



مدرسة الدوحة البريطانية  
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL  
RAWDAT AL-HAMAMA



# Secondary Newsletter

*Thursday 16th January 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

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## **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

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## **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



مدرسة الدوحة البريطانية  
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL

SINCE 1997



**We are committed to preparing our community to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. We explore global citizenship as a commitment to social, environmental, and economic actions taken by individuals and communities who acknowledge that every person is a citizen of the world.**

### **Global Citizens:**

Have knowledge and understanding of global issue.

Take responsible actions that positively impact the world.

Reflect a deep sense of collective responsibility and shared humanity.

Cultivate skills and attitudes to be active and responsible global citizens.

Foster an awareness of our interconnectedness with people from diverse backgrounds and regions.

Growth: Cultivate skills and attitudes to be active and responsible global citizens.

Learning: Have knowledge and understanding of global issues.

Oneness: Reflect a deep sense of collective responsibility and shared humanity.

Belonging: Foster an awareness of our interconnectedness with people from diverse backgrounds and regions.

Action: Take responsible actions that positively impact the world.

Leadership: Demonstrate leadership in promoting global citizenship and sustainable practices.

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### MR. ROBNAWAZ KHAN

**Join Us for International Day on Thursday, 23rd January!**

Dear Parents,

We are thrilled to inform you that International Day will be celebrated at our school at 7.30am on **Thursday, 23rd January**, and we would love for you to be part of this special event! This day gives us a wonderful opportunity to highlight the incredible cultural diversity within our school community.

International Day is not only a chance for students to learn about the world's various traditions and customs, but also a celebration of the global spirit that thrives within our school.

It is an occasion where we can come together to appreciate the richness of different cultures, fostering a sense of unity and mutual respect.

#### What You Can Expect

On this day, students are invited to dress in their national attire or wear colours that represent their home country. This is a fun and educational way for our children to celebrate their heritage and learn from their peers' diverse backgrounds.

We also encourage students to bring in a dish or item of food that represents their country to share with their peers. This will be a wonderful way for our children to share their cultural traditions through food, and to taste and enjoy dishes from other countries.







## Parade and Celebration

A highlight of the day will be a parade on the field, where students will showcase their costumes and celebrate their unique cultural identities. **The parade, will begin at 7.30am, to which all parents are invited.** We would be delighted if you could join us for this exciting event and share in the pride and joy of our students. Your presence will make the day even more special as we come together to celebrate the diversity that makes our school so unique.

We look forward to a fantastic International Day filled with cultural exchange, pride, and fun. Thank you for supporting this wonderful celebration of diversity, and we can't wait to see you there!

## Reminder: Yondr Pouches Implementation

This is a gentle reminder following our previous communication on 17th December about the introduction of Yondr pouches at Doha British School. As part of our ongoing efforts to provide a focused and distraction-free learning environment, we believe this initiative will greatly contribute to that objective.

### Key Dates and Information:

- **Transition Period:** The Yondr pouch policy will begin in January 2025, with full implementation required by February 2025 (TBC)
- **Mobile Phone Policy:**
- All students must use Yondr pouches to store their mobile phones during school hours.
- Students who choose not to purchase a pouch must leave their phones at home.
- Phones found without a pouch will be confiscated, returned only to parents, and repeated violations may lead to exclusion.
- A dedicated phone will be available at reception for emergency calls.
- **BYOD Policy:** Students can still bring tablets or laptops for educational purposes, provided these devices are registered with the school's IT department.



## Countries That Have Introduced Mobile Phone Bans in Schools:

Several countries have already adopted mobile phone bans or restrictions in schools due to the benefits they offer in fostering better learning environments. Some of these countries include:

- **France:** Banned mobile phones in schools nationwide in 2018, focusing on improving student well-being and concentration.
- **United Kingdom:** Various schools have implemented bans or restrictions to reduce distractions and enhance academic focus.
- **New Zealand:** Introduced a nationwide ban in April 2024 to boost academic performance and health.
- **California, USA:** Enacted a law in 2024 requiring districts to implement mobile phone restrictions in schools.
- **Norway:** Banned mobile phones in schools in February 2024 to reduce distractions and improve social interaction.

## Advantages of Mobile Phone Bans in Schools:

1. **Enhanced Academic Performance:** Banning mobile phones leads to improved test scores and better overall academic achievement.
2. **Reduced Distractions:** Without the temptation of mobile phones, students remain more focused and engaged in class activities.
3. **Improved Social Interactions:** Students engage more with their peers, fostering better relationships and social skills.
4. **Decreased Cyber bullying:** Mobile phone restrictions help reduce opportunities for cyberbullying during school hours, creating a safer environment.
5. **Better Mental Health:** Limiting screen time helps alleviate stress and anxiety, contributing to overall well-being.

## School Cellphone Bans: Weighing the Benefits and Drawbacks

Thank you for your continued support to create a better learning environment for our students. More details on the pouch purchase process, costs and associated policies and procedures will be shared soon.





## Encourage Your Child to Participate in Our Poster Competitions!

We are excited to announce a series of upcoming poster competitions at Doha British School, offering students the chance to express their creativity and explore important themes that promote global citizenship, equality, diversity, and anti-bullying efforts. We encourage you to support and inspire your child in participating in these fun and meaningful challenges.

### Competition Themes and Deadlines:

#### 1. Global Citizenship – Deadline: Sunday 19th January

- Focus on the importance of caring for the planet, and taking action to solve global problems like poverty and pollution. Students can express this theme with visual representations such as people working together or global issues like reducing waste or fighting hunger.

#### 2. Equality and Diversity – Deadline: Sunday 26th January

- This theme emphasizes the significance of respecting and treating everyone equally, regardless of differences like skin color, gender, religion, or abilities. Students can create posters celebrating diversity with phrases like “We Are Stronger Together” or imagery that showcases non-discrimination.

#### 3. Anti-Bullying and Well-Being – Deadline: Sunday 2nd February

- Focused on kindness and standing up against bullying, this theme encourages students to think about how to treat others with respect and look after their mental health. Poster ideas include messages like “Kindness Is Cool” or “Bullying Stops Here.”

### How to Get Involved:

- Poster Guidelines:
- Size: Standard A3 or A4
- Orientation: Portrait or landscape
- Medium: Hand-drawn (colored pencils, markers, crayons, paints) or digital design software





- **Winners will receive prizes and have their posters displayed in prominent areas around the school.**

## **Why Should Your Child Participate?**

**This is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore themes that impact not just their school community, but the world at large. Encouraging your child to think creatively and contribute their ideas can help them:**

- **Develop a deeper understanding of global and social issues.**
- **Express their opinions through visual arts.**
- **Gain recognition for their creativity and hard work.**
- **Build confidence in contributing to important school initiatives.**

**We hope that you will encourage your child to participate or even collaborate with them to come up with exciting design ideas! This competition is a chance for your child to make their voice heard and positively contribute to the school's values of inclusion and respect.**

**Thank you for your continued support!**





## HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE

### MRS. ALICIA HILL



**Dear Parents,**

Please find below, information pertinent to the Secondary section of DBS Rawdat Al Hamama.

### Dates for you Diary

<i>Upcoming events</i>	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
<i>19th, 26th January and 2nd February</i>	<i>Global citizenship, equality, diversity, and anti-bullying efforts</i>
<i>23rd January</i>	<i>International Day</i>
<i>11th February</i>	<i>National Sports Day</i>
<i>11th -15th February</i>	<i>Half Term Holiday</i>
<i>27th February - 27th March (TBC)</i>	<i>Ramadan School Days (TBC)</i>
<i>QUESS Activities</i>	
<i>20th January @ 2:30 pm</i>	<i>U16 boys Basketball</i>
<i>22nd January @ 2:30 pm</i>	<i>U16 boys Basketball</i>
<i>26th January @ 2:30pm</i>	<i>All ages - Cross country</i>
<i>17th February @ 2:30pm</i>	<i>U14 Mixed Badminton</i>
<i>19th February @ 2:30pm</i>	<i>U13 Mixed Badminton</i>

# Secondary ECA Schedule

Term 2 Extracurricular Activities (ECAs) will start next week. Below is a list of the available ECAs. Please note that if your child does not wish to participate in any of the secondary ECAs, it is important to pick them up at 2:00 PM. This will help prevent any disruption to the ongoing activities.

Sunday

- *Table Tennis*
- *Apps and Research (Only Girls)*
- *Origami*
- *MUN (KS3)*
- *Duke of Edinburgh (KS4)*
- *Graphics Club*
- *Journal Club*
- *Boys Basketball*
- *Production Rehearsal*

Monday

- *Football (KS3)*
- *Eco/Stem Club*
- *Mindful Colouring*
- *French Club*
- *Drama/Dance*
- *Fantasy Football*
- *Arts and Crafts*
- *Photography*

**Tuesday: No ECA**

Wednesday

- *Badminton*
- *Boys Swimming*
- *Card/Board Games*
- *MUN (KS4)*
- *Cooking Club*
- *Girls Basketball*
- *Production Rehearsal*

**Thursday: No ECA**

Kindly encourage your children to participate in one of our ECAs! For more information about each ECA, please [click here](#).





## School Uniform

A reminder of the importance of adhering to our school's uniform policy for shoes and coats. Your child must wear black polishable shoes that meet our uniform policy and refrain from wearing Nike Air Force shoes or other trainers.

Please note that students can only wear the school jumper, fleece, or blazer while in school or wear a plain white or black long-sleeve t-shirt under their school shirts as the temperature drops.

We truly appreciate your cooperation in ensuring your child follows the uniform policy, as it helps create a sense of unity among students and promotes a focused atmosphere in the learning environment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this update, please contact Ms. Lorente at:  
[paula.lorente@dbsrawdat.com](mailto:paula.lorente@dbsrawdat.com).

Thank you for your attention to this matter!



## School shoes- good examples



## School Jumper

As the weather gets colder, please note that students are only permitted to wear the school jumper, fleece, or blazer while at school. Alternatively, they may wear a plain white or black long-sleeve top underneath their school shirts.

## PE Dress Code

### Female - PE Uniform Requirements

*At the start of the year, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) introduced changes to the school uniform policy, one of which requires girls in Year 5 and above to ensure their legs are covered. This can be achieved by wearing either loose-fitting tracksuit bottoms or leggings paired with shorts. We kindly ask that if your child's current uniform does not meet these requirements, you take the necessary steps to purchase the appropriate items to bring them into compliance.*

*Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines.*



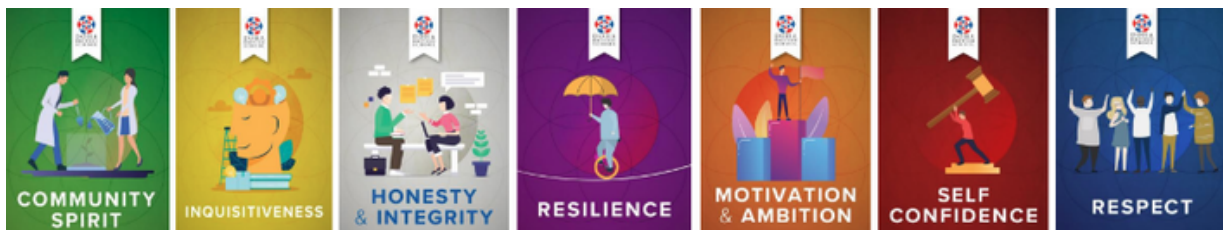


## HOUSE SPOTLIGHT

# STAR OF THE WEEK

*At DBS, we are dedicated to ensuring every student benefits fully from their time here. We aim to nurture well-rounded individuals through excellent teaching and strong character development.*

*Each week, teachers nominate students who exemplify our core values:*



*The students with the most nominations are celebrated as our 'Star of the Week'.*

*This week's Stars of the Week are:*



*To see all nominations, please visit: [Star of the Week](#)*

*Celebrate your child's success with them!*

# CONGRATULATIONS!





## UNITED NATIONS CLUB

### EXCITING OPPORTUNITY: DBS-RAWDAT DELEGATES HEAD TO THIMUN QATAR!

We are excited to announce that our talented students from Doha British School Rawdat Al Hamama Secondary will represent Denmark at THIMUN Qatar 2025. This prestigious Model United Nations conference will take place from January 29 to 31 and is the largest of its kind in the region.

In collaboration with The Hague International Model United Nations, THIMUN Qatar brings together over 1,000 students from more than 80 schools worldwide. The event provides a valuable platform for young leaders to engage in meaningful debates on global issues, develop solutions, and foster collaboration with peers from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Our students have been preparing diligently, and we are proud to share their committee assignments and debate topics:

#### Committees and Delegates:

- Environment Commission: Sky
- Human Rights Sub-Commission 1: Jana
- Human Rights Sub-Commission 2: Maria
- 1st Committee – Disarmament and International: Zeena
- 2nd Committee – Economic and Financial: Mehdi
- 3rd Committee – Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural: Mary
- 4th Committee – Special Political and Decolonisation: Lamar
- 5th Committee – Administration and Budgetary: Thea
- 6th Committee – Legal: Hana
- Special Committee – SDGs 11 & 12: Hussain
- Economic and Social Council: Seif
- World Health Assembly: Ali
- Ambassador: Maria

THIMUN is more than just a conference—it is a life-changing experience that builds critical thinking, global awareness, public speaking skills, and the ability to approach complex issues with a collaborative mindset.

We are immensely proud of our students and look forward to seeing them shine at this global event. – Ms. Anson





# CAREERS CORNER

### Exciting Opportunities for Our Students in January!

This term is important and dynamic, as most Year 12 students are currently applying to universities worldwide. It's also an excellent time for students to explore the incredible opportunities offered by universities in Qatar, which can help them develop valuable skills and enhance their applications to some of the world's most competitive institutions. The key to success is starting early, and most of these exceptional opportunities are available to students from Year 9 to Year 12!

Extracurricular activities, especially academic ones, can greatly enhance your child's application and help them stand out in the competitive university admissions process. It's essential for students to take advantage of these opportunities before they reach A-Levels, as time is running out!

Georgetown Global Challengers invites high school students in Years 11 and 12 to dive into the world of Social Entrepreneurship through an exciting online program, complemented by an on-campus practicum. This is a unique opportunity to develop key skills and gain practical experience. For more details, visit [Georgetown Global Challengers](#).

### University Preparedness Programme: Academic and Skill-Building Workshops (Online)

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) is offering a free online programme for students in Grades 9-12. This enriching series of workshops will help students build essential academic and personal skills for university success and beyond. The program is led by student instructors from GU-Q's Office of Educational Enrichment. Learn more at [University Preparedness Programme](#).



# CAREERS CORNER

## Career Fair – Tuesday, January 21st

Our highly anticipated Career Fair will take place next Tuesday, where we'll welcome some of Qatar's leading professionals who will share valuable insights into their careers and guide students on how to enter various industries. It's an event not to be missed for our Year 10 – Year 12's!

## Workshops for Career Exploration

For students interested in Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University Qatar is hosting a hands-on workshop to explore the field and discuss career opportunities available with a Computer Science degree. This is an exciting chance to see how this dynamic field is shaping the future! To register, visit [Carnegie Mellon Computer Science Workshop](#).

For those curious about a career in Chemical Engineering, **Hamad Bin Khalifa University** is offering a hands-on session on Saturday, January 25th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Students will have the chance to work with cutting-edge technology and explore how chemical engineering can solve real-world challenges. The registration deadline is January 18th, 2025, and the session is open to Year 11 and Year 12 students. Please refer to the attached flyer/poster for more information and to register.

We encourage all students to take full advantage of these amazing opportunities to further their academic and professional aspirations. Start planning for your future now!

For more information, please refer to [the poster here](#)

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/QVWXmBjdpiW4XCJK7>



# **SECONDARY INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION AT DBS!**

We are excited to announce that International Day will take place **this coming Thursday, 23rd January 2025**, at Doha British School. This special event celebrates the diverse cultures within our school community and provides an opportunity for students to learn, share, and connect.

Here's how your child can participate in the festivities:

- **National Attire or Flag Colours**

Encourage your child to wear their national attire or the colours of their country's flag to showcase pride in their heritage.

- **International Food Festival**

Students are invited to bring a traditional dish to share at our food festival. This is a wonderful way to experience the flavours and traditions of different cultures.

Please ensure your child submits the name of the dish they'll bring by completing the Google form shared in their classrooms.

- **Fashion Show & Performances**

Students can showcase their talents and cultural pride by signing up for the Fashion Show or performing in one of the cultural acts.

- **Football Tournament**

A friendly football tournament will be held as part of the celebration. Teams will consist of 10 players per year group. Encourage your child to participate by submitting their names to their tutor.

We hope you'll inspire your children to participate actively in all these activities, making it a memorable day for everyone.

For any questions or further details, please feel free to reach out to us. Thank you for your support in making this event a success!

Ms. Shannon Thompson



## Medical Information

### Urgent!

When your child joined DBS Rawdat, you were asked to complete a medical form to inform us of any health issues, allergies, or other conditions that may affect your child. We have used the information you provided to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of all students, both in school and during off-site activities. It is essential that we keep this information up to date.

The information will be used to make sure we are aware of any issues that may affect your child and, in the event of a school trip or activity such as an educational visit or sporting event, to ensure we have the relevant details at hand to make any first aid decisions or provide information to medical professionals in case of an emergency.

Please take a moment to complete the medical questionnaire, which can be accessed through the following link, [Medical information and Emergency contacts](#).

If you have more than one child at the school, please complete a separate questionnaire for each child.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

## ... LIBRARY NEWS JANUARY 12-16

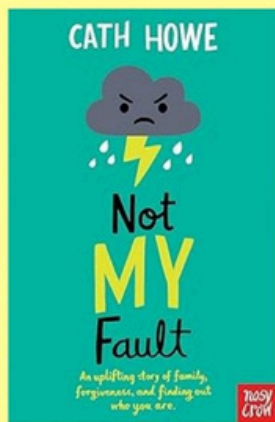


### BOOK of the Week

Not MY fault by Cath Howe

What happens when guilt and blame tear siblings apart? Rose and Maya, once close sisters, are no longer speaking after a playground accident left Maya injured and angry. Now Rose carries the heavy burden of guilt, while Maya lashes out in frustration. Their week-long residential school trip becomes the ultimate test: Will it heal their broken bond or shatter it for good?

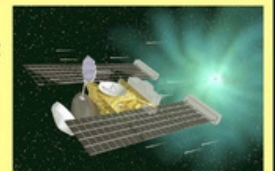
Told through the alternating perspectives of both sisters, Not My Fault dives deep into emotions like guilt, resentment, and forgiveness. This heartfelt story captures the complexities of sibling relationships and the power of open communication. With relatable characters and emotional depth, it's a must-read for anyone who's ever grappled with the challenge of mending relationships.



**BORROW TODAY!**

### Today in History

- 14th January 1973: Elvis Presley performs his Aloha from Hawaii concert, becoming the first worldwide live satellite broadcast by an entertainer, watched by over a billion people.
- 16th January 2006: NASA's Stardust mission successfully returns to Earth with samples from a comet, offering new insights into the origins of the solar system.
- 16th January 2001: The online encyclopaedia Wikipedia launches, revolutionising how people access and share knowledge globally.



Source: [www.onthisday.com](http://www.onthisday.com)



"THE MAGIC IN NEW BEGINNINGS IS TRULY THE MOST POWERFUL OF THEM ALL."

- JOSIYAH MARTIN





## Red Lanyard – Compulsory requirement

Thank you for ensuring that you enter the school premises with a red lanyard, or by showing appropriate identification to obtain a yellow visitor's lanyard. I would like to remind you that this policy is in place to ensure the safety and security of all our community members, especially our children, by ensuring that all personnel on site are authorised.

Please note the following:

- To avoid being stopped by security, ensure your lanyard is visible upon entry and while you remain on the premises.
- If you do not have a red lanyard for any reason, one can be obtained from the reception desk.
- If you have applied for a red lanyard but are still awaiting your card, you may collect a red lanyard from reception, and later pick up your card once it is ready.
- If you have not yet applied for a red lanyard, we advise you to do so at the reception desk. Otherwise, you will need to show ID and collect a yellow lanyard each time you enter.
- Please remember that staff on duty are carrying out their responsibilities if they ask you to show your lanyards or ID cards. Please be polite and courteous when engaging in any discussions.
- Despite security and support staff knowing you, there is no guarantee that all staff on site are familiar with you, particularly after you have dropped off your child. Therefore, please keep your lanyards visible at all times.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our school community.





## Ongoing Reminders – Useful to Know

• [Access to E-library for Students – Information on how our students can access the free e-book library from home](#)

• [School Calendar 2024/25](#)

• [School Uniform and Schol Shoes 2024-25](#)

• [Staff email contact list](#)

• [Google Classroom](#)

• [School Day Guide](#)

• [Careers Guidance](#)

• [Head of Houses](#)

Kind regards,



**DOHA  
BRITISH  
SCHOOL**

RAWDAT  
CAMPUS

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The background is a solid blue color with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent circles of varying shades. A white speech bubble graphic is positioned to the right of the text, with its tail pointing towards the text.

Thank You