



Thursday 03rd June 2021

RE: Secondary Update

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you are safe and well.

Preparation for September 2021

As we near the end of the year, there is a great deal of planning happening in preparation for September. With the change to horizontal tutor groups, we are currently relooking at the make-up of tutor groups as all students will be of the same house. Your children have been surveyed for their preferences and we are using those to create the groups. Our expectation is that all students will know their tutor group and Tutor teacher before the year ends. We will also be analyzing your feedback from the recent parent survey to include in our thinking and planning for the new year – thank you for your input.

HSBC NextGen10

HSBC NextGen10 is a nationwide competition to help the brightest young minds in the UAE shine a light on, and help overcome some of the most significant challenges humanity faces today.

HSBC's NextGen10 programme is an initiative devised to foster and develop ideas that will support the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure long-term growth. Areas of focus include climate change; protecting the creative arts; nurturing entrepreneurship; using technology for mankind; and creating a society of wellness, diversity and inclusion.

Judges will select 50 students to join an accredited virtual training programme to help them develop their ideas and future skills, with education partner Debate Mate.

A final shortlist of ten students will then be invited to present their ideas in a live final at the UK Pavilion during Expo 2020, with the top three winners being awarded Dhs20,000 by HSBC to help turn their ideas into reality.

Below are the WSO students who participated in the challenge with their inspirational and imaginative out-of-the-box ideas that can solve a modern day problem

Kyria Gerges	Year 7	Wellness of Young People
Yasaswini Krishna Amudala	Year 7	Green Food
Advait Karan Anand	Year 8	Smart Sports Ground
Ashtalfa Batool	Year 7	Being Packaging-Free
Rhyme Bambral	Year 9	Rhythm – Promoting Young Talent
Aradhana Sivaraman	Year 9	Agriculture on Mars
Muhammad Ahsan Aziz	Year 9	Connecting Young People
Enakshi Mukhopadhyay	Year 10	Folded Digital Textbooks
Snigdha Nair	Year 10	Food Security
Laiba Asif	Year 10	Smart-Shelf Optimiser
Eshaan Ahmed	Year 10	Recycled Plastic Bricks for Social Housing



We invite you to view some of the brilliant ideas illustrated in the videos below

[Smart Shelf Optimiser](#) by Snigdha Nair
[Promote young Talent](#) by Rhyme Bambral

Big Congratulations to the following students (L→R) Snigdha Nair, Eshaan Ahmed and Laiba Asif for qualifying for industry experts mentoring round organized in the month of June by HSBC in partnership with Debate Mate.



Huge acknowledgement also to Ms Shafaque Riaz, our Head of Department for Computer Science who guides and mentors all of our student entries. Under her tutelage, our students have a remarkable record of success.

**ABOUT
NextGen10**

In the future, we'll face a million new challenges. But, there are a million young minds working to solve them. So, this is for you, our Next Generation. Go on, we're listening. No matter how crazy, out-there or blue-sky, we'll provide you a platform to help you turn your idea into reality, with mentoring, funding and a showcase at the UK Pavilion at Expo 2020. Because, money alone won't change our future. You will.

Can you help to solve one of these challenges?



How can we stop climate change?



How can we make sure the creative arts aren't lost?



How can technology help us?



How can we create a healthier and equal society?



How can we take ideas from the classroom to the boardroom?

Continuity for remainder of the year

Could we please ask that, unless there are medical or family reasons, students are either in-school OR learning remotely for the remainder of the year. We are experiencing a number of students choosing on any given day, whether to be remote or in-school.

This is challenging for our systems and importantly for Health and Safety reasons, in the event of an emergency, we must be able to account for every child. Our belief is that the continuity of that choice plays a part in the impact of learning and retention and while we are entering the last phase of the academic year, there is still valuable learning happening which should not be compromised.

We thank you for your cooperation.



Food for thought

I have been inconsistent with bringing you material to provoke thought and promote conversation – I will try to make this more regular in the future.

Today, an image, which I think is pertinent at a time where there is much talk about student and family anxiety. We don't always have the answers, however we may have access to resources and contacts that can assist families and children from time to time.



Please reach out if you and/or your child require assistance – we will always do our best for you.

As always, I welcome your feedback a.kaifong_wso@gemsedu.com

Sincerely

Andy Kai Fong
Secondary Principal

