

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Meet the Members



Moza Abdalla



Elliott Bathe



Mila Ziller



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Mouza Algergawi



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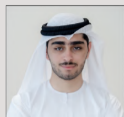
Wid Alawar



Omar Alkhalfawi



Luca Erkol



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Inaya Danish



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Mahra Amiri

A Note From the Editor



From the moment we were appointed, our goal has always been the same: to leave behind something bigger than ourselves. To use this platform, we have been honoured to receive, to inspire, educate, and empower our fellow students.

That's exactly why we created this newsletter. As the Dubai Students Council, we are proud to introduce what we hope will become a real connection between Dubai students and KHDA, helping you understand your education, how it's changing, and why it matters to you.

Every edition will explore various themes through different lenses: ours as a Council, experts in their fields, and students who aren't afraid to speak up about the ideas shaping our world.

Our first edition focuses on **Future Pathways** - what lies beyond school for students, how Dubai's higher education landscape is evolving rapidly to become a prominent destination for students globally, and how this affects students in Dubai.

We are also excited to give other students the opportunity to share their ideas for a chance to be featured on the newsletter, through the opinion piece and the questions column.

During tough times like this, your wellbeing comes first. We hope this newsletter connects you to ideas bigger than your current worries and reminds you that brighter days are ahead. As Anne Lamott wisely said, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes... including you." Whenever you need it, take a moment for yourself.

We wish you all the very best.

Inaya Zaidi

Grade 10
Bloom World Academy

This is the Dubai Students Council



What's possible in the world of education when students get a seat at the table, when we get to shape our educational experience? We, as the Dubai Students Council, were inaugurated to connect over 400,000 students across Dubai's private schools and encourage their active involvement in the policies that shape our education.

We are 16 high school students, selected from across 200+ schools, representing 9 nationalities, 6 curricula, and learners with diverse needs. We are led by our Head Chair, Moza Ahmed, and Vice Chair, Elliott Bathe.

In our very first meeting, we asked: What does the future of education need? What do students in Dubai aspire towards? This drove the development of our 6 long-term goals reflecting real priorities, challenges, and ambitions of Dubai's youth.

It's been a strong start for the council and the legacy we intend to leave, translating goals into action through our insights and initiatives. We expect to continue building upon this momentum, so expect more outreach, campaigns, and events tailored towards the student experience. The Dubai Students Council represents the voices of Dubai Students.

Hein Htun

Grade 12
Uptown International School

What Every Future Employer Really Wants

You have spent years mastering equations, essays, and exam technique. And while that matters, there is a set of skills that will define your future just as much, if not more.

We are living in an era of artificial intelligence, automation, and rapid change. The jobs of tomorrow will demand something that no algorithm can replicate: genuine human skill. We are talking about creativity, emotional intelligence, the ability to collaborate across cultures, and the confidence to communicate your ideas clearly and with conviction.

In a city like Dubai, which is globally connected, fast-moving, and fiercely ambitious, these skills are not just desirable. They are essential. Employers here are looking for young people who can think on their feet, work with diverse teams, and bring fresh perspectives to complex problems.

So how do you build these skills? Start now. Lead a project. Mentor a younger student. Engage in debate. Listen, really listen, to people whose experiences differ from yours. Every interaction is an opportunity to grow.

The exciting news is that you are already in an environment that can shape you into exactly the person you want to be. Dubai's private school community is a launchpad like no other, vibrant, diverse, and full of potential.

The future belongs to those who are human in all the right ways. And that future? It starts with you.



Dr. Suzanne Selim

KHDA Education Expert

No, AI Will Not Take Your Job

Every time AI advances, people say the same thing: "Jobs are disappearing." It sounds dramatic. It sounds inevitable.

But it's wrong. AI is not here to eliminate work. It is here to change it.

Technology has always replaced tools, not human ambition. Word processors did not replace writers. Spreadsheets did not remove accountants. They removed friction and raised standards. AI is doing the same. When repetitive tasks disappear, humans move upward into more strategic, creative, and complex roles.

Yes, some jobs tied to outdated systems will fade. But most careers will evolve. Designers will become AI-native creators. Developers will manage intelligent systems. Operators will oversee automation. Work transforms; it does not vanish.

Now look at Dubai. As the city moves toward its D33 goal of doubling the economy, the demand is not shrinking.

It is upgrading. Three sectors stand out.

First, AI and the digital economy. AI is now infrastructure. The demand is for people who can guide systems across AI ethics, cybersecurity, and fintech.

Second, the green economy. With Net Zero 2050, renewable energy, smart cities, and sustainable engineering are becoming core industries.

Third, biotech and precision medicine, where biology meets data science.

The next decade belongs to the agile. STEM builds the base, but adaptability and clarity create the edge. AI will not remove human drive. It will redirect it toward bigger problems.

The future is not negotiable. Position yourself to lead in it.

Wid Alawar

Grade 12
GEMS Al Barsha National School



A Little Bit of the UK in Dubai

If you've ever dreamed of studying at a top UK university without leaving home, the University of Birmingham Dubai might be your perfect match. As the Middle East campus of the world-renowned University of Birmingham, a Russell Group institution, it offers the same prestigious degree and curriculum as its UK counterpart, giving students global recognition and academic credibility, all while staying close to family and friends.

What really makes it exciting is its mix of future-focused, real-world courses. Students can dive into Biomedical Science, Public Health, Artificial Intelligence, Renewable Energy Engineering, Sustainable Urban Design, and even Railway Systems Engineering. These programmes are designed for the industries shaping Dubai's future. For aspiring doctors, researchers, or innovators, these pathways are incredible stepping stones toward careers in medicine, tech, and the global arena.

The campus itself is modern and welcoming, with smaller class sizes that mean more one-on-one support from professors and better research opportunities.

You also get the advantage of a UK-style education while staying close to family, saving on living costs abroad, and maintaining strong connections in the UAE job market.



Whether you want to explore AI, tackle climate change, or prepare for medical school, University of Birmingham Dubai offers a unique blend of prestige, innovation, and opportunity.

It's proof that you don't have to leave Dubai to access a world-class education; your future can start right here.

Mila Ziller

Grade 12
Nibras International School

Make Studying Work for You

The recent experience of distance learning gave us a unique chance to rethink how we study.

Independent learning doesn't mean studying alone - it's about finding what works best for you, whether that's studying at certain times, using short-form videos, or going beyond what's taught in class.

These habits don't just improve grades - they shape your future. Managing your time, staying motivated, and being curious are skills we can build now for university and beyond.

Use this period where we're online as a chance to try out what works best for you, and use this lift of academic pressure with exams being cancelled to re-examine how you study.

There's always a silver lining to one's adversity - this can be yours. Use independent learning to make studying work for you - not just in school but in life.



Luca Erkol

Grade 11
German International School Dubai

Ask the Experts: Your Questions, Answered



We invite you to submit your questions about university pathways, career readiness, skills for the future, and educational opportunities.

Dr Amna Almaazmi, CEO of Growth and Human Development, who champions inclusive, high-quality learning experiences while prioritising student wellbeing, will be answering your questions in the next edition.

As representatives of Dubai's students, we believe every learner deserves clarity, direction, and access to informed guidance about their academic and career journeys.

School Spotlight: Bloom World Academy

Bloom World Academy is shaping a new model of education - one that prioritises individuality, flexibility and real-world readiness.

Through its pioneering "stage not age" philosophy and highly customised pathways, students are empowered to pursue bespoke journeys that foster both academic excellence and personal growth. As IB learners, students engage in real-world projects, entrepreneurship, a tailored AI curriculum, and meaningful industry partnerships, developing the critical thinking, adaptability, and practical skills essential for life beyond school.

At the core of this is the school's Life Skills Programme, equipping students with essential capabilities - from managing finances, health and wellbeing to building self-confidence, resilience and strong interpersonal skills.

Through practical learning, students develop the self-awareness, decision-making and problem-solving skills required to navigate real-world challenges.

Signature events such as Nexus Career Day, where industry experts engage directly with students, and Nexus Option Evenings support informed and aspirational choices, complemented by personalised university and career guidance. This holistic approach is already reflected in offers for Grade 12 students from leading global institutions, including the London School of Economics, University College London, the University of Edinburgh and the University of St Andrews.

By combining innovation with a strong focus on wellbeing and leadership, Bloom World Academy equips students not only for academic success but also to thrive as confident, resilient, and truly future-ready individuals.



Inaya Zaidi

Grade 10
Bloom World Academy

Your Wellbeing Matters



Lately, things have felt overwhelming. It hasn't always been easy to stay focused or motivated, and that's something many of us are experiencing right now. This is why it's important to shift how you approach your days. Taking care of your wellbeing doesn't mean doing everything perfectly, it means doing what works for you. That could be waking up at a consistent time, setting two or three realistic goals, or simply allowing yourself proper breaks without guilt.

Small actions can make a real difference. Stepping away from your phone, taking a short walk, or checking in with a friend can help reset your mindset and restore a sense of balance. You don't have to be productive all the time. Some days will feel slower, and that's okay. What matters is that you stay consistent in taking care of yourself, even in simple ways.

And if things begin to feel overwhelming, reach out. Whether it's a friend, a counsellor, or a teacher, you don't have to go through everything on your own.

Omar Alkhalfawi

Grade 11
Sharjah American International School

Moza Abdalla

Grade 10
American School of Creative Science

A Message from the Council

We would love to hear your thoughts. What examples of sustainable technology inspire you? How do you think these innovations could be applied or expanded in Dubai to improve environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, and the well-being of residents?

Share your ideas, perspectives, and creative solutions with us via email (dscnewsletter@khda.gov.ae) and have a chance to be featured in the next issue of the Dubai Students Council Newsletter.