

WELLBEING AND BELONGING



I am thrilled to share our termly wellbeing and belonging update with you. We have been continuing to promote and prioritise wellbeing at GEMS Founders School Dubai this academic year, and we have a dedicated team of practitioners who are committed to ensuring our whole community feels seen, heard and belong.



Meet the Team

The welfare team is led by our wonderful Assistant Principal, Ms. Hanaa ElSayed and our fantastic Assistant Headteacher for Welfare, Mr. Jonathon Bateman. All of our welfare leaders are mental health first aid trained.



Hanaa ElSayed
Assistant Principal



Jonathon Bateman
Assistant Headteacher Welfare



Charlotte Ellis
Head of Student Welfare Early Years



Rachael Boyle
Head of Student Welfare KS2



Josie Joshua
Head of Student Welfare KS3



Robyn Luckman
Head of Student Welfare KS4



Leanne Oung
Head of Student Welfare KS5

HIGHLIGHTS

The academic year so far has been full of opportunities and events to celebrate and support wellbeing and mental health. From promoting World Mental Health Day and Men's Health Awareness Day to continuing with our fantastic podcasts and newsletters, we are continued to raising the profile of mental health and wellbeing.

Here are some ways we support your children while at school each day:

- Over 45 trained Mental Health First Aid trained staff, with dedicated mental health first aiders for each area of the school.
- A highly trained counselling team for 1:1 and group support.
- Referral system through both Upstrive and QR codes so that students can reach out for support at any time.
- Daily wellbeing check-ins and follow ups on Upstrive.
- Dedicated wellbeing interventions for students in confidence building and wellbeing strategies.
- A fantastic student welfare council who drive initiatives across the school.
- Continuous professional development for staff in how to support student wellbeing.
- Two qualified Senior Mental Health Leads in the Senior Leadership Team.



How are you today?
Select an emotion that best describes your mood today

☐ Happy
 ☐ Ecstatic
 ☐ Inspired
 ☐ Calm



We were also honoured to receive two awards in Term 1 for our work with wellbeing and mental health:

- Best wellbeing initiative for students and staff - GESS Awards
- Pioneer School for Mental Health and Wellbeing.