



مدرسة الدوحة البريطانية
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL
AIN KHALED



Secondary Newsletter

20th February 2025

Our Purpose

Is that every young person should gain as much as possible from our school, based on our belief that all learners can, need and want to achieve

Our Vision

Is to be a vibrant, welcoming international school that provides a first class education enabling pupils to thrive within a dynamic, global environment

Our Mission

Is to prepare all pupils through a relevant, challenging curriculum and well-resourced facilities, to become lifelong learners contributing to a global community



Welcome to Doha British Schools

Doha British Schools are one of the world's leading British International Schools in Qatar, with a reputation for outstanding academic excellence since 1997

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

MRS. LYNETTE GRANT



We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for the weeks ahead. It has been a fantastic start back at DBS, with so much happening across the school.

A highlight of this week has been our Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTCs), Sports Days, fixtures, the Year 6 Residential Trip, and Safer Internet Week. These events reflect our commitment to providing enriching experiences for our students, both in and beyond the classroom. Thank you to all staff, parents, and students for your engagement and enthusiasm.

At DBS, the safety and wellbeing of our students remain our highest priority.

Creating an environment where students feel safe, free from distractions, and fully engaged in their learning is at the heart of what we do. Our use of Yondr pouches is just one example of this commitment, ensuring that students can focus, connect, and thrive in their learning environment.

We truly appreciate the support of our parents in reinforcing this approach—when we work together, our students benefit the most.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our shared values. We look forward to another exciting and productive term ahead.





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HEAD OF SECONDARY (INTERIM) MESSAGE

MR. TIMOTHY BAYLEY

This week we have been celebrating Sports week, which will conclude on Sunday with Year 10. The events have not only been a fantastic display of athleticism and teamwork, but also allowed a celebration of the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Throughout the week, I've witnessed outstanding participation, determination, and camaraderie from all involved, which truly embodies the spirit of physical wellness and active living.

Sports Week has reminded us of the power of regular exercise in boosting our physical and mental well-being, unfortunately often forgotten in our busy schedules.

Through friendly but at times fierce competition, each event has reinforced how vital it is to maintain a balanced lifestyle that includes regular physical activity. It's a valuable lesson that we can all take with us every day.

This coming week sees our school celebrate the more creative aspect of our educational programme. On Monday, the school will showcase our musical and dramatic skills with the Secondary Production whilst on Tuesday our talented artists will display the work that they have prepared for their final exams. We will also host our final Parents Teacher Conference of the Term for our Year 8 students. I look forward to meeting you at one or all of these events.



RAMADAN PROCEDURE

AT DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL

As a British school in Doha, we understand the importance of accommodating and respecting the observance of **Ramadan**. During this holy month, we have implemented the following procedures to ensure a supportive and inclusive environment for all students and staff:

1. Reduced School Hours

In accordance with the Ministry of Education's guidelines, our school operates on reduced hours during Ramadan.

2. Fasting and Non-Fasting Classrooms

- **Fasting Classrooms:** At break and lunchtime, students who are fasting can use designated fasting classrooms. These are quiet spaces where they can rest or engage in light activities.
- **Non-Fasting Classrooms:** Students who are not fasting can eat in designated non-fasting classrooms during break and lunch. This ensures respect for those observing the fast.
- The canteen is closed during the holy month of Ramadan.

3. Prayer Room

A dedicated prayer room is available for students who wish to perform their daily prayers, particularly the Dhuhr prayer. This space is supervised by our Arabic department, ensuring it is a quiet and respectful area for worship.

4. General Etiquette

- All students are encouraged to show understanding and respect for their fasting peers during this time. Water Bottles are kept at the back of classrooms or outside.
- Teachers and staff remain mindful of students' needs, including reduced physical activities and adjustments to lesson plans where necessary.

These procedures help us create a balanced, respectful, and inclusive environment for all students during Ramadan.





ACADEMIC SUPPORT

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

**PAMELA
GIBB**

DEPUTY HEAD: ACADEMIC



MAKING INFORMED CHOICES

IGCSE and Sixth Form Subject Selection

As students reach key transition points in their education, choosing the right IGCSE and Sixth Form subjects is an important decision that shapes their future academic and career pathways.

To support students and parents in making informed choices, we encourage them to explore available resources and seek guidance.

It is essential that students choose subjects based on their **interests, attainment levels, and future aspirations**, ensuring they stay motivated and engaged while keeping doors open for university and career opportunities.

Our recent Pathway Planning Evening allowed students and parents to hear about the wide variety of pathways offered at DBS AK alongside the opportunity to discuss subjects with specialist teachers.

Our **Careers Advisor** is available for one-on-one discussions to help students align their subject choices with their strengths, interests, and future aspirations. Additionally, **Unifrog**, our online careers and university guidance platform, provides valuable insights into subject requirements for various career paths and university courses.

Students and parents can access personalised guidance, explore different career options, and compare university courses to make well-informed decisions.

Please see the link below to view the following documents:

- [Pathway Presentation](#)
- [Year 9 Options Booklet](#)
- [Sixth Form Options Booklet](#)





ACADEMIC SUPPORT

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

SARAH BAYLEY

SENCO LEAD



SUPPORTING

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING IN STUDENTS

As an inclusion department, we receive referrals for focus and attention difficulties across the school, here is a spotlight on how we can support these skills.

Executive functioning is a crucial set of mental skills that help children manage their thoughts, actions, and emotions to achieve goals. These skills include planning, organisation, time management, working memory and self-control.

Strong executive functioning skills are essential for success in both primary and secondary school, as they help students complete homework, follow routines and develop independence.



Children develop these skills at different rates and some may need additional support to strengthen their executive functioning abilities. Stress and anxiety can weaken executive functioning by over activating the amygdala and increasing cortisol levels, which can impact working memory, flexible thinking and impulse control.

Teaching relaxation techniques, structured routines and emotional regulation strategies can help improve these skills.

What is Executive Functioning?

Executive functioning is often described as the brain's "control center." It helps children:

- Plan and prioritise tasks
- Stay focused and shift attention when needed
- Organise materials and ideas
- Manage time effectively
- Regulate emotions and impulses

Similarly, excessive screen time, especially passive activities like social media scrolling, can reduce attention span and disrupt sleep, which is vital for cognitive function. Encouraging balanced screen use, regular breaks and active learning activities can support executive function development.





EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING

INCLUSION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



Key Executive Functioning Skills



Parents play a key role in helping children develop these essential skills. Here are some practical ways to support executive functioning at home:

1. **Create Routines** – Establish consistent morning, homework and bedtime routines to provide structure.
2. **Use Visual Supports** – Calendars, checklists and planners help children stay organised.
3. **Break Tasks into Steps** – Encourage children to tackle assignments in small, manageable steps.
4. **Encourage Time Management** – Use timers, alarms and schedules to build time awareness.
5. **Promote Organisation** – Provide designated spaces for school supplies and homework.
6. **Foster Self-Regulation** – Teach breathing exercises, mindfulness or movement breaks.
7. **Model Problem-Solving** – Talk through challenges and demonstrate problem-solving strategies.

8. **Incorporate Games and Activities** – Board games like chess, puzzles, and memory games strengthen planning, working memory and impulse control. Activities like cooking together or scavenger hunts can build sequencing and organisational skills.

By supporting executive functioning at home, parents can help children develop independence, resilience and confidence in their learning journey. If your child struggles with these skills, teachers and support staff are here to help. Working together, we can empower students to reach their full potential.

For further guidance, feel free to contact your teachers and / or the Inclusion Team for additional strategies on supporting executive functioning skills at home.





STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENT'S SUCESS

SCORPIONS



YEAR 12 S



**KIMIKO
DEEANDRA**

BRINGING SPANISH LANGUAGE

AND CULTURE TO LIFE THROUGH CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Kimiko has made a phenomenal start to Year 12 and has so far demonstrated many of the principles of the IB learner profile. She has been deepening her knowledge of the Spanish language and understanding of Spanish-speaking countries and cultures through various projects, where she has displayed an impressive level of creativity and curiosity.

12 Year Journey

She has been rapidly advancing her technological skills and has used them to take us on an adventure around Mexico, where she has created a website in the form of a travel blog, which you can visit here: <https://laguiaamexico.carrd.co/>.

Or if you would prefer to travel south, then have a look at her hotel recommendation for Medellín in Colombia, which you can find here: <https://hotelesencolombia.carrd.co/#location>.

As well as this, Kimiko has written and presented a biography of actor Oscar Isaac and navigated the class around Mexico City using Google Street View. Qué impresionante!





CAREERS:unifrog

THE UNIVERSAL DESTINATIONS PLATFORM



LYNDSEY KING

CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION GUIDANCE COUNSELOR



Helping students find their future

The main role of the Careers department is to support your child navigate their future pathways, academic opportunities and personal development, to identify their strengths and interests and make well informed decisions about their future.

We offer a range of support services, from subject exploration during Year 9 and 11 right through to University application submission. We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is key to your child's success. As parents, your involvement will be crucial in guiding your child through this journey.

DBS Ain Khaled would like to invite all parents to access the Unifrog platform. All secondary students have access to Unifrog and actively use this platform throughout their secondary education to aid their goal setting, careers choices and decisions.

Having access to your own account will help you play an active role in supporting your child's educational and career planning journey.

Please use the QR and Access code to create your own account. Please watch the introduction video to support your platform navigation.

[Unifrog Introduction](#)

As part of our ongoing commitment to preparing students for their future academic journeys, we have exposed students to a range of top universities from around the globe.

Over the course of this term, students have had the unique opportunity to meet with representatives from 101 universities, gaining insight into various programs, cultures, and opportunities available worldwide.

In addition, we want to stress the importance of students being aware of their individual application deadlines, as these can vary depending on the type of application they are submitting. For example, students applying for early action or early decision programs in certain universities will have earlier deadlines. This is an important part of becoming more independent, as students are responsible for researching these dates and staying organised.





CAREERS:unifrog

THE UNIVERSAL DESTINATIONS PLATFORM



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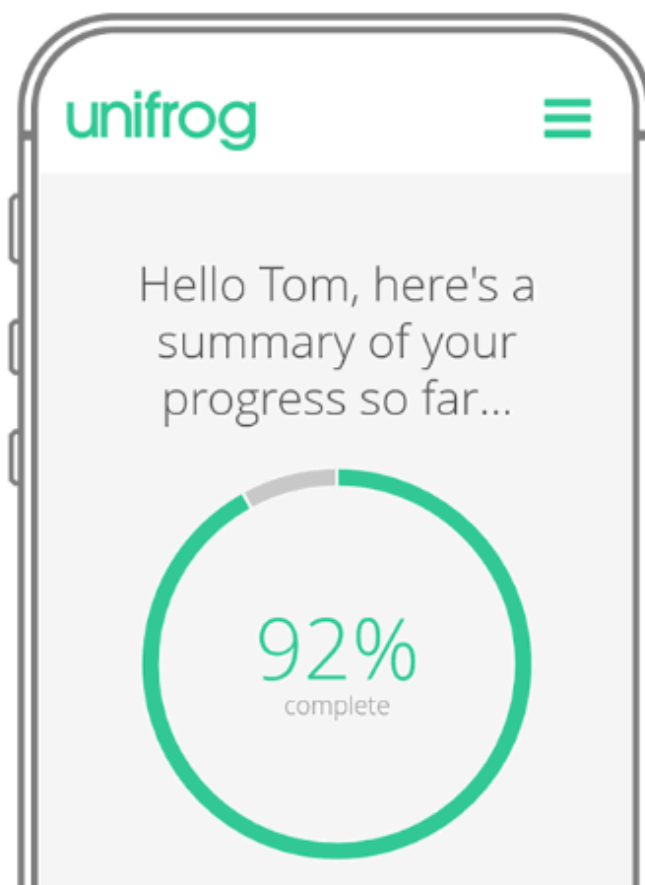
We encourage you to guide and motivate them to stay on top of their application processes, ensuring they meet deadlines and seek help when needed. This process is not only about choosing the right university but also about fostering their independence, responsibility, and time-management skills, which will serve them well in the years ahead.

To further assist your child in submitting a competitive application, we have compiled a range of helpful resources.

These materials offer guidance on how to prepare a standout personal statement, advice on academic and extracurricular achievements, and tips for researching universities.

You can access these resources through the following link: [Essential Skill Building Resources](#)

We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for your child and look forward to continuing to support them as they prepare for their next academic steps.



[Unifrog Introduction](#)



Unifrog Access Code: DBSDparents

Please note that your log on email address will be cross referenced with the details we have on the school system, to ensure we are keeping access limited to DBS parents only.





MOCK MEDICINE INTERVIEWS

PREPARING FUTURE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS



We recently launched our Career Pathways initiative – providing students with mock interviews, based on the career that they are considering.

On February 6th, we hosted a series of Mock Medicine Interviews, where 19 of our prospective medical students had the opportunity to experience a real-life medicine interview conducted by medical professionals from Sidra and Hamad Hospital.

This invaluable experience allowed students to develop essential skills such as critical thinking, effective communication, and professional interview etiquette. These skills will not only support their university applications but also prepare them for the rigorous selection process they will encounter throughout their medical careers.

A huge thank you to the medical professionals who dedicated their time to guiding and mentoring our students on their journey to becoming future healthcare leaders.

The next round of mock interviews are in the planning stage for April, these will be based on careers that align with Engineering. More information on this will be provided to the students in due course.

If you are interested in taking part, interviewing students and offering your professional advice, please email lyndsey.king@dohabritishschool.com





IB CLASS ADVENTURE

A DAY OF ESCAPE ROOMS, VR & HIDE-AND-SEEK FUN

SCORPIONS



YEAR 12 S



**LUCA
BARBIERI**

TEAMWORK UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES



Our IB class traded books and study sessions for an unforgettable day of teamwork, laughter, and excitement. What began as a casual class outing quickly turned into a series of thrilling adventures that brought us closer together and left everyone talking about the experience.

Escape Room Challenge

The day kicked off with a visit to a nearby escape room, where we split into smaller groups to tackle the challenge. The goal? Solve puzzles, decipher clues, and escape within an hour. Each room was intricately designed, from eerie haunted mansions to futuristic laboratories, putting our problem-solving skills to the test. It was amazing to see how each member of the group contributed—whether it was finding hidden keys, cracking codes, or offering fresh perspectives on tricky puzzles.

The adrenaline of racing against the clock had everyone on edge, but the satisfaction of escaping (or almost escaping) made it all worth it. The escape room wasn't just a test of wits but also an exercise in teamwork, and it proved just how well we can work together under pressure.

Virtual Reality Fun

After the escape room, we headed to a virtual reality arcade, where we immersed ourselves in entirely new worlds. Some of us fought zombies in apocalyptic wastelands, while others explored magical realms or raced cars on virtual tracks. The VR arcade gave us a chance to experience cutting-edge technology while having an absolute blast.

The highlight was watching each other's reactions—some screamed, others laughed uncontrollably, and a few even tripped while fully immersed in the games. The camaraderie and shared joy made the VR experience unforgettable.

Hide-and-Seek to End the Day

As if the day hadn't been exciting enough, we decided to play a classic game of hide-and-seek to wind down. Whether it was sneaking behind furniture or finding creative hiding spots, the game brought out our inner kids and had everyone grinning ear to ear. The laughter echoed throughout the space as we chased and discovered one another, ending the day on a high note.

A Day to Remember

Our IB class outing was more than just a day of fun activities; it was a chance to bond, relax, and enjoy each other's company outside of the academic environment. The escape room tested our minds, the VR arcade unleashed our imaginations, and hide-and-seek reminded us of the simple joys of childhood.

We left the day feeling closer as a class and with memories we'll cherish for a long time. It was a perfect reminder that while academics are important, so is making time to enjoy life and connect with those around us.

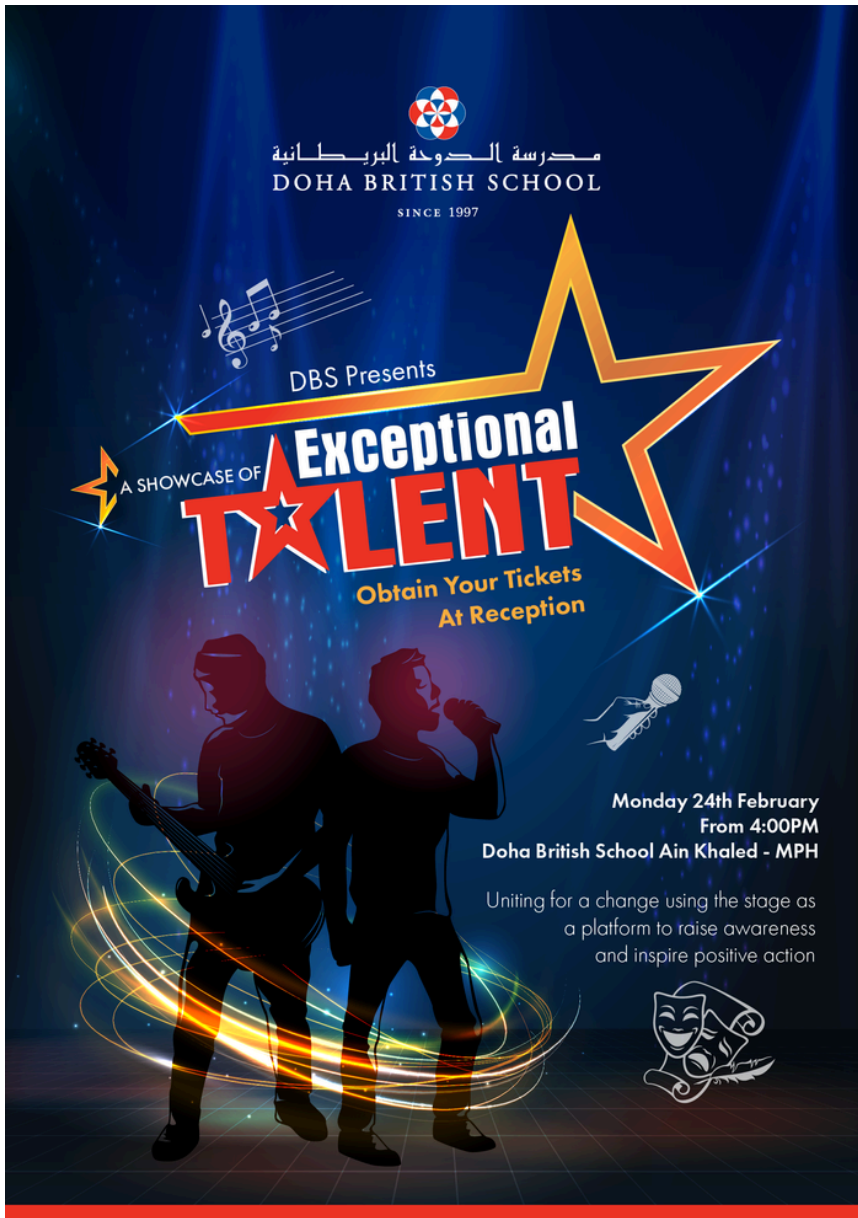




SECONDARY PRODUCTION

DBS Presents...

Don't miss our upcoming Secondary School Production, DBS Presents... on Monday, 24th February – DBS Presents...! This vibrant showcase will feature around 20 performances of singing, dancing, and drama, all centered around the theme of 'Unity'.



The production will highlight the incredible talents and teamwork of our students, delivering an inspiring and entertaining experience for all.

Be sure to get your tickets from the main reception and join us for this unforgettable evening of creativity and collaboration!





HOUSE SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS!



GO TEAM!

Star of the Week Award

Star of the Week Nominations



- Badaoui, Serena
- Badaoui, Yasmina
- Samuel, Jessica Sarah

- Karic, Talha
- Elgaali, Awab
- Pullian, Gabriella
- Zaedi, Mohamed
- Dessoukey, Maya
- El Ghannam, Omar
- Mohammed, Manha
- Shariff, Obaid Ahmed
- Hussain, Ahmed Fazal
- Al-Bastaki, Mohammed
- Khan, Muhammad Haris



- Abdalla, Hamad
- Sinno, Yasmina
- Lee, Yu Xuan (Star of the Week)

- AlQadi, Sawsan
- Asaf, Aariz
- Barbieri, Luca
- Barlow, Archie
- Chen, Anze
- Hague, Gregory
- Maktoum, Hazem
- Mustafina, Zhansaya
- Nazal, Taym
- Pillay, Taym
- Pillay, Cherise
- Ryemie Amran
- Aisyah Rafhanah Binti



- Alniss, Yousef
- Konkimalla, Amrutha
- Omer, Saad (Star of the Week)

- Srour, Assem
- Taeibi, Amani
- Zaghmout, Ali
- Zweir, Ali
- Antunes, Pedro
- Anwaar, Aiza
- Dietzold, Bruno
- Elnatour, Eva
- Fox, Rosa
- Irfan, Maryam
- Kanaan, Elaine
- Lee, Yu Tong
- Albalushi, Jassim
- Kalla, Alexander
- Las, Yzekiel Daniel
- El Ghannam, Joud
- Al-Mudahka, Noor Abdulaziz
- Mohamed, Ahmed Hesham Mahfouz



- Hacqouil-Smith, Sophie
- Khatib, Marah Husam
- Suryawan, Putu Diva Artika

- Bogdanovic, Luka
- Bugti, Eshaal Banuko
- Colak, Nina
- Fachriza, Athar Kosyi
- Ibrahim, Razan
- Karmi, Nora
- Meira, Lucas
- Ngetich, Ian



- Khalifa, Faisal
- Laidlaw, Lola
- Rosas Lee, Javier

- Batrawi, Tala
- Garcia Garcia, Pablo
- Ghandir, Meriem
- Muhammad, Maryam



The image features a solid blue background with a subtle pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent circles. A white, stylized speech bubble graphic is positioned on the right side, partially overlapping the text. The text "Thank You" is centered within the speech bubble.

Thank You