



EXCELLENCE | ASPIRATION | RELATIONNSHIPS

IMPORTANT DATES

5 Jan Term 2 begins

5-10 Jan All ECP Start

31 Jan International Day

11-13 Feb Mid-Term Break

WINTER BREAK REMINDER

Admissions and administration offices will remain open over the break.

Office hours will be:

Monday - Thursday

8:30am - 2:00pm

Friday

8:30am - 12:00pm

Please note we will be closed on 31 March as it is a public holiday.

^{*}Dates subject to change in accordance the ministry's announcement



From the Office of the Principal

FROM MR. JAN

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Dear Raha Gardens Community,

We have reached the end of Term 1 which has been full of learning experiences both in and outside of classrooms! In many ways, Term 1 is the most challenging one as students meet new teachers, settle into new routines, and make new connections with peers. Despite a few ups and downs, which are an inevitable part of life, I hope that this term has been successful for our students both academically and socially. The first set of academic reports were released last week; I encourage you to discuss those with your child and speak with teachers after the break if you have any questions.

Term 2 will be equally exciting: there will be the Primary musical and Secondary Week without walls, and of course the greatly anticipated and much-loved Raha Global village.

I would like to thank the wonderful Raha Gardens staff – academic and non-academic – for their ongoing commitment to students, learning and for making the school a pleasant place for all. But equally, thank you to parents for the partnership and open dialogue.

I wish everyone a very relaxing winter break and Happy Christmas to those who celebrate! See you in 2026 (Monday 5th January to be precise)!





From the Office of the VicePrincipal

FROM MRS. CAROL

Time flew again this term, and I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to our students, staff, and families for the energy, creativity, and commitment you have shown. Our campus has been alive with learning, celebration, and connection and a reminder that our goal is that We Grow People.

Memorable Moments

This term was filled with vibrant events and achievements. Our student-led production The Day the Internet Died shone brightly, reflecting the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. The Raha Raptors demonstrated outstanding determination and team spirit across their sporting events, making us incredibly proud. Souq Day was another wonderful success, showcasing our students' entrepreneurial spirit. Our Eid Al Etihad celebrations brought the community together through meaningful performances and activities that honoured the UAE with pride. We also extend our gratitude to our Parent Team, whose enthusiastic support enriched events such as Pinktober, World Teacher's Day, the Emirati Cultural event, and the Holiday Bazaar.

Behind the Scenes

Alongside these celebrations, significant work has continued behind the scenes. Our teams are preparing for the CIS and IB joint evaluation visit, ensuring our programmes meet global standards. Policy reviews and compliance updates are underway to align with ADEK requirements, and we continue reflecting on insights from the recent Irtiqa'a inspection. A strong focus on wellbeing and safeguarding remains central to our mission, supported by staff training, student voice initiatives, and strengthened pastoral systems.

Thank you to everyone – to students, teachers, support staff, and parents – who contributed to making this term so successful. I wish all families a restful and joyful holiday break. We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and ready for an exciting Term 2.



Mrs. Carol







Excellence













The Grade 12 students presented their TOK Exhibition, showcasing real-life objects that reflected their chosen knowledge questions. Through thoughtful presentations and critical analysis, students demonstrated their ability to connect theory to real-world contexts. The exhibition highlighted intellectual curiosity and strengthened the school's commitment to academic excellence.















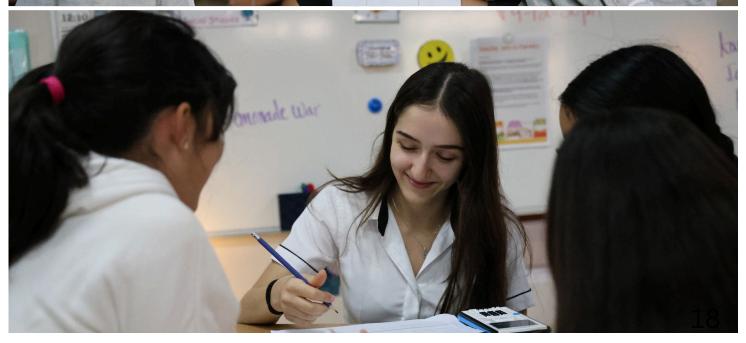




Mentoring is a common practice at Raha Gardens, designed to model and encourage collaboration among our senior students while giving them the opportunity to reflect on their own IB learning journey. During the mentoring activity, Grade II students guided Grade 4 learners through academic and personal development tasks, offering the younger students an inspiring perspective on learning. This interaction fosters leadership, responsibility, and supportive learning, while also strengthening relationships, community spirit, and excellence through mentorship.







G5 PITWALK

The Pit Walk gave students a unique opportunity to explore F1 engineering setups and observe professional technical operations firsthand. Beyond connecting classroom learning to realworld applications, the activity taught students how to work in a team, balance ideas, tackle challenges, and meet tight deadlines-all within a competitive, high-adrenaline environment. Inspired by the Yas Marina Circuit and our school's commitment to STEM excellence, we designed teams and tracks to ignite This hands-on young minds. experience sets the tone for the next MYP years, motivating students to pursue innovation, collaboration, and excellence in STEM fields.

















Race Day brought students together to test their F1 models in an exciting and competitive setting, showcasing the culmination of weeks of hard work. The event was a full-school celebration, with students presenting their projects to other grades while Early Years learners visited and cheered on their favorite teams. MYP students supported the day by mentoring Grade 5 participants on using the track, as well as exploring aerodynamics and the physics behind the competition. Success on Race Day goes beyond the podium—IT, marketing, and teamwork all play a key role, highlighting that the true achievement lies in the educational journey, the process, and the lifelong skills developed along the way.



SPORTS DAY

offered students a fun-filled morning of athletics and team events, including tug-of-war, javelin, long jump, sack races, egg-and-spoon races, and sprints. The activities encouraged physical fitness, fair play, and a competitive spirit, showcasing excellence through effort and sportsmanship. The event concluded with a surprise for parents to prove who could run faster, while they showed their best spirit cheering on the students. It was a lively and memorable morning that celebrated community















Aspiration •







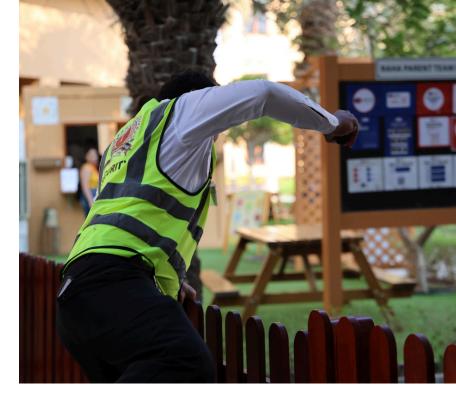






SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS

Safeguarding and readiness are top priorities at our school. Our operations team works closely with civil defense to conduct realistic scenarios that prepare students and the community for any situation. We have established and reinforced security measures at the gates, conducted thorough risk assessments, and implemented locks and systems to guarantee safety. In controlled settings, we collaborate to ensure a secure campus, fostering confidence and awareness for everyone on site.













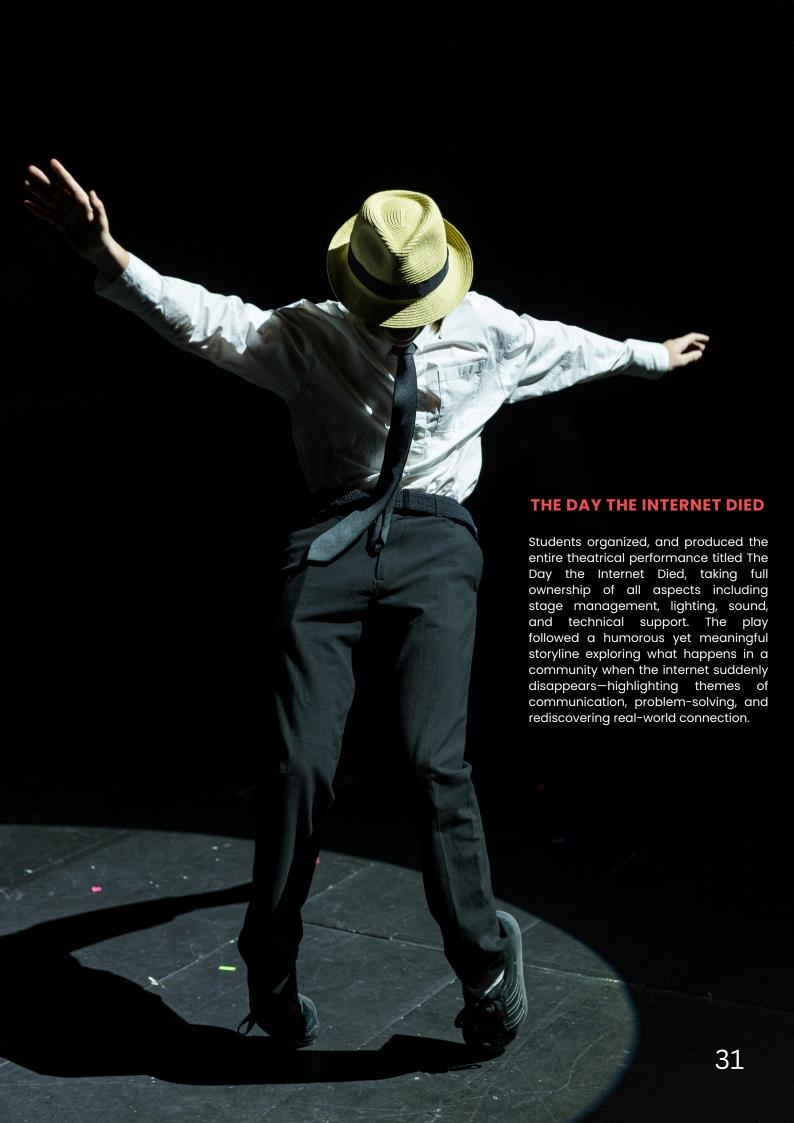


















CRUNCH

The Grade 4 Book Sale gave students the chance to engage with reading materials and practise basic financial and organisational skills. The activity promoted a love of books while inspiring students to take initiative and explore entrepreneurship.



WELLBEING WEEK & ODD SOCKS DAY

Odd Socks Day encouraged students to express individuality and celebrate uniqueness, serving as the kickstart of Wellbeing Week, a secondary initiative aimed at promoting kindness, respect, and positivity throughout the school community. The week focused on combating bullying, cyberbullying, and negative behavior by encouraging acts of gratitude, recognition, and support for others. Students participated in classroom activities to promote wellbeing and were provided with mentors and key contacts to turn to if they ever experienced bullying. Additionally, Wellbeing Ambassadors in each grade helped maintain a respectful and inclusive environment, reinforcing the school's commitment to confidence, self-acceptance, and positive relationships.



































PINKTOBER Pinktober activities raised awareness about breast cancer and encouraged students to participate in acts of solidarity. The initiative fostered compassion and understanding, strengthening the school's culture of care and supportive relationships. This year, the Parent Team organized the Pink Sale, offering items and pink donuts to the community to raise funds for the Red Crescent. The school logo was also transformed with the colors of the month, highlighting our collective support and commitment to the cause.







National Day •

The school marked National Day with a vibrant, community-centered celebration. Over 100 students participated in the morning assemblies, showcasing performances that highlighted the UAE's heritage and spirit. A traditional village was set up on campus, featuring 47 stalls, 15 external vendors, and several student-led ventures. The event also included yolla performances, a unique display of vintage cars, and a themed photobooth. Families were warmly welcomed to join, making it a lively and inclusive celebration of culture and unity.











RAPTORS LOUND-UD

TERM 1-B HIGHLIGHTS

The past six weeks have been incredibly busy, and although it's said often, Term 1B truly has been a whirlwind of competition, participation, and raptor spirit.

Across our organised sports and Raptors squads, we continue to make remarkable strides. We have seen outstanding progress across a wide range of events, galas, and fixtures, including ADISSA leagues and tournaments, the ADEK Cup, and the launch of the new Platinum Sports Model, which has already been a tremendous success for our U9 programme. The commitment shown by our athletes and coaches has been exceptional, and the breadth of participation highlights the strength of sport at Raha.

While success is always celebrated, we have consistently emphasised the importance of the Raha Way- ensuring students demonstrate positive attitude, strong character, and sustained effort. These qualities remain at the heart of everything we do and will always be our highest priority.





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EXCELLENCE.

We've seen another six weeks flash by with some truly exceptional results. Our triathletes continue to impress, in particular Dexter Button, who finished 2nd overall at the UAE U19 T100 Tri Meet in Dubai. Mohammed Thabet and Abdalla Salmeen are also in phenomenal form, representing the UAE in golf and competing with distinction in Bahrain.

In the pool, both our PYP and MYP swimmers continue to reach the podium, with the MYP squad securing consecutive ADISSA gala victories. Luca Imperato continues to shine in the water; as a PYP student, he competed against swimmers two to three years older than him at the BSAK 7's Festival and claimed an impressive 4th place in the 50m butterfly. The ADISSA end-of-season tournaments produced a strong return of outstanding results, including 2nd place finishes for U15 Boys Football and U9 Touch Rugby, a 3rd place for U11 Boys Football and U15 girls Volleyball, and an exceptional 4th place for U13 Netball, a squad that continues to make enormous strides in its development.

Our 1st XI cricket team completed an undefeated perfect season under the leadership of Jasper Gooi, while our Jr NBA basketball squads—despite delayed seasons – achieved a clean sweep of comprehensive victories in their pre-season matchups. Ojas and Maria, PYP students, also demonstrated remarkable dedication and principled commitment to their disciplines, medalling in table tennis and jiu-jitsu respectively.





ASPIRATION.

Providing meaningful opportunities for our students to engage in sport continues to be our number one priority at Raha. We were delighted to strengthen our programmes this term by entering a variety of new competitions and giving students the chance to shine.

Of particular note was the participation of our first-ever PYP Athletics squad, who represented Raha with distinction and demonstrated outstanding teamwork throughout the meet. It was also especially pleasing to see our golf squad roll out their first set of organised fixtures, competing on the world-class Yas Links Par 3 course in match play format.

These new events - alongside aquathlons, upcoming cheer squad meets, and the growing number of running and cycling events - ensure we remain active in providing rich opportunities for our students to grow through organised sport.

Although Term 2 is short, it will be intense and filled with opportunities for students to excel. Of particular excitement is the group of more than 35 students who will participate in our first Athletics ECP, which aligns perfectly with the Taaleem Cup MYP Athletics event we have committed to entering.

As the winter months arrive, keep an eye out for our Tri team as they take to the course - especially with the highly anticipated TriYas event on the horizon, which promises to be a major highlight

RELATIONSHIPS.

It has been amazing to see the full community spirit on display at our Fitness Fridays. For those who are yet to join us, we welcome you this Friday on the MYP pitch to celebrate the end of the week with some fun games.

I would like to thank the many parents who have supported our squads this term – your support and encouragement have been greatly appreciated. Though it may sound like a cliché, we truly couldn't do it without you, particularly those who have adapted to morning trainings due to spacing limitations and our growing programme. In Term 2, we will be re-commencing the Raptors Coffee Catch-Up, an informal opportunity to discuss any questions or queries relating to sport at Raha. More information regarding timings will be shared soon.

Our CAS and Service Action students continue to give their time and expertise to develop our PYP Raptors programme. Thank you to the many (too many to name!) who consistently balance their sport, studies, and coaching commitments. Giving back is what we do, and relationships remain at the heart of everything we do.

This spirit is perhaps best captured in the attached picture, featuring Saif - competing for the first time for Raha - who earned a bronze medal at the Athletics ADISSA, proudly supported by his three brothers.





