AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPALS UPDATES

9TH OCTOBER 2026

What a First Half Term!

Wow! I find it hard to believe that our very first half term is already over!

What a half term it has been. A half term of *firsts* – our first lessons, assemblies, clubs, squads, sporting competitions, parent events, PAMS meetings… the list goes on!

From sitting together in the Sky Lounge at SVS, imagining what Ash Mount School would become, to seeing our dream brought to life by our incredible IB educators, administrative and support teams, families and, of course, our children and students, has been nothing short of magical.

One of my greatest joys has been watching friendships blossom, seeing children grow in confidence, hearing laughter fill our corridors and watching our community begin to find its feet. Every day, I see little moments that remind me why we set out on this journey.

In an IB school, the vision of both the school and the International Baccalaureate should never simply be words displayed on a wall. They should be visible in everything we do – in our classrooms, our relationships, the decisions we make and the way we treat one another. **Learn with Purpose, Live with Compassion and Lead with Courage** is already becoming part of who we are.

One of the wonderful things about being a Founding Family is exactly that – **you are helping to lay the foundations of our school.** We are building something together, a world-class IB school with a local heart and a global mind. Your voices, ideas and experiences matter enormously as we continue to grow. Please do take a few minutes to scan the QR code and share what you feel we are doing well, along with the areas where you would like to see us develop. We know we won't get everything right the first time, but we are committed to listening, learning and getting better together.

As we head into the half-term holiday, I hope you all find time to rest, recharge and enjoy being together. And, of course, if you're looking for something to keep everyone busy, do have a look at our **Ash Mount Half-Term Challenges**. There are some lovely opportunities to get creative, explore, read and have fun as a family. I also encourage you to take a look at our **Term 1B Events Calendar** and pop a few dates into your family calendars. We have so much to look forward to, and whether it's a celebration, a sporting event or an opportunity to come together as a community, the more the merrier! Thank you for believing in our school, for your patience, your encouragement and for being part of this extraordinary first chapter.

I can't wait to welcome everyone back for our next half term of firsts!

Have a wonderful holiday.

Abi

Learn. Live. Lead.

AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

PYP UPDATES

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Dear Families,

What an incredible first half term we have had at Ash Mount! Thank you for your continued support, patience and partnership as we have settled into our new school. We are so proud of everything our children and community have achieved together.

World Mental Health Day

This week, our students came together to recognise World Mental Health Day, exploring the importance of kindness, belonging, empathy and looking after our own wellbeing and that of others. Through age-appropriate discussions and activities, children reflected on how people can experience different feelings and how we can help everyone feel safe, valued and included. Students also contributed their thoughts and ideas to our shared AMS Wellbeing Tree.

Home Learning

Thank you for your feedback as we develop our Home Learning approach. We are finalising a model that is purposeful, age-appropriate, rooted in real-life experiences and encourages learning beyond the classroom. Further guidance will be shared after the break.

Pink Week | 19–23 October

We will be celebrating Pink Week to raise cancer awareness and support fundraising efforts. On Friday 23 October, we invite all students and staff to wear pink and bring a suggested AED 10 donation. We will also be working with PAMS on additional activities throughout the week. ptional, but we would love to see as many families there as possible. Further details will follow.

Parent–Teacher Conferences | wk beginning 26th October

Our first Parent–Teacher Conferences will take place on wk beginning 26th October These provide an important opportunity to celebrate your child's progress and discuss their next steps in learning. Booking information will be shared after the break.

Autumn Festival | Friday 30 October

We are looking forward to our first AMS Autumn Festival, organised by our Grade 8 students for Primary as part of their CAS Service learning.This will be a dress-down day for all Primary students, with further details to follow.

October Break Choice Board

We have prepared some optional **October Break Challenges** for our children, encouraging them to read, explore, create and contribute to our growing AMS traditions.

Wishing You a Wonderful Break

AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

MYP UPDATES

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As we approach the end of our first half-term, I would like to reflect on what has been an exciting, rewarding and, at times, challenging first six weeks. Opening a new school and establishing a new community inevitably brings change. Throughout this journey, both you and your children have demonstrated the true spirit of the IB Learner Profile. You have been open-minded in embracing new experiences, risk-takers in navigating unfamiliar situations, caring in supporting one another and reflective in helping us continually improve. I am incredibly proud of how our students have embraced life at Ash Mount, developed friendships and established a growing sense of belonging. Thank you for your patience, trust and continued support.

Looking Ahead: Curriculum and Learning

Our approach to the first half-term has been deliberate, carefully introducing MYP subject content while establishing positive routines, relationships and expectations that underpin successful learning. Following half-term, the pace of learning and academic expectations will increase, with greater challenge and opportunities for students to develop independence and deepen their understanding.

Parent Workshops and Academic Progress

After half-term, I look forward to welcoming you into school for a parent workshop exploring our MYP curriculum and approaches to assessment for learning. We will share how we assess student progress, provide feedback and adapt teaching to ensure every child is supported and challenged to achieve their potential. We will also be introducing our live gradebook through Madrasa, providing parents with greater visibility of their child's progress across all subject groups.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout our first six weeks. I hope you enjoy a well-deserved break, taking time to rest, recharge and spend quality time with your families.

AMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND WELLBEING UPDATES

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🌍 World Mental Health Day– Emptying Our Bags 🎒💚

This week at Ash Mount School, we have been recognising **World Mental Health Day**, encouraging our children to think about their feelings, emotional wellbeing and the importance of looking after our minds.

We explored the idea of **"Emptying Our Bags"** 🎒, helping children understand that sometimes we carry worries, frustrations or big emotions that can make our bags feel heavy. We discussed how talking to someone, sharing our feelings and finding positive ways to manage our emotions can help lighten the load.

We have also discussed **Lumii**, a platform where children can check in with how they are feeling, recognise and better understand their emotions, and develop greater awareness of their emotional wellbeing. We want every child to feel confident expressing their feelings, knowing that their voice matters and that there is always someone ready to listen and support them.

Our children have also created some beautiful **reflection trees** 🌳, exploring the importance of how we **reflect, act, listen and understand** ourselves and others. These activities have encouraged kindness, empathy, self-awareness and the importance of thinking about how our actions can affect those around us.

Remember, mental health matters every day, not just during Mental Health Day. Have a wonderful and restful break.