



...Dates To
Remember...

Umrah

A group of students from GR7-9 will travel to Mecca to perform Umrah on Tuesday, February 27th and return Saturday, March 3rd.

EY Writer's Workshop

An Early Years' parent workshop: *Becoming Writers* will be held at 8:00am and again at 12:00pm on February 27th.

Entrepreneurial Sale

Grade 1 will hold an entrepreneurial sale March 6th. See classroom teachers for more information.

Coffee and Conversation

Coffee and Conversation will take place Thursday, March 8th.

Message from the Principal...

Dear Parents,

This has been a truly great week for SZPAB!

Two European trips for our older boys, to France for skiing and Madrid for football coaching, have been hugely successful. I am sure many of you have been following the progress of these tours on our social media platforms.

This week, we are delighted that some students will be visiting Mecca for Umrah.

Closer to home, our Under 12 football squad competed at The British School Al Khubairat against other Abu Dhabi schools, reaching the final. On Thursday, our KG students celebrated the 100th day of school in spectacular fashion.

Later this week our Sports Days will be held, with Grades 4 and above competing at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium

None of this would be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our teachers and support staff. I feel very lucky that we have a group of such excellent professionals working at SZPAB and I am sure their efforts are appreciated as our school goes from strength to strength.

Many of you will be following the school on Instagram but we have now launched our school Facebook and LinkedIn pages, so that the achievements of the school and its students can reach a wider audience.

As I always emphasize, none of this would be possible without the support of our superb parent community.

Yours in education,
John Conway

Important Notice: Secondary Exam Leave

Teaching During Exam Periods

At the Sheikh Zayed Private Academies, we practice the highest standards with the highest academic expectations of students.

As with most schools, at the end of every term, from Grade 6 upwards, students sit examinations that contribute to their final grade on their ESIS Report. We take these end of term examinations very seriously.

Exam Leave

In many schools in Abu Dhabi, there is a practice of sending students home after their exam, with the expectation that they will study independently. In our view, this is not a practice that is supportive of our students' best interests. The SZPAs will not follow this practice and will not permit exam leave until students are in Grade 12.

There is no evidence at all that sending children home after exams produces improved grades. In fact, in many countries, worldwide, the practice of providing exam leave is being phased out. The prime reason for this change is that it is understood that the majority of students do not possess the independent learning skills necessary to work effectively at home, without teacher supervision. When students stay in school, they spend time with the teachers that teach them and who wrote the exam paper. For this reason, students are prepared much more thoroughly in school than they would be by a tutor or by working alone.

Once exams are completed on any given day, students will continue with revision for forthcoming exams or commence work on new units.

High Professional Standards

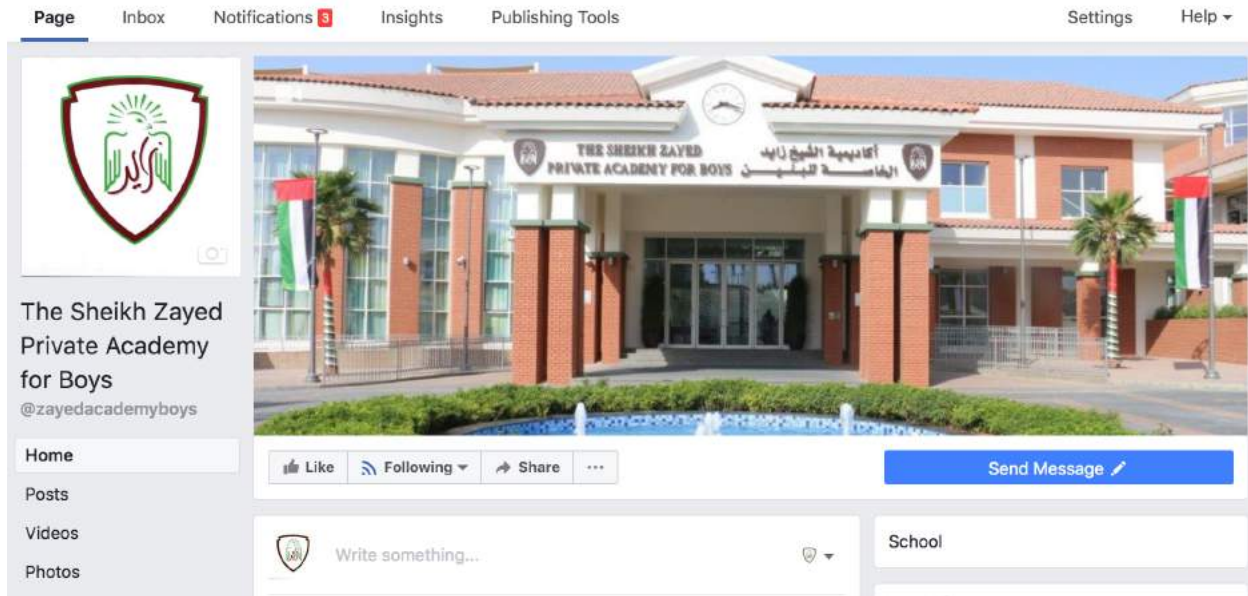
SZPA teachers have the highest professional standards and are prepared to correct examination papers and write reports after school hours, rather than lose vital curriculum time with students, as is sometimes the practice elsewhere.

Examination evidence based on MAP data and our own assessments, indicates outstanding progress for SZPA students across all age ranges. With this in mind, we believe parents should feel assured that we are acting in the best interests of students.

Yours in education
John Conway

SZPAB Communication

At SZPAB, we want to make it easy for you to see the great things we are doing. This is why we have recently launched a Facebook account, to add to our Instagram and ParentPoint platforms. Follow our Facebook page to get information on our events, and albums about the various activities and events happening at school. <https://www.facebook.com/>



SZPAB Sports Days

Sports Days are fast approaching! Students across the school will compete in various activities with their peers. Here are the dates for each grade's Sports Day. Further information has been sent out by the PE department and individual classroom teachers:

- February 28th - GR4-5 Sports Day
- March 1st - GR6-9 Sports Day
- March 7th - GR1-3
- March 8th - KG2
- March 8th - KG1 Healthy Picnic



March 2018							My Identity Theme: Communication			
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	11	Term 2 Final Assessments begin	20	International Day
				1	2	3	11-15	Book Fair (tbc)	21	Awards Assemblies (MAP)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-15	Ataya Day Exhibition (tbc)	21	Last Day: Term 2 ECAs
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	Term 3 ECA Chpices issued	22	Last Day of Term 2
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	Term 3 ECA Choices deadline	25	Spring Break Starts
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	20	International Day of Happiness		

Digital Learning Update

Grade 4 Natural Disasters Unit

Grade 4 have been using the green screen to film their roving news reports about different natural disasters. Ms. Maggie's class have reported from tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanoes and blizzards!



Apple Leadership Event in Dubai

A small group of our Grade 8 and 9 students will be attending an Apple Leadership Summit in Dubai in March to showcase digital learning to teachers and school leaders from across the GCC region. They will speak to 180 people over the two day conference. We are only one of three schools chosen to showcase our work.

LEGO Mindstorms Project with Holy Trinity School in Argentina

Ms Genn's Grade 5 class will be working with students from Holy Trinity College in Argentina on a joint project using LEGO EV3 MindStorm robots. We hope the project will give the students a chance to learn more about programing and coding as well as give them the opportunity to share some of their culture with children from another country.



SZPAB In Pictures

From international trips to France and Spain, to city-wide sports competitions, and in-school events like the 100 Days of School and assemblies, there has been so much happening at school. To get all the news, pictures and videos, follow up on Facebook, Instagram and ParentPoint!

Fire safety

Secondary students attended a fire safety training where the students learned how to deal with fire and use the extinguishers.

Children for Children Campaign

The Red Crescent Children for Children campaign kicked off last Thursday. Thank you to all who generously donated to help refugees in the region.



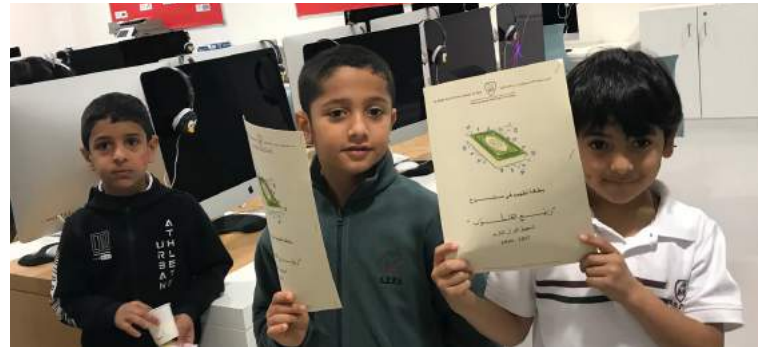
100 Days of School

100 Days of School - students dressed up as if they were 100 as part of their 100 Days of School celebration, and also found 100 student and parents to read at once.



The Holy Quran Program “Rabe’ Al Quloob”

SZPAB honored students in the “Rabe’ Al Quloob” program. Certificates of appreciation were distributed to the students, and they were encouraged to continue to strive to memorize the Holy Quran. Congratulations to all of our students with their ongoing success.



U12 Boys Football Competition

The Under 12 Football team did a great job competing this week in Abu Dhabi at The British School Al Khubairat.



Ski Trip 2018

A group of Secondary students spent a week skiing in France last week.



Real Madrid Football Development Camp

A group of Secondary students is spending a week in Madrid learning from Real Madrid coaches.



www.zayedacademy.ae/boys
www.gemseducation.com