

Newsletter

Issue # 15
28, April 2016

This Week's Newsletter:

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From the Principal's Desk

The tragic events that have touched two of the families in our school this week has been a reminder of how fragile life is and how we should savour each day and the precious moments we spend with our families. Our wealth is measured by how we spend our time and I, as I am sure all of us have, reflected upon how we allow the busyness of life to distract us from the things that are really important. Our school community has drawn together and it has been wonderful to see how the students have supported one another as they have grieved. One of the strengths of our school is its family feel and this week it has been tangible. Some of our students have spent time talking to the staff or the school Counsellor, Ms. Pretorius. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Zulkhisni family. Lily Mackett is in hospital, undergoing surgery, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

We have been doing a great deal of work this year to review our Mathematics curriculum and to ensure that it is benchmarked against the International Benchmark Tests and external international curriculum standards. Today we held two Mathematics information sessions for parents (for Primary and Secondary) in which we shared strategies for you to support your child's Mathematics education and information about what Mathematics we teach, our curriculum standards and teaching methodologies. We are on a journey of improvement, always seeking to be better than our previous best and, in the words of our Mission Statement, are committed to building a truly world class IB Continuum School recognized in the UAE for its strong academic ethos and excellent quality of teaching and learning.

Thank you to those of you who joined us for the music concert in aid of the Global Outreach Ethiopia project. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and was entirely student organised and led. Providing our students with opportunities to engage with and serve communities less privileged than ours is an integral part of a Greenfield and an IB education. We want our children to be ethical and principled citizens of their school and global communities. The group will travel to Ethiopia in late June and will be helping to improve the water supply and doing some painting of a school there.



Secondary School News



Secondary School

Head of Secondary: Mr. Neil Bunting

This has been a very difficult and sad week for all members of our school community.

The outpourings of grief and commiserations for the families of two of our students has been very moving.

Nur Zafinah G7 sadly passed away in her sleep quite unexpectedly on Friday and Lily Mackett, G10, remains in a coma after a car accident. We are all praying for her full recovery.

Both students were very popular members of our school community and this sad episode is a reminder of how close our students are as part of the GCS family.

We have offered counselling support for our students and we will continue to support them throughout this difficult time. It is vital that students are given enough time to come to terms with this.

Up and Coming matters

Grade 9 have an exciting Shakespeare workshop next Monday for Romeo and Juliet on May 2.

Math Presentation Coffee Morning: April 28

On Thursday April 28, the Head of Math, Michael Guttomson, will be presenting his vision for mathematics in the secondary school at 9am in the secondary PD Room. This special presentation will coincide with the PYP Math morning so parents from primary can also attend.

MYP Examinations Grades 6-10.

Please see the schedule for end of year exams Grades 6 – 10 on the communicator.

The schedule for Grade 11 will be posted shortly.

All departments will be placing revision packs on Managebac next week in preparation for the exams.

Normal classes will continue up until the examinations and after the final exam on June 13.

Please note June 7 is a study day in school.

Full details of Ramadan timings and the school schedule will follow.

After each examination lessons will continue up until dismissal time.



Secondary School News

MYP EXAMINATION PROGRAMME

| Duration | Sunday June 5th | Mon- day June 6th | Tuesday June 7th | Wednes- day June 8th | Thursday June 9th | Sunday June 12th | Monday June 13th | Tues- day June 14 th | Wednes- day June 15th | Thurs- day June 16th |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Grade 6 (Duration 1hr) 8.15- 9.15 | HUMANITIES | ENGLISH | STUDY DAY | MATH | MFL Gr 6- 8: 1.5 hrs | SCIENCE | ARABIC | Regular time table | | |
| Grade 7 (Duration 1hr) 8.15-9.15 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 8 (Duration 1.5hrs) 8.15-9.45 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 9 (Duration 1.5hrs) 8.15-9.45 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 10 (Duration 2hrs) 8.15-10.15 | | | | | | | | | | |

Kind regards
Neil Bunting
Head of Secondary

Secondary School News

Attendance and Punctuality for April

| | Grade 6 | Grade 7 | Grade 8 | Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| Attendance | 97% | 94% | 95% | 93% | 94% | 94% |
| Tardiness | 1.47% | 1.84% | 2.9% | 1.9% | 1.3% | 1.35% |
| KHDA Rating | Very Good | Good | Good | Acceptable | Good | Good |
| Improvement since last month? | Yes! | Not for attendance. Yes for tardiness. | Yes for attendance. No for tardiness. | Unfortunate decline in both attendance and punctuality. | Yes. Big improvement. | Not for attendance. Yes for tardiness. |

Grade 6 Assembly on Scientific and Technical Innovation

The main concept from IB for Scientific & Technical Innovation

How do we understand the world in which we live?

Students will explore:

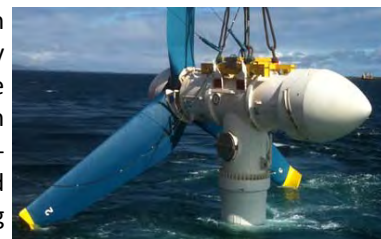
- The natural world and its laws
- The interaction between people and the natural world
- How humans use their understanding of scientific principles
- The impact of scientific and technological advances on communities and environments
- The impact of environments on human activity
- How humans adapt environments to their needs



On the 25th April 2016, the Grade 6 students had an assembly addressing the IB Global Context of “Scientific and Technical Innovation”. Our guest speaker, Ms. Rupa from the Canadian University of Dubai presented the grade with an interesting and educational presentation. Covering 8 mind blowing scientific and technical innovations, including Solar Impulse, Growing plants in Mars, NASA’s journey to Mars, NASA and U.A.E space program, Producing energy underwater, ZERO waste in Sweden, Underwater museum in Egypt and Students on Ice. The guest speaker

also talked about renewable energy and resources, travel and transport devices such as planes or rockets, and how students can get involved in various programmes.

We also learnt about renewable resources and clean energy in the subjects solar Impulse, producing energy underwater with ZERO waste in Sweden. Solar Impulse was about planes running on renewable resources, clean energy, solar energy and, how Solar Impulse 2 is currently traveling around earth. When the guest speaker talked about producing energy under water she was talking about hydro energy, and how there are devices like windmills in the water that collect energy the same way as a windmill does with current instead of wind. Zero waste in Sweden was about Sweden burning garbage and using it to power heaters, she talked about how this has made a business and Sweden is paying other countries like Denmark for garbage!



Secondary School News



The guest speaker informed grade 6 on the topic of travel and transport devices, in the topics of Solar Impulse and NASA's journey to Mars. When she showed the grade a video about Solar Impulse it spoke about the building and aerodynamics of the planes and how they modify it. When it came to her explaining NASA's journey to Mars she showed us a video that talked about how great minds are coming up with new inventions and innovations like an indoor habitat to get mankind on Mars, a number of Grade 6 had prior knowledge and were eager to learn more. She also talked about the topic growing plants on

Mars and where they are working out how to grow plants in space— another interesting innovation.



The guest speaker also talked about how students can get involved, for example the NASA and U.A.E space camp and Students on Ice. The NASA and U.A.E space camp is a place kids and teenagers go to practice to become and experience a life if an astronaut in the UAE. Students on Ice is an expedition around the coast of Greenland teenagers 17 and over can go, they learn about wildlife and the environment while having loads of fun.

Grade 6 seemed to be interested in these topics and the presentation was very educational and entertaining. I myself will remember it, and I think most of the Grade 6 will also.

By Aaliyah Joy Mohseni, Grade 6D

Secondary School News

GETEX: IBCP and DP

On Thursday 14th April, all Grade 11 students attended GETEX: an Exhibition attracting over 35,000 local and expatriate students who are at the threshold of college life and actively looking for higher education, professional development and training options.

The Gulf Education & Training Exhibition which was held at the Dubai Exhibition & Convention Centre. At the exhibition, over 80 universities were on hand to give our students helpful advice on courses and entry requirements.

At GETEX, the focus was on:

- General Education
- Residential Schools
- Under-Graduate Education
- Post-Graduate Education
- Occupational & Industry Education
- Professional Development & Continuing Education
- Training
- Student Counselling and Career Advisory

The students gained a useful insight into higher education opportunities, application processes and career pathways. It was great to see them so engaged and show so much enthusiasm about their future.

Great news for BTEC courses

Greenfield Community School has been offering Level 3 BTEC (Business & Technical Education Council) courses as part of the IBCP and also as individual courses since 2011. This week, the National Qualifications Authority (NQA) and the KHDA have granted BTEC Level 3 courses full equivalency for Grade 12 leavers. This is a major step forward in recognition of qualicators and gives our students studying the IBCP, 2 major international qualifications with recognition in the UAE.

A full press release statement can be found at <https://middleeast.pearson.com/News/2016/03/leading-education-providers-in-the-uae-welcome-recognition-of-in.html>

Please contact me for further information and about the IBCP.

Mr. Mike Worth

IBCP & BTEC Coordinator
mworth@gcschool.ae





Secondary School News

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

While the end of the second term witnessed our senior DP students accomplishing their Group 2 IAs, the grade 11 and the MYP students continue to move on with renewed vigour and enthusiasm producing some exceptional examples of critical and creative thinking skills in both the programmes across French and German. As the year 2015 drew to a close, UAE National Day celebrations, International Day celebrations and Secondary School assemblies saw students getting involved in various outside class room activities ranging from presenting cultural and regional stereotypes in the form of small skits on the stage, to group dances and individual songs performed across French and German language. Students also participated in a Graffiti workshop organised by Ms. Nikita Shroff to enhance their knowledge about this art form under the unit on Arts.

It was enthralling for the teachers to see the students applying the language acquired in the classroom in most cases with such efficiency in day to day life and celebrating the same- a true example of education breathing fresh outside the 4 walls.

In this edition of the newsletter we would continue to share with you some examples of the exceptional work produced by the students of DP and MYP years in the course of the last term. Cheryne (Grade 11) impressively analysed the shallowness and monotony of the adult world from that of a child's world in the novel "Le Petit Prince". As a requirement of literary component in DP, the French B grade 6 young minds were researching and brewing their minds to compare Francophone expressions with that of standard French under the unit title "Francophonie". Similar was the German language acquisition experience. In grade 6, the students used their research skills and prior knowledge of German to design posters to share their understanding of the German speaking world. This was a competitive endeavour. In German language and literature classes, the challenge was great as the motto was "Language is not only about reading and writing, it is also creating..."

Congratulations to all the students, parents and teachers who helped the students reach such heights! We are proud of our students and hope to continue celebrating more successes in future!

Ritu Dubey
HOD, Modern foreign Languages Department,





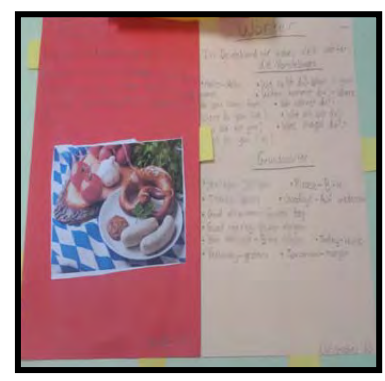
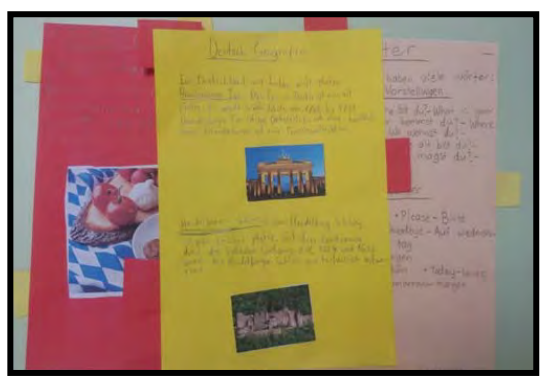
Secondary School News

From the German Desk German Language and Literature

Language is not only about READING and WRITING; it is also about CREATING ...
There are examples of student's own poetry and illustrations of the novel they have read.



German Language Acquisition German speaking world



Secondary School News

From The French Desk

Comparing the world of adults to the world of children- shallowness and lack of creativity vs. dynamism and creativity

Le monde des adultes et le monde des enfants d'après, ★

Le Petit Prince

Cheryne Fourdrigniez

Novembre 11 2015

Je me demande assez souvent pourquoi les adultes compliquent les choses alors que les enfants les comprennent tout de suite. <<Toutes les grandes personnes ont d'abord été des enfants mais peu d'entre elles s'en souviennent>> ...!!! Hélas!

Mon point de vue ne signifie en aucune façon un changement au cours du livre. Il reste le même pour montrer que mon avis est très fort. Les adultes sont ennuyeux et ternes. Ceci signifie que leurs imaginations est très faible. Les adultes sont aussi très littérales. Ils sont limités en termes de leur créativité qui fait tout ce qu'ils voient, la seule chose qu'ils voient à travers leurs yeux et rien d'autre.

Les adultes sont toujours tout simplement (intentionnellement) en train de voir que, ce qu'ils veulent voir et que se qu'il veulent entendre. Cela forme des gens d'esprit très conservateur et les isolent du monde "merveilleux" des enfants.

Et j'ai dit à l'homme; <<les adultes ne comprennent jamais rien à eux même et c'est fatigant pour les enfants de toujours devoir leur expliquer les choses.>>

J'ai toujours su la vérité depuis que j'étais petit gamin. En effet, j' utilise le dessin numéro 1 pour juger et déterminer si une personne est vraiment compréhensive. Voilà comment j'ai complètement arrêté de croire aux mensonges des adultes.

Moi et le narrateur sommes passés par quelques voyages personnels. Lui, un adulte de la terre et moi, un garçon étranger qui vient de planète B-612 trouvons que nous avons beaucoup plus de choses en commun que nous avons avec les gens de nos propres mondes...

Nous renforçons nos idées à travers les yeux d'un enfant car c'est là ou se trouve la vérité. A travers mon propre expérience et les multiples mondes que j'ai visité, Je n'ai rien découvert, mais la vérité et je la partage avec le narrateur. Nous avons renforcé mes croyances à travers mes expériences et, mon but est de refléter la vérité intérieur. <<Mais les yeux sont aveugle. Il faut chercher avec le coeur>>.

Mon histoire peut sembler courte, mais ne soyez pas dupé car il y a beaucoup de thèmes comme par exemple, l'innocence, la persévérance, l'amitié et beaucoup plus. Cela vous rend riche et vous rempli de faits significatifs dont tout le monde devrait être exposée.



*J'ai alors dessiné
l'intérieur du serpent boa, afin que les grandes personnes
pussent comprendre. Elles ont toujours besoin d'explications.*

Secondary School News

comprennent pas. Ils croient que je suis une partie de leur imagination. Pour moi, pour être réelle, ils ont besoin de preuve logique. Ils veulent des chiffres. Eh ben? Planet B-612! êtes-vous satisfait? Mon âge? ma taille? Ceci serait la base de leur croyance. Ils posent des questions sans aucun rapport avec le sujet et cela m'énerve. ça me rend fou!! Allez les adultes! Il faut être innovant!!

La dichotomie est très présente dans mon histoire. Nous avons deux groupes. Les adultes et les enfants. Nous, les enfants nous préférons le narrateur quand il était jeune qui a été inspiré par un texte de la zoologie pour dessiner un boa qui a avalé un éléphant. Ou, bien sûr, moi qui voulait un dessin d'un mouton pour ramener à ma planète.

De l'autre côté du spectre nous avons les grandes personnes. Ceux qui interprètent le dessin du boa par un chapeau.

Est-ce bizarre la façon dont nous sommes si semblables et pourtant si différent? Notre façon de penser est complètement différente. Il peut paraître que les adultes sont matures et intelligents, mais pensez profondément et vous verrez que nous les enfants, notre imagination est vraiment profonde. Ceci est ma théorie et j'y crois vraiment.



1 Le Petit Prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, publié en 1943

[Pour lire la rédaction entière et la discussion, contactez Melle Fourdrigniez (grade 11)]



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Secondary School News

LA FRANCOPHONIE

En Belgique

EN Français :

J'adore le pain
français

J'adore la baguette



Ce matin il fait cru. On doit tirer
nos plan tout
seul.



Ce matin il
fait froid. On
doit se
débrouiller
tout seul.

PAR : AURELIE ET FARIS- Grade 6



Primary School News



Primary School

Deputy Head of Primary: Mr. Jamie Plunkett

Dear Parents,

As we come towards the end of the academic year it is that time again where we start to think about the election process for the Student Council for the Academic year 2016/2017. The Student Council this year has played an important part in ensuring that student voice is heard. They will leave a legacy of events and ideas which will be continued by the incoming students. This new council will be tasked with ensuring that these initiatives continue to benefit all of the students in the Primary School whilst coming up with projects of their own.

I would like to say a big thank you to Lubna Khawaja and the GCP for helping to support and guide the Student Council this year. Their help with guidance and resourcing has been essential in making sure the students themselves have been able to lead from the front. From 'Pink Day', 'Green Day' & 'Movember' the events have been well organised with a plan of action from all involved. The Greenfield Gardens have been of significant success and the baton in this area will now be passed on to the incoming leaders to see what ideas they have for passing on the gardens to each homeroom.

Student voice is vital in any school as it is allowing everybody to have their say. How you ensure over 800 students can be heard can be very challenging. This year the Student Council have introduced a Student Council suggestion box into every classroom allowing students to pop in a question to be discussed at Student Council meetings. The best or most relevant questions/suggestions will then be placed in the Student Voice o'meter which is located outside the KG area next to the lift. The idea behind this is that every class receives a vote on the questions posed by the Student Council giving quick feedback on any suggestions coming from the school. Again these new initiatives will become even more relevant during the next academic year under the incoming Student Council.

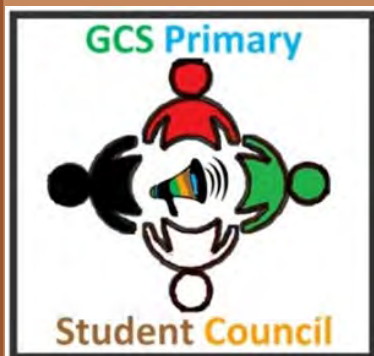
The election process will be announced in May and will again be open to Grade 2,3 & 4 students who feel they might be able to represent their peers as Student Leaders. This is a great opportunity so do please encourage your sons and daughters to have a go at running when the time comes.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to the current Student Council led by the Student Council President Lara. The meetings this year have been very productive and the team has gone above and beyond when asked to represent the students at various events. This has included 'Back to School Night', greeting visitors to the school and speaking to parents on a number of occasions. It is also worth noting that this year has been the first time the Student Council President has been part of the School Advisory Board.

Well done to all involved and we now look forward to seeing how this progress will be continued in years to come.

Jamie Plunkett
Deputy Head of Primary

taaleem
Inspiring young minds



Primary School News

Kenken in GCS

This term over 60 PYP and MYP students signed up to take part in the new global phenomenon called Kenken. But what is Kenken? Kenken is a unique grid-based numerical puzzle. It uses numbers and basic math operations like adding, subtraction, multiplication and division. It also challenges the logic and problem solving skills of the students. In a way, Kenken is like a game of pool or chess: The more you think ahead to your next move and consider all the possible outcomes, the better you'll get.

On 17th April our students took part in the first level of the competition, which was the **School Level**. **Over 30 students** got through to the next stage, which is the **Emirates Level**, and will be held in September. They will be competing against all schools from Dubai. After that they can advance to the **National Level** where they will compete with students from all the other Emirates and lastly the **International Level**, which will be held in **New York** in December, where they will be representing the UAE.

Congratulations to the 30 students of GCS that had progressed to the **Emirates Level**. Keep on practising and challenging yourself.

The Journey to our Exhibition: *by Grace and Neha*



A few weeks ago many of us didn't know what the Exhibition was about but after a few collaborative sessions with Ms. Gaughan and the Grade 5 teachers, things became much clearer. The sessions helped us to better understand what was expected of us.

During the first week, we finalized our topics, organised our groups, and developed our key questions and the lines of inquiry. In the spring holidays, many of us started our research; we were prepared for all the work ahead of us.

After the break, we started filling in our folders and journals. We also got to meet our mentors who were teachers volunteering to help us. Our Exhibition journey has been about applying the PYP skills we have learnt through our years in primary. We have been researching and putting together our reports on an app called google docs. To keep us on track and focussed, we have been using a checklist.

Last week, we had an action meeting, where we discussed all the different types of actions we could take. There are action boards outside of the MYP and PYP receptions so please support our actions!

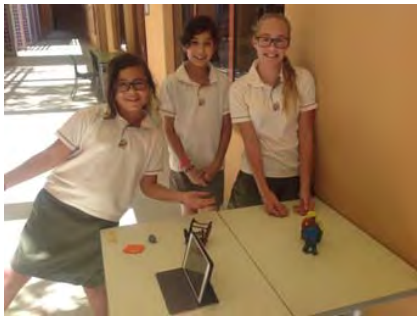
This week we have started adding the final touches our research which will then be sent to our mentors to be proofread. The next step after proofreading is,



Primary School News

printing then arranging our presentation boards.

Our Exhibition is from the 10th – 12th of May. We are looking forward to sharing all our hard work with the school community.



Primary School News

The PE department and some teaching colleagues were given the opportunity to participate in a Badminton Professional development session on Thursday 21st April. The course was run by the Dubai Badminton development officer as part of the BWF (Badminton World Federation). The activities were focused on developing the existing knowledge of the game as well as introducing new teaching methods and practices to; increase participation, ability and knowledge for all. Some GCS classroom teachers took part in the course which will support the badminton ECA programme at GCS. Overall it was a great learning experience for everyone involved, well-presented and well delivered.



A massive thanks from all the participants.



Primary School News

Mindfulness

Since the beginning of the year, 2RG has been committed to being mindful. Everyday we practice breathing exercises to help relax our minds, and be present in the moment. We started in our class, and have done various events throughout the year to teach Grade 2.

We decided to do an assembly to share with ALL of Primary. The students took the lead and impressed the audience with their knowledge on mindfulness, as they modelled a breathing exercise for everyone to follow. Check out the pictures below! Rola Ghadban Grade 2 Teacher.





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Primary School News



Live Your Dream!

TO PERSIST PAST YOUR CHALLENGES AND TO ENVISION YOUR DREAM AS A REALITY, THAT'S WHAT ONE OF OUR VERY OWN GCS STUDENTS IS ALL ABOUT!

Having won 12 medals from competitions, 3 of them being Gold, GCS 8th grade student, **Philip Silva**, can easily say he's one accomplished fencer!

Philip has always liked fencing as a sport since he was just 7 years old, but it wasn't until he moved to Dubai, that he got his chance to practice at the age of 11.

Even after continuous and repetitive training to train his body as a skilled fencer, Philip humbles himself to not underestimate his opponents. He would have to remind himself "to go full out do my (his) best."

Philip's most recent accomplishments were winning a silver medal in the MKFA International Epee Cup in 2015 and an outstanding gold medal from the UAE Fencing Championship in January of this year! Philip recalls, "Getting to 1st place in previous tournaments made me feel grateful and happy, because all the hard work paid off."

Philip's advice to GCS is, "When you have a vision for yourself, go ahead and follow it. No matter what other peoples' beliefs are, set your own expectations and work to meet them."

But Philip has his eye on an even BIGGER dream, the Olympics 2020 in Japan! Let's wish Philip the very best for his future in fencing and thank him for showing us that dreams can come true!



Philip Silva, 8th grade GCS Student and Gold medal winner in fencing!

"...all the hard work paid off."

Ethiopia Benefit Concert A Huge Success!

Almost 3400AED was raised from this wonderful event!

The funds will make a big difference to those in Ethiopia, when our students will visit this summer!



Important Reminders!

Security Badges

To reinforce the safety of our children, ALL adults, including drivers and nannies, need to have the GCS ID Badge on hand when arriving for pickup. Also, please be cooperative with our security guards in order that they may protect our children better.

Parking Etiquette

Please be mindful of our students, as young as KG1, walking in the lots during drop off and pick up time. Control your car speed, and keep your eyes open for areas surrounding your vehicle. In addition, please park respectfully to avoid jams or delays to other families.

Thank You Mr. Mark Bishop!

For taking on the roll of guiding our students and parents from 9th grade and onward with university applications and career information! And for starting the ECA "Life after GCS" for grade 10 and 11 students.

Mr. Bishop would like to hear from You!

Any parents who would like to speak about their own careers and give useful and helpful advice to our students, please feel free to contact Mr. Bishop via email at mbishop@gcschool.ae

Do you have a story to tell about any GCS Faculty, Student or Parent for our

"Live Your Dream" column? Email your story to gcp4gcs@gmail.com Your story can be featured in our next newsletter!



xxVisit us on Facebook by adding yourself to **The Greenfield Community Parents Group**
Email us at GCP4GCS@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.
We're looking forward to hearing from you!

