

GLS Highlights and Accomplishments 2024-25

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the achievements and growth our students have experienced over the past months. It has been a year filled with learning, exploration, and collaboration. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and fostered a nurturing environment for our students. We are thrilled to share the achievements of GEMS Legacy School in the last academic year, marking significant milestones in our journey towards educational excellence and community well-being.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

For the second consecutive year, we are proud recipients of the prestigious PLATINUM certification in the **World's Best Schools to Work Award**, alongside being shortlisted among the **Top 10 in the World's Best School Prize** by T4 Education for 'Supporting Healthy Lives', recognizing our commitment to the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of our students and staff. This honor reflects our commitment to exceptional leadership, a positive working environment, and a vibrant school culture that fosters growth and collaboration. In addition, we have been awarded the **Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)** from Optimus Education, recognizing our unwavering dedication to promoting emotional well-being and mental health within our school community. Our school has also been honored with the **International School Award** in January 2025 for Category A, recognizing the school's commitment to pioneering and impactful projects within the global education community.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS

We are also extremely proud of being recognized by KHDA as one of the **Top 20 performing schools in TIMSS (Trends in Mathematics and Science Studies)** out of 210 schools in Dubai. This has been possible due to the hard work put in by all our teachers, Teaching Learning Coaches, leaders, our students coupled with the unparalleled support of our parents. Our students ASSET results indicate Very Good and Outstanding attainment in English, Math and Science. It is indeed a significant accomplishment, and this recognition highlights the school's excellence in various aspects such as academic performance, teaching quality, student development, and overall school environment. To further align with the National Education Policy (NEP) recommendations, we conducted CBSE endorsed SAFAL (*Structured Assessment for Analyzing Learning*) diagnostic assessment for grades 5 and 8, which serves as a checkpoint to evaluate learning outcomes and promote a shift towards skill-based education.

SPORTS ACCOLADES

GEMS Legacy School has excelled in sports, both locally and nationally. In cricket, the school secured multiple wins, including the U-11 and U-12 categories, and triumphed in the UAE Inter-School CBSE Tournament (U-15). This year we had three students who got selected for the District Cricket Association in their state and Inter-Emirates Council tournaments. **Kaashish Rai (Grade 6M)** has been selected for multiple cricket teams, including U12 Tiruvallur (India), U13/U16 UAE councils, and the Junior World Series in Dubai. **Moh. Sadaat (Grade 6H)** has played for ACA Assam (India) and U13/UAE leagues, including the Youth Cricket League in Dubai. **Thaman Sai** moved to India after playing for Ajman Cricket Council (UAE) and being selected for Hyderabad Cricket Association. Chess and badminton teams also performed admirably. CBSE UAE Cluster participants in yoga and skating earned gold medals and qualified for nationals. We are truly proud of their fabulous achievements.

The basketball teams shone with the U-13 girls winning the Dubai School Games and the U-15 girls securing victory in the Milano Sports Inter Academy. Football teams claimed titles at the Global Indian Sports League, GMA 12th Ali Asger Memorial, Winchester Football Cup, and more. We also introduced Interhouse Competitions that provide students with a platform to showcase their talents, build confidence, and enhance social skills through healthy competition.

INNOVATION ACCOLADES

GLS has made remarkable strides in digital and innovation education this year. The school's achievements include top honors in INNOTECH, with three first prizes, five second prizes, and one third prize. Notable themes in the IOS Design Challenge were Life Below Water, Life on Land, and Good Health & Well-being. In the Global Innovation Challenge, the Junior Category secured a gold for Food, two silvers for Quality Education and Equity, and a bronze for Affordable & Clean Energy. The Senior Category earned a silver for Affordable & Clean Energy and a bronze for Life on Land & Below. The Allergy Scan project won a gold award in the finals. The First Lego League team received the Judges' Special Award and qualified for the **international finals in Sydney**. Other accolades include a runners-up position in Codeavour, a first prize in the Skriware STEM Competition, and third place in SustainX. Additional awards include the Community Outreach Teacher award, Popularity Award, Scratch Olympiad, recognition for the Smart Bathing Cubicle in the COP28 Sustainability Challenge and multiple honors in the K12 Drone Design competition. All the above accolades and accomplishments validate the future fluencies of our students equipping them for tomorrow.

PHILANTHROPY

Guided by our principal's HOPE (Helping Out Possibly Everyone) initiative and *All for Altruism*, our students actively volunteer with Angel Xpress Foundation (AXF), an NGO supporting underprivileged children. Middle school students passionately conduct online Spoken English and environmental awareness sessions, while teachers provide one-on-one mentorship. These efforts help bridge educational gaps, empowering needy children in India with confidence and essential skills. Their dedication reflects GLS's commitment to empathy, inclusivity, and meaningful community change.

GLS's philanthropic initiatives, "All for Altruism" and "HOPE," were highlighted during the successful Winter Carnival, which fostered joy and community spirit among students, families, and staff. The event raised AED 167,500 for Dubai Cares to provide literacy resources for underprivileged communities in India through the "Adopt a Library" initiative. Additionally, under "All for Altruism," students supported Dubai Cares' 'Student for Student Initiative,' raising 80,000 AED to provide school kits for 1,000 needy students across the UAE. GLS is proud of its students' contributions and looks forward to continuing its partnership with Dubai Cares in future philanthropic efforts.

INCLUSIVITY

At GEMS Legacy School (GLS), we are dedicated to creating an environment rooted in inclusivity, respect, and holistic growth. As part of this commitment, we organized the '*Walk for Inclusivity*', an event designed to celebrate acceptance, health, and wellness within our school community. We were also proud recipients of the **Global Inclusion Award 2024 from IFIP -UK** which is a voluntary members organization consisting of inclusion practitioners from across the world who believe in a future where every teacher is enabled, through inclusive teaching practices, to teach every child in the classroom, no matter what their ability.

Additionally, GLS proudly launched a *Career Counselling Program* this year, tailored specifically for Middle and Secondary School students. This program is crafted to guide and support students in making well-informed career choices by providing insights into various professions and higher education opportunities. A deeper dive into career counselling and career fairs is planned in the forthcoming academic year.

SUSTAINABILITY

GLS was successful in securing second place with an outstanding score of 99 out of 100 in the National Green School Ranking 2025-a remarkable step towards Responsible Education and a Sustainable Future for every student. This achievement will position our school on the UNESCO Greening Education website, contributing to the global Mission of Greening 50% of schools by 2030. Several Plant A Legacy drives and Beach Clean-ups were conducted with students leading from the front.

Building on the success of COP28's BIG GREEN Lesson, GLS participated in the UAE Ministry of Education initiative 'The BIG GREEN Legacy', that amplifies youth voices by incorporating their input into greening the curriculum through an interactive, gamified student survey.

Apart from this, fifteen teachers at our school have enrolled in the Emirates Nature "Leaders of Change" program to deepen their understanding of education for sustainable development. Through this initiative, they will gain valuable insights into environmental stewardship, sustainability practices, and innovative teaching strategies that empower students to become responsible global citizens.

Additionally, I was honored with the **GESS Ambassador for the Environment Award in November 2024**, a recognition of the school's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

HEALTH

In line with new standards from Dubai Health Authority (DHA), we took the step to modernise and digitise our medical provision with the introduction of TRUDOC—a comprehensive telehealth service that allows us to benefit from exceptional healthcare provision during school hours from a team of fully qualified doctors. The trial run of this service began in November 2024 and has been successfully implemented since then. During this period, we carefully restructured the medical team in our school clinic, replacing our on-site doctors with TruDoc's provision.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our 192 staff members recognized as Microsoft Innovator Education Experts (MIEE) and 81 teachers honored with HP Idea Awards. Additionally, several teachers and students received the prestigious Global Sustainability Awards. Our staff demonstrated exceptional talent and teamwork, earning the runner-up position in both the Synergasia Sports Competition and the Mariamma Varkey Debate Competition. Their dedication and competitive spirit shine through, making us immensely proud of their outstanding accomplishments. We also have 100 staff members are currently undergoing professional development training on "**Becoming An Assessment Expert**," provided by Polar Partners, a Finland-based education organization. This training will further enhance their expertise in assessment methodologies, equipping them with the skills to implement effective, research-based evaluation strategies that support student learning and academic growth.

As we conclude the academic year, we express our deepest gratitude for your support and partnership. Thank you for your commitment and involvement in creating a nurturing environment for our students. This year, we witnessed our students grow in knowledge, skills, character, and creativity.

Looking forward to celebrating many more accomplishments of our students and staff in the forthcoming academic year commencing 7th April 2025. Together, we are shaping a brighter future with your continued collaboration and unwavering support.

Warm regards,



Asha Alexander أشا ألكسندر

Principal مديرة المدرسة

Executive Leader - Climate Change الرئيس التنفيذي - تغير المناخ