AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

PRINCIPALS UPDATES

It has been another wonderfully busy week at Ash Mount as we continue to find our feet, establish our routines and create our new

The mornings are beginning to feel a little cooler, and we are all looking forward to outdoor playtimes. Each day, our nurse and doctor carefully monitor the weather, including both the actual temperature and the feels-like temperature, alongside air quality. We can see conditions beginning to improve, although we are still a few degrees away from our yellow and green days, when we can begin to enjoy more time outdoors. Hopefully, it won't be too much longer!

Across the school, children are settling beautifully into their routines, friendships are growing and relationships are continuing to develop. It has been lovely to walk into classrooms and see practical science lessons well underway, children exploring new ideas and our young linguists enjoying French, Spanish and Arabic. There is a real sense of learning across the school.

Our swimming team has been out training, football and sporting opportunities are gathering momentum, our Academies have started and school lunches are now underway. Each week brings another little piece of school life together.

Today was particularly special as we welcomed so many of you into school for our Meet the Teacher and Community Day. Firstly, I owe you all a little apology! In the whirlwind of moving into our beautiful new campus, I had completely overlooked the fact that many of you had never actually had the opportunity to explore our science laboratories, dance studios, art and design spaces, libraries, sports halls, music rooms and drama facilities! We moved in at such speed that we simply didn't have the opportunity to show you around properly. And, of course, we have now become so used to these wonderful spaces that I had almost forgotten they were still new to you! It was so lovely to hear your comments today as you explored the school, met our specialist teachers and partners, and spent time in classrooms learning alongside your children. The buzz around the campus was fantastic. Thank you for coming, for your enthusiasm and for helping us build the community we imagined Ash Mount could become.

Please keep an eye out over the weekend as we announce the founding members of PAMS - Parents at Ash Mount School.I am really looking forward to bringing this group together and beginning to shape how our parents can help us build an even stronger school community.

I also wanted to share a very sensible comment I received from a parent this week about the sheer number of emails arriving from Madrasa! As a new school, we have a lot of information to share, and I appreciate that your inboxes can sometimes feel rather full. A little reminder that you do not need to have Madrasa email notifications enabled if you are happy checking the app for updates. All the information will still be there for you to read. If we have something particularly urgent to share, we can always send a push notification to your phone. We are continuing to review how we communicate and will work towards finding the right balance between keeping everyone informed and not overwhelming you with messages.

Finally, thank you for another wonderful week. Every day we are seeing more of the school we set out to create taking shape. It is still early days, and there is plenty more to do, but the warmth, energy and enthusiasm of our children, families and staff make it a very special place to be.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

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PYP UPDATES

primaryhead@ashmount.ae

Learning Together

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents into our classrooms this week and see you learning alongside your children. It was also lovely to see families meeting members of our wider AMS community. Thank you for being part of such a positive morning and for continuing to build our school community with us.

Learning and Inclusion

Our recent Learning Walks have highlighted many strengths across Primary, particularly in positive relationships, engaging environments, student participation and inquiry-based learning.We are continuing to strengthen our inclusive classroom practice, ensuring that learning provides the right level of support and challenge while helping every child become increasingly confident and independent.

Assessments

Any remaining ABT Arabic assessments will be completed by Tuesday.
NGRT assessments will take place on Tuesday to Friday.
These help us understand students' reading skills and identify where they may need additional support or challenge. Assessment information is always considered alongside classroom learning and teacher observations.

Wellbeing

We are continuing to develop a consistent approach to wellbeing through our daily Form Time from 7:40–7:55am. We will start promptly so please leave classrooms at 7.40am latest.
Students will engage in age-appropriate wellbeing check-ins and programmes including myHappyMind, myHappyCoach, Lumii and Unifrog. Following the October break, our structured myHappyMind programme will begin with Meet Your Brain.

Celebrating Our Students

We are strengthening our whole-school approach to recognising students for their effort, contribution, positive choices and demonstration of our AMS values.
Students will receive positive LEARN points through Madrasa, alongside our wider community celebrations including P4P, PUNCtuality & AttenDANCE and the AMS Owl.

Home Learning

Our Academic Team will be reviewing our approach to Home Learning and Homework to ensure it is purposeful, age-appropriate and consistent across Primary. Further information will be shared with families once this approach has been agreed.

AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

MYP UPDATES

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It has been another fantastic week in Secondary, and one of the highlights for me has been spending time in classrooms observing teaching and learning and attending our after-school clubs. A personal highlight was visiting cooking club and taking on the very important role of Chief Taste Tester for the students' cheesecakes! I have been incredibly impressed by how polite, engaged and confident our students are and how passionate they are about their learning.

NGRT Baseline Assessments - Students to bring laptop or devices

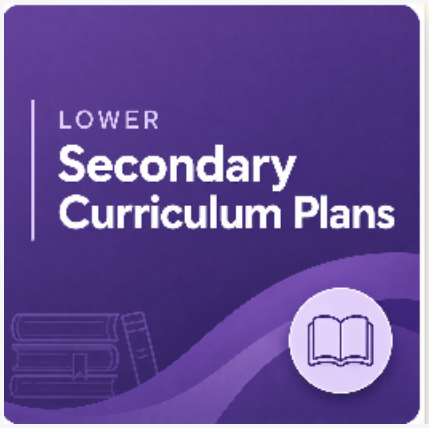
Next week, students will complete their NGRT (New Group Reading Test) baseline assessment during English lessons. NGRT is an adaptive assessment that measures reading comprehension and vocabulary, helping us identify individual strengths, areas requiring support and opportunities for greater challenge. We will use this alongside our other baseline and classroom assessment information to personalise learning and monitor student progress. There is no need to revise; we simply ask students to approach the assessment positively and do their best.

Houses & Points for Prizes

Our House System is beginning to take shape, with students designing House logos inspired by the colours of the UAE flag. We want our Houses to genuinely belong to our students, so they will also help create their values and House songs. After the October half-term break, we will invite our whole school community to vote for the final designs.

What is my Child Learning?

I would like to direct you to the Parent Hub on Madrasa, then Lower Secondary Curriculum Plans. By clicking on this tile, you will be able to see an overview of what your child is learning for each subject throughout Term 1.
Click HERE to access our Curriculum Plans



Have a fanstastic weekend!
Tom Nelson

Inclusion Newsletter

EVERY CHILD. EVERY VOICE. EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

A warm welcome to our families!

As we continue to settle into our new school, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce our Inclusion Team and share some of the support available to our children and families. At Ash Mount, we believe that every child should feel happy, safe, included and supported to reach their full potential. We work collaboratively with class teachers, families and our specialist partners to ensure that every child feels a true sense of belonging.

Support
Belong
Achieve

Meet Our Inclusion Team

You may already have seen some of these lovely faces around school! We are here to support your child with their learning, communication, emotional wellbeing and independence.

Sellina Davis
Head of Inclusion

Working alongside families, teachers and specialists to coordinate inclusive provision across the school.

Aiza
Inclusion Team

Supporting our youngest learners with communication, early development, phonics and fine motor skills.

Leo
Inclusion Team

Supporting literacy, targeted interventions and access to learning

Theo
Inclusion Team

Supporting classroom inclusion, emotional wellbeing, social skills and executive functioning.

Sidney
Inclusion Team

Supporting mathematics, ICT, learning interventions and our older learners.

How we support our students

Our Inclusion Team provides a range of support, tailored to individual needs, working collaboratively with class teachers and specialists. This includes:

Push-in classroom support
Working alongside students in class to provide tailored support and strategies.

Targeted pull-out interventions
Short, focused sessions to develop specific skills such as literacy, numeracy and communication.

SEMH and friendship groups
Supporting emotional regulation, confidence, friendships and social communication skills.

English Language Learner (ELL) support
Targeted language groups and classroom support to build confidence and access the curriculum.

Sensory circuits and movement breaks
Activities to support regulation, attention, coordination and readiness to learn throughout the day.

OT-informed support
Exploring fine motor development, sensory needs, independence and practical strategies.

Our Partnership with Therapeutic Pathways

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Therapeutic Pathways, who provide additional specialist support for our students and families. They work closely with our Inclusion Team to bring their expertise, care and unique perspectives to our school community.

Therapeutic Pathways

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR THERAPEUTIC PATHWAYS TEAM

Helen Dunn
Clinical Lead

Laura Foley
Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Dr Olivia Gavin
Consultant Clinical Psychologist

Nalini Maistry
Highly Specialist Occupational Therapist

Free Initial Check-In

If you feel your child may benefit from additional support, please come and speak to me or your child's class teacher.
We can provide a consent form and Therapeutic Pathways can provide a free initial check-in to explore your child's needs and discuss next steps.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE AN INCLUSIVE, NURTURING ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERY CHILD FEELS VALUED, UNDERSTOOD AND CELEBRATED.

headofinclusion@ashmount.ae
headofmoe@ashmount.ae

MOE Subjects Department

It has been a busy and successful week, we are pleased to have completed assessments across most grade levels in Arabic, for both native and non-native speakers, as well as Islamic Studies.

These assessments have been an important step in gaining a clearer picture of student's attainment, recognising their strengths, and identifying areas that require further development.

The information gathered will support our planning across the MOE subjects and enable us to provide targeted support that responds to individual needs, addresses learning gaps, and considers differences in students abilities across all key skills.