan School
3. BBS (Loss) 1-2 Al Qurm School
4. BBS (Win) 4-0 Wales International School



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our players for their fantastic effort, teamwork, and determination, and to all the parents for their continuous support and encouragement.



SPORTS TOURNAMENT

ADEK Cup - Under-13 Futsal Tournament

Last Sunday, our Under-13 Futsal team took part in the ADEK Cup at Repton School - Fry Campus, playing a total of four matches:

1. BBS (Win) 3-1 Al Ittihad National Private School
2. BBS (Draw) 2-2 United Private School
3. BBS (Loss) 1-2 GEMS Cambridge International School
4. BBS (Win) 4-0 Al Rayana School

The team played exceptionally well throughout the tournament, showing great skill, teamwork, and determination. They did an amazing job and made us all very proud!



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THE POWER OF MOVEMENT

The Power of Movement: Why Physical Activity Matters

Dear Parents and Students,

In a world increasingly dominated by screens and sitting still, the value of physical activity has never been greater. At our school, we believe that sport and movement are more than just part of the timetable — they are vital to every student's growth, well-being, and future success.

Regular physical activity offers a wide range of benefits. It helps young people develop strong muscles and bones, maintain a healthy weight, and improve heart health. Just as importantly, being active also supports mental health, helping students manage stress, sleep better, and feel more confident.

But it's not just about health. Through sport and PE, students learn teamwork, resilience, discipline, and leadership — essential life skills that will serve them well far beyond the pitch or the playground.

We warmly encourage parents to take an active role in promoting a healthy lifestyle at home. Whether it's going for a walk together, joining a weekend activity, or limiting screen time in favour of outdoor play, your involvement can make all the difference.

At school, we are committed to offering a variety of activities — from football and basketball to traditional games and fitness challenges — that allow every child to find something they enjoy.

Let's work together to help our students move more, feel better, and shine brighter — both in and out of school.

Stay active, stay healthy, stay strong!

Warm regards,
Mr. Adel
PE Department



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This week we are shining the spotlight on Adn from 7B, a talented young artist who finds magic in every sketch!

Adn shares:

"Art is something I do to express myself, something that words cannot always describe. I love using a variety of colours in my art to show different emotions, depending on my mood. If I am feeling fun and spontaneous, I will start painting and let my imagination breakthrough. When I am in the mood for something more detailed, I enjoy sketching instead. What I love most about art is that it does not have to be perfect, you can just do it!"



We are so inspired by Adn's passion and creativity. Keep letting your imagination run wild, Adn — the world needs more artists like you.



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This week, excitement filled the air as our Year 12 students received their senior jackets - a proud milestone marking the beginning of their final chapter at school.



Wearing their jackets with pride, the students celebrated this special moment together, embracing the responsibility and leadership that comes with being seniors.

A special thank you to Yasmine and Sara in Y12A for compiling all the feedback from the class, arranging the design and handling the logistics of the process.

We look forward to seeing all that our Year 12 will accomplish in their final years with us!



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Hello,

I'm very proud to share that Rishi Pittala (Y3A) has successfully achieved his Brown Belt 3rd KYU (from 4th KYU) certification in martial arts.

This accomplishment is a result of Rishi's consistent dedication, discipline, and hard work. He has shown great perseverance in his training and continues to display strong focus and enthusiasm in every session. Reaching this level is a significant milestone and reflects his commitment to personal growth and physical fitness.

We truly appreciate the school's continuous encouragement and support in nurturing students' extracurricular talents alongside academics.

*Warm regards,
Ritika Pittala (Mum)*



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

🇬🇧 Celebrating a Reading Champion – Congratulations, Malak! 🌟

Winner of the Abu Dhabi Reading Olympics 2025

We are thrilled to announce that Malak from Year 5B has been named a winner of the inaugural Abu Dhabi Reading Olympics, proudly organised by the Abu Dhabi Children's Library.

This outstanding achievement is a true testament to Malak's love for reading, dedication to learning, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Competing against students from across the emirate, Malak's exceptional performance stood out and earned her this well-deserved recognition.

Malak will be officially celebrated during a special awards ceremony at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair later this week—an incredible opportunity to honour her success on a prestigious platform.

We are immensely proud of you, Malak! Your passion and perseverance are an inspiration to us all. Keep shining! 🌟📖

Abu Dhabi
Children's
Library
مكتبة
أبو ظبي
للأطفال



Department
for Education

edexcel
Approved Centre

BSME
BRITISH SCHOOLS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

AoBSO
FOR SCHOOLS BY SCHOOLS

British School
Overseas
Inspected by Penta International



isams
By IRIS



دائرة التعليم والمعرفة
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND KNOWLEDGE



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

I am delighted to inform you that Lezlyn from Year 7B took part in the ADEK Taekwondo competition and was awarded a gold medal. Arianny from Year 10A also competed brilliantly and earned a bronze medal.

A huge well done to both students for their dedication and impressive achievements!



Lezlyn 7B



Arianny 10A



بطولة أبوظبي للرياضة ABU DHABI SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES — المدارس والجامعات

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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

This month, we proudly recognize Mr. Shaukhat as our Employee of the Month — a well-deserved title for someone who consistently goes above and beyond.



Em ^{you are the}
Employee
of the month



Belvedere
British School

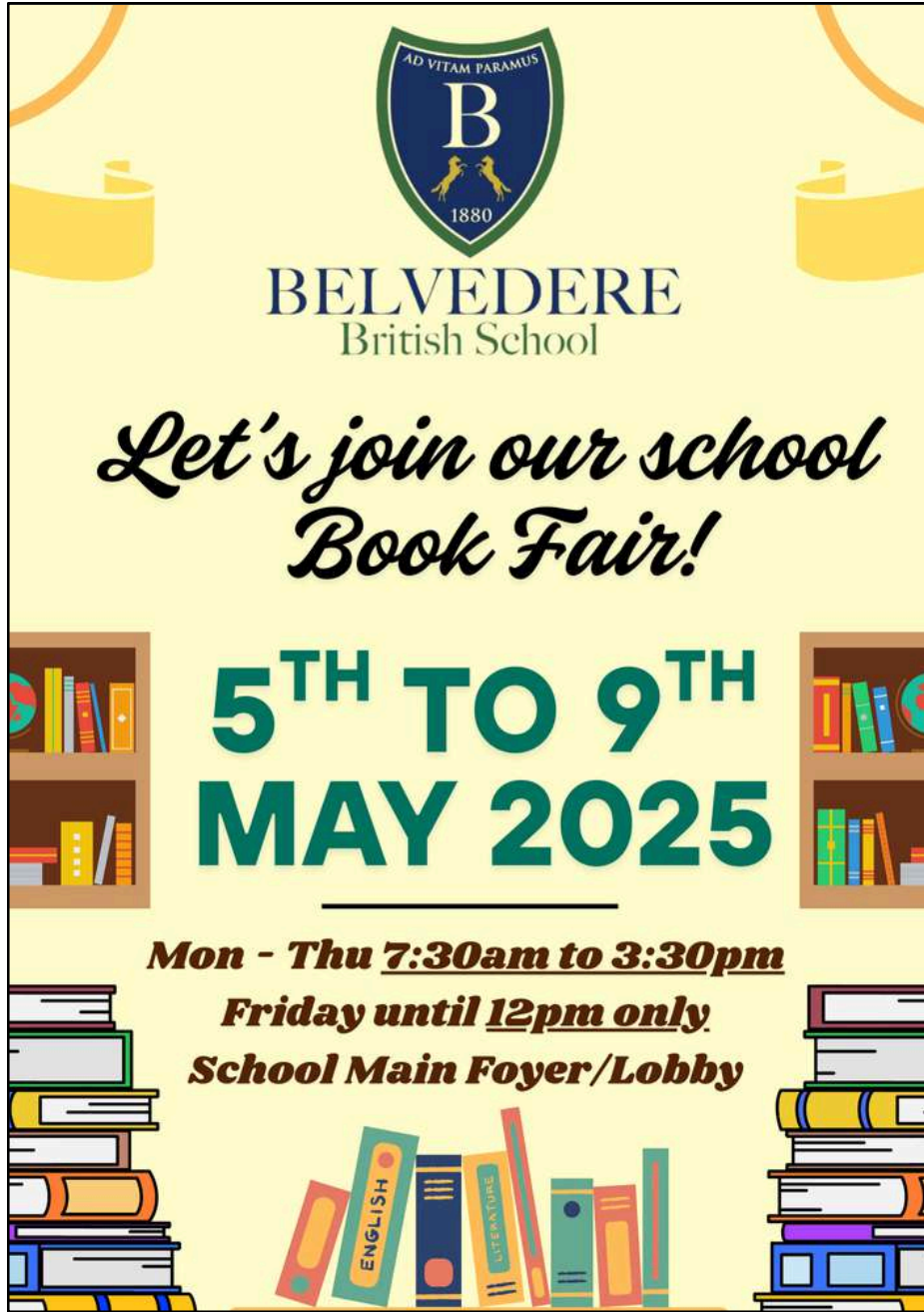
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UPCOMING EVENT

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AD VITAM PARAMUS
B
1880

BELVEDERE
British School

*Let's join our school
Book Fair!*

5TH TO 9TH
MAY 2025

Mon - Thu 7:30am to 3:30pm
Friday until 12pm only
School Main Foyer/Lobby



دائرة التعليم والمعرفة
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND KNOWLEDGE

