



مدرستنا الثانوية الإنجليزية الشارقة - البنين
OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, SHARJAH - BOYS



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 002 – 03July25

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

03 July 2025

Dear Parent

As we draw closer to the much-anticipated summer vacation, there's a growing sense of excitement, much like the mercury steadily rising with the season! Many of you will be travelling to reunite with family and friends, while others may be planning the summer days here in the UAE. Wherever your plans take you, we encourage you to make the most of this time by embracing it as an opportunity to unwind, reconnect, and recharge. Let it be a season of trying something new—perhaps sharing a good book with your child, journaling family moments, engaging in fun activities together, or simply appreciating the gift of stillness.

Before we step into this well-deserved break, it's worth pausing to celebrate the memorable moments and achievements that have recently brought our school community together, reflecting the spirit, dedication and excellence that define us.

On May 31, 2025, we had the honour of hosting the third edition of The Founders' Quiz, themed 'Questions Matter'. The event celebrated intellect and curiosity among educators across the GEMS network. Congratulations to the winners, Ms. Poorna Seetharaman and Mr. Quinton Doll from GEMS Our Own High School, Al Warq'aa.

Another highlight was the 9th edition of TEDxOOBSchool held on June 14, 2025. With the powerful theme, 'The Power of Imperfection', 15 student speakers delivered bold, authentic talks that resonated with audiences and celebrated realness, flaws and resilience.

June 19, 2025, marked a proud occasion with the Senior School Annual Prize Day, themed قناديل العلم – Qanadil Al-Ilm – Lanterns of Knowledge, a tribute to the light of education. We were honoured to welcome Ms. Lalitha Suresh, Principal and CEO of OIS and Brand Ambassador Our Own Schools, as the Chief Guest. The Prize Day also celebrated excellence among students and staff. The prestigious Principal's Award was presented to Aayush Krishnanivas Supal, Adhib Zayaan Subeesh, Arnesh Sinha, Adithya Anush, and Sreehari Deepu Nair. The GEMS Teacher Awards 2025 recognized outstanding educators, including Ms. Rasheeda Budankhan, Ms. Samli Paul, Ms. Vijayalakshmi Venugopal, Ms. Gini Anish, Ms. Jasmine Mathew, and Ms. Radhika Misra. Special commendations were awarded to Ms. Vasu Jayashri for receiving the GEMS Core Values Teacher Award and to Ms. Khadijah Al-Hashemi for being honoured as The Most Promising Emirati Teaching Assistant. On the same day, we also took the opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of Mr. Davis Paulose, Assistant Manager – School Facilities, Mr. Abdul Gaffar, Foreman – Bright Bus Transport and Ms. Florele Patino Banaria, Non-Teaching Staff. Their behind-the-scenes efforts play a vital role in ensuring the smooth and safe functioning of our school every day.

Continuing the spirit of excellence, students from Grades 3 to 8 were felicitated on 25th June 2025 for their achievements in the APD programme, with Ms. Fatima Martin, Principal of New Millennium School and Brand Ambassador Millennium Schools as the Chief Guest and keynote speaker.

Adding to our staff achievements, Ms. Jessy Paulose, Supervisor of National Agenda, Moral Education, and UAE Social Studies, was felicitated at the DSL Conference under the category of Outstanding Community Engagement.

In June, 20 teachers from our school completed the Microsoft Certified Educator (MCE) certification. This achievement reflects their commitment to integrating technology effectively into teaching and learning, equipping them with the skills to create impactful, future-ready classrooms.

On June 20, our school conducted a Virtual Open House, providing a valuable platform for parents to meet and interact with their child's teachers from the comfort of their own homes. This online engagement aimed to strengthen the school-home partnership by fostering open communication and mutual understanding.

On June 21, the staff of Our Own English High School – Sharjah, Boys' Branch, came together for the Staff Well-being Gathering 2025 at the picturesque JA Hatta Fort Hotel. This rejuvenating experience celebrated wellness and camaraderie among our educators.

The Bright Sparks Leadership Programme – Cohort 3 had its first session on 23rd June 2025 at Our Own English High School – Boys', marking the beginning of a meaningful and transformative leadership journey within the Cluster. The session laid a strong foundation, featuring insightful and motivating sessions by esteemed speakers—Prof. Christopher Abraham, Mr. Michael Guzder, and Mr. Srivalsan Murugan. They shared practical strategies and perspectives on impactful leadership.

On 29th June, 20 of our dedicated teachers participated in the Salama Fire Safety Training conducted on the school campus. The session focused on enhancing preparedness, awareness, and response to fire-related emergencies. This proactive initiative reinforces our commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all members of our school community.

The first cohort of our In-House Internship Programme graduated on June 30, marking a proud milestone in our students' journey toward career readiness. These students were recognised for their growth and learning across seven professional domains: Teaching and Learning, IT, Operations, Front Office, Library, Sports, and Industry Internship. Their dedication and hands-on experience reflect the spirit of innovation and professionalism that the programme aims to nurture.

From June 2–4, 2025, Kindergarteners participated in the “Best Out of Waste” week, learning the 3Rs—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—through creative activities like making sock puppets and pencil holders. The event ended with a “Waste to Wealth Show and Tell,” encouraging eco-consciousness and confidence. On June 4, World Environment Day reminded students of their role in protecting the planet through small, mindful actions. World Oceans Day was observed on June 9, where children learned about threats to marine life and created clay models of ocean creatures to promote awareness. Father's Day was celebrated on June 24 with tie-making, crafts, cooking and storytelling, fostering family bonding. Primary school students joined the celebration on June 26 by decorating colourful ties as heartfelt tributes to their dads.

Our first Parent Advisory Council meeting was successfully conducted on 21st May 2025, followed by the Local Advisory Board meeting on 1st July 2025, where stakeholder representatives reviewed the school's strategic direction and progress.

On 15th May, the Primary Department celebrated International Day of Families with a Cooking Without Fire event, where parents and children prepared no-cook dishes and shared cultural stories. On 19th May, Grades 1 to 4 took part in the Rubik's Cube Challenge, demonstrating speed and logic. On 16th June, these students showcased their creativity in an Art Competition themed, ‘Our Colourful Planet’ and ‘The World I Want to Live In’. Our budding environmentalists in Grades 5 and 6 showcased their creativity and concern for the planet by penning thoughtful poems titled *My Dream Earth* and *Letter to the Earth* as part of the World Environment Day celebrations.

From our four Sastra Prathibha winners, Aditya Rajesh (Grade 11) and Arnesh Sinha (Grade 9) joined 11 other UAE students on a 3-day educational tour to Pune, India, organized by the Science India Forum UAE. The enriching tour included visits to premier scientific institutions such as IISER Pune, CSIR–NCL, ICMR–NIV, IITM, and IUCAA,

featuring lab tours and interactive sessions with renowned scientists. Our other proud winners are Martin (Grade 8) and Muhammed Huzaifa (Grade 6).

Our newly elected Prefectorial Board and Student Council had an engaging meeting with the school's leadership team on May 22, where they put forth new ideas and a vision for the year ahead.

On 2nd June, the GIC Gold team from Our Own English High School – Boys', winners in the Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure category, attended an online mentorship session as part of their preparation for the final pitch. The team—comprising Ayaan Ibrahim, Nahul Kumar Raja, Ashwin Sathish Kumar, and Zuhair Sarfaraj Parkar, all from Grade 10A—engaged with an industry expert who provided valuable feedback and guidance to help them refine their innovative idea.

On June 21, Team OOB delivered a spectacular hat-trick victory at UNSC 2025 at GEMS Our Own Indian School, emerging as Best School Delegation for the third consecutive year—a proud testament to our students' diplomacy, critical thinking, and collaboration.

We are delighted to celebrate the remarkable individual achievements of our young learners. Ethan George of Grade 3 G received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Emirates Environmental Group for his commendable effort in recycling 500 kilograms of paper as part of the "One Root, One Communi-Tree" campaign. He also earned the Tabbie Math Badge for excellence in both Self-Prep and Assignments. Congratulations also go to Shayyan Mohamed of Grade 4B for securing the badge in Assignments, and to Muhammed Zayan of Grade 4C for earning the badge in Self-Prep. In Grade 5, Aayush Supal of Grade 5E secured the Silver Topper title and Advay Sumith of Grade 5B earned the Gold Topper title in the UAE National Level Mental Math WhizKid Competition 2025. We are proud to share that Shrujan Hariharan of Grade 7C enthusiastically participated in the prestigious ADNOC Life STEM Challenge and completed the program.

Our students have also excelled in the sporting arena. The U-13 basketball team clinched the championship at the George Memorial Tournament, while our U-19 team secured the second runner-up title at the CBSE Cluster Basketball Championship. Mahin Manu of Grade 5D claimed gold in Taekwondo and advanced to the Nationals. In swimming, Devang Sarun Menon of 10H and Sharath Balaji of 6D won multiple medals at the CBSE Cluster Swimming competition. Sharath also brought home multiple medals at the 5th Swimming Champions Cup. In chess, Samyak Chourasia of 6B placed second in the Inter-School Rapid Chess Tournament organized by Chess Lab Club, Dubai.

As we conclude this term, we look back with pride at the vibrant achievements that have defined our school community. From academic excellence and environmental responsibility to sports, public speaking, and community engagement, the spirit of Our Own continues to burn bright. We wish each one of you a joyful, safe, and rejuvenating summer break. Until we meet again—keep shining!

Find us on Twitter @OOB GEMS or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> or on Instagram @ (gems_oob) to follow all the happenings at OOB.

Thank you for your unwavering support at all times!

Warm Regards,



Vipin Madathil

Supervisor Grades 11 & 12