

NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Head of HSC

As the graduating class of 2024 prepares to embark on the next chapter of their lives, it's worth reflecting on the unique journey they've had. Year 12 of 2024 has faced a rapidly changing world which reshaped their learning experiences. Adapting to hybrid and remote learning environments, they developed resilience, flexibility, and problem-solving skills that will serve them well in the future. Allah prepared them through schooling to be robust and persevere through any challenge – a lesson that will equip them for life!

This year in particular has been a time of significant personal and academic growth. These young men and women have honed their critical thinking, time management, collaboration and leadership abilities, all while managing the pressures of exams and the uncertainty of life beyond school. Their ability to navigate these challenges speaks to their dedication and determination alhumdulillah.

As they move forward, I advise the 2024 graduates is to embrace change and uncertainty. Stay focused on long-term goals, but remember to seek balance by prioritising your deen, family, mental health and well-being.

The future is bright, and the class of 2024 is well-equipped to thrive in whatever path they choose. We are already proud of you so be proud of yourself!

Yousef Alkarnaz
Head of HSC

Hadith

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Tie your camel and have trust in Allah." (Tirmidhi)

As Muslims, we are reminded that success comes from a balance of effort and trust in Allah's decree. This balance is especially relevant for our students at WGS as they approach their upcoming yearly exams. While we place our reliance on Allah, we also encourage our children to tie their proverbial camels by putting forth their best efforts in preparation. Parents and teachers play a significant role in fostering this spirit of effort and trust in Allah.

Encouraging study routines, offering support, and creating an environment conducive to focus are practical ways to help our children take responsibility for their success. At the same time, teaching them to make du'a and trust in Allah's wisdom instills a lifelong value that success is in Allah's hands, regardless of the outcome.

As exams draw near, let's remind our children to study diligently and keep their hearts connected to Allah. May Allah reward your support, bless your efforts, and grant success to our students in both their academic and spiritual pursuits.

Abdullah Hakeem
WGS Head of Islamic Affairs



Sun Safety



During Week 2, Western Grammar School focused on *Sun Safety*, promoting awareness and practical steps to protect students from harmful UV rays. As part of the well-being program, the aim was to instill lifelong habits of health and self-care, linking them with Islamic teachings.

Islam emphasizes that our bodies are an *amanah* (trust) from Allah, and it is our responsibility to protect and care for them. Avoiding sun damage, which can lead to skin cancer and other health issues, was an important part of this.

Throughout the week, students received daily reminders about how to stay safe in the sun, including wearing hats, sunscreen, and sunglasses. To support this effort, every primary student was gifted a pair of sunglasses to help protect their eyes from harmful UV rays. To make the week fun and engaging, two exciting events were organized: *Crazy Hat Day* for primary students, where they wore creative and quirky hats while staying sun-safe, and *Casual Hat Day* for high school students, allowing them to express their personal style while promoting sun safety.

At Western Grammar, the commitment to fostering healthy habits in line with Islamic values remained strong. Together, we worked to protect ourselves, honor our health, and enjoy the sunshine responsibly!

Saamiya Hussein
Islam Teacher
Head of Primary Wellbeing

Primary Swimming

Primary School students have been participating in an intensive Swimming Program at SGAC which offers students an invaluable opportunity to develop essential swimming and survival skills in a safe environment.

The program began in Week 3 and will run through to Week 8. Designed to meet PDHPE requirements, the program focuses on teaching water safety, confidence, and proficiency in various swimming techniques.

In small groups, students engage in hands-on lessons that emphasise not only swimming strokes but also vital survival skills, such as treading water and safe entry and exit from the pool. With experienced instructors, the program fosters a positive learning atmosphere where students can build their skills progressively.

By the end of the program, students will, Insha'Allah, be equipped with the confidence and knowledge needed to navigate aquatic environments safely, promoting lifelong water safety awareness.

Faten Osta
Head of Primary



Respectful Relationship Building

In partnership with the National Zakat Foundation (NZF), our Year 7 and 8 girls recently completed the 'Respectful Relationship Building' program, concluding in Week 1 of this term. This valuable program equipped our students with essential knowledge rooted in Islamic principles.

The first session introduced good manners from the Quran and Sunnah, the concept of Mahram, and the importance of righteous friends. In the second session, the girls learned to recognise their emotions, set boundaries, and understand grooming behaviours. The final session highlighted behaviours prohibited by Allah, the rights of women, and an appreciation for the esteemed status of women through examples of the Queens of Jannah.

We are grateful to NZF for delivering such an impactful program, which has empowered our girls with meaningful life skills.

Abdullah Hakeem
WGS Head of Islamic Affairs





Glimpse into the Year 3 classroom



This year, Year 3 have been exploring engaging and interactive ways to enhance their learning experiences. This was achieved by using manipulatives in class, making ice-cream for the Stage 3 Market Day and participating in excursions.



In class, year 3 explored different manipulatives in class to further enhance their learning particularly in Maths.

Students have been using:

- Base ten blocks
- Working out mats
- Counties, teddies
- Unifix cubes and much more



In their learning in the Science and Technology unit, Year 3 had the amazing opportunity to become their own MasterChefs and made ice-cream from scratch. They prepared different flavoured Pacific Island ice-creams and exploring the science of cooking in an exciting way.



Another highlight this year was our amazing day out at Bobbin Head Point in the Ku-ring-gai National Park as part of our learning in the Geography unit. Students examined the natural and human features of Australia and the diverse characteristic of Australia's neighbouring countries. They explored the different climates, settlement patterns and demographic characteristics of places and used this information to imagine what it would be like to live in different places.

Ebru Cetinay
Year 3 Teacher

Year 12 Graduation

On the 8th of November, WGS held its highly anticipated Year 12 graduation ceremony, a night that commemorated the hard work, dedication, and achievements of the 2024 graduating class. The event saw an elegant gathering of students, teachers, parents, and distinguished guests.

The evening opened with a warm welcome, and inspiring speeches followed by a sumptuous dinner. Guests enjoyed video presentations that gave glimpses into the students' journey at Western Grammar.

These videos captured friendships, challenges, and unforgettable milestones, bringing a wave of nostalgia to students and parents alike. Among the program's highlights was the recognition of individual student accomplishments, with Musab Shaikh given the Dux award, and several other students celebrated for achieving impressive subject ranks. The captains delivered eloquent farewell speeches on behalf of their peers, reflecting on the friendships, life lessons, and experiences that had shaped them during their years at Western Grammar.

The graduation at was an event to remember a heartfelt send-off that celebrated both academic achievement and personal growth, providing students with the support and encouragement they need as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Saamiya Hussein
Islamic Department
Head of Primary Wellbeing



