

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

Message from Head of School

Change to School Calendar

With the recent government announcement that Friday 11th September will be polling day in Singapore, GWA will be adhering to national policy and confirm that 11th September will be a public holiday for GWA students and staff.

As a result, the scheduled GWA Family Potluck Dinner has been cancelled for the 11th September. We look forward to having families join us on campus for the 10th October GWA Family Picnic.

David Edwards
Head of Education
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GWA Parent Coffee Morning

Parent Coffee Morning
Understanding the GWA programme
of learning opportunities

When: Wednesday the 2nd
September 2015 @ 9am

Where: Parent Cafe
Followed by the
monthly GWA Parents
Association meeting.



Our first full week of classes has enabled teachers to bring structure, systems and rigour to student programmes. This has been made highly successful, having formed strong friendships and developed stronger individual learning skills as a result of the first week activities, especially the Experiential Learning Programme.

This week has also provided the opportunity for parents to engage through two curriculum nights. For Early and Primary Years parents, Wednesday was a chance for the new school leadership team to be presented, and for the PYP Curriculum Coordinator, Olivia Burke, to provide a brief overview of the Early and Primary Years curriculum framework. The remaining time was spent in student learning environments with the homeroom and specialist educators, enabling parents to directly interact with the teachers of their child.

The Secondary Years Curriculum Night on Thursday provided a similar schedule of events, with the MYP/IGCSE Curriculum Coordinator, Mark Gardner, providing a detailed look at the unique programme of learning across G6-10 at GWA, inclusive of our dual international certification for Grade 9 and 10. Subject specialists from the Secondary Years team were able to clarify this detail further and ensure that families have a solid foundation of understanding for the start of the 2015-2016 academic year.

Next week is another parent engagement opportunity, with the coffee morning taking place in the school auditorium lobby from 9am, Wednesday 2nd September. The Education Leadership Team will be providing an overview of programmes and initiatives, as well as being available for more informal one-to-one discussions.

Following the parent engagement session, the first GWA Parent Association (GWAPA) meeting will be taking place. At this meeting all committee positions will be vacated, with parents open to nominate and be selected. It is vital for the school community that the committee exist with a minimum of 6 members and we strongly encourage parents to support the Association with their attendance at the Wednesday meeting. GWAPA is an integral facet of the school community, helping connect parents with parents and support school-led initiatives.

Many thanks for your great support in ensuring that the commencement of the school year has been so successful. We look forward to welcoming you to the GWA campus soon.

David Edwards - Head of Education
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Where Next? What Next?

It's never too early to start thinking about where your son or daughter is going to go to university. The choices for 21st Century International students are incredibly diverse, so the sooner you start the thinking process the better!

This week GEMS World Academy (Singapore) held the first of what will be many university visits this year, welcoming Jason Cooke, International Officer, from the prestigious King's College London. Jason presented to an audience of students and parents, talking about King's itself and also some of the key decision making factors when looking at universities in the UK.

Jason will be returning in the spring, in the company of representatives from University College London, The School of African and Oriental Studies and The London School of Economics, so look out for details.

Denise Nijhuis from University College Roosevelt in the Netherlands will visit us on [September 28th](#). Denise will host a session for GWA (Singapore) parents at around 3.45pm and then will give a presentation on studying in the Netherlands to an open audience at around 7pm. For those of you from the EU, it is well worth noting that an EU passport (with no requirements for residency or tax status) means the university fees in the Netherlands are just 1800 Euros a year!

On [October 27th](#), Isabel Wu from Spain's ie University will be visiting. ie is a private university specialising in business and enterprise. They have a very strong entrepreneurial programme and quite a flexible approach to admissions. All the courses are taught in English, so no need to be fluent in Spanish.

Jonathan Cox - Academic Advisor
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Sport Update

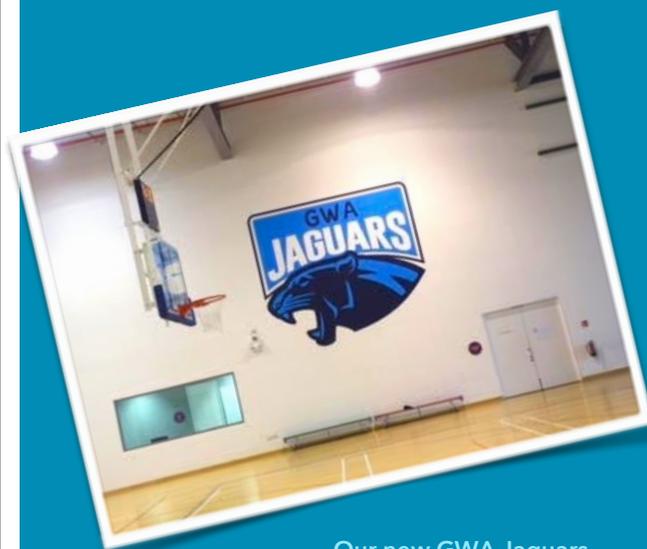


It gives me great pleasure to provide information around the season one ECA programme. A letter containing detailed information and the sign up link will be sent by separate email late on Friday 28th August. Please note the following:

- It is an expectation that students Grade 1 to Grade 10 will participate in 2 of the 3 ECA seasons
- Sign up is open from Friday 28th to Tuesday 1st September
- Confirmation of ECA placement will be provided to families by Friday 4th September
- The first season will run from 7th September until November 5th
- Most ECA's (unless otherwise stated) will run from 3:40pm until 4:40pm
- There will be an ECA bus service that leaves GWA at 5pm each day. Further details are in the letter

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tony McMullen - Activities Coordinator
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Our new GWA Jaguars logo on display in the Gymnasium

EY/PY Curriculum Update

Thank you to all of the parents who were able to attend Wednesday evening's Curriculum evening. At the beginning of the evening I briefly explained some information about the International Baccalaureate (IB) and its Primary Years Programme (PYP).

In summary, the aim of the programme is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people with adaptable skills so they can tackle societies' complex challenges. The PYP is transdisciplinary, meaning students learn across subject areas while investigating big ideas.

In the PYP, students learn about significant concepts during the year through six units of inquiry (UOI). Units of inquiry interweave subject areas such as mathematics, language arts, science and social studies. This approach encourages students to make their own connections between what they learn in core subject areas and how it relates to the world around them.

To find out more about the IB and PYP, you can visit the IB website at www.ibo.org, speak with your child's PYP classroom teacher or contact me direct.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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EY/PY Curriculum night



SY Curriculum Update

As the new academic year progresses, students are making great progress across all subjects and are thinking about their key goals for this first quarter.

During homeroom lessons, SY students have reflected upon their first weeks of school and used Managebac to identify targets they will work towards over the coming weeks. Managebac is also the place to look for both students and parents to keep up to date with units, assessments, homework and materials to support learning.

This week we have also welcomed parents into school for the SY Curriculum Evening. The event began with a presentation looking at the key features of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Grades 6-10 and the Cambridge IGCSE qualifications, which are offered in Grades 9 and 10 alongside the MYP. Following the presentation, parents had the opportunity to meet teachers and discuss the school curriculum across all eight MYP subject groups, gaining further insight into subject objectives, content and assessment.

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Mark Gardner - MYP / IGCSE Curriculum Coordinator
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SY Curriculum night

