



**Dedicated to delivering  
AMAZING LEARNING**

**Weekly Update**  
**Term 1, Wk 2 10th September 2020**

## Contents

FS.....	Page 7
Primary.....	Page 8
Oasis.....	Page 10
Secondary.....	Page 11
PE.....	Page 14
Arabic.....	Page 15

### **Dear families,**

Our second week of term draws to a close and we are all getting used to our new ways of working.

As I shared earlier this week, our processes and plans have been tested with a positive case being discovered in our community. Fortunately the quarantine and mandatory distance learning period has been limited to only the bubble who had direct contact, and the remainder of our school has remained open for onsite learning. I would like to thank the children, staff and families directly affected; they have been hugely supportive, understanding and responsive. Their swift response has enabled us to manage this challenging situation in a calm, decisive and effective manner.

كما شاركت في وقت سابق من هذا الأسبوع، تم اختبار عملياتنا وخططنا مع اكتشاف حالة إيجابية في مجتمعنا. لحسن الحظ، اقتصرت فترة الحجر الصحي والتعلم الإلزامي عن بعد على الفقاعة التي كان لها اتصال مباشر فقط، وظلت بقية مدرستنا مفتوحة للتعليم في المدرسة. أود أن أشكر الأطفال والموظفين والأسر المتضررة بشكل مباشر؛ لقد كانوا داعمين للغاية ومتفهمين ومستجيبين. لقد مكنتنا استجابتهم السريعة من إدارة هذا الوضع الصعب بطريقة هادئة وحاسمة وفعالة.



### **Road safety week**

Our assembly and moral education theme this week was staying safe on the roads; wearing seatbelts, holding hands whilst crossing the road, not talking on your mobile whilst driving, and not distracting the driver. During our assembly today we shared the images uploaded by many of you as a reminder of how we can all stay safe. Thank you all for your support of this important community message.

<https://padlet.com/principal274/om2eyid02kw24uc3>



### **Learning challenge!**

During our final assembly of last term, as always I set myself a challenge to learn something during the summer break. I ambitiously challenged myself to learn to play the National anthem on the piano- I have never played the piano before! Mrs Stevens is learning the guitar and has also learned the national anthem, and Dr Plumb achieved her Google educator level 1 during the vacation! Mrs Stevens and I demonstrated our musical prowess during assembly today, proving that everyone can learn something new every day!



### **Family Fun with numbers- Facebook live!**

We have to think and work very creatively to build and maintain our strong community feel during this time of COVID. Thank you to all the families who virtually attended our 'Family fun with numbers' event on facebook live yesterday. We all had a lot of fun working and playing maths games together! Thank you to Miss Kirsty Corcoran, Miss Liz B-C, Miss Roisin Mahony, Miss Amie Roberts, and Mrs Magda Trznadel - our Maths Curriculum team- for leading this event, and Miss Hibba for promoting on Facebook.



## Family Information Meetings

You are all welcome to attend our virtual family information meetings next week. These meetings will share important information about your child's school life, and how we can work together. Translation will be available. Please see the zoom links below:

نرحب بكم جميعاً لحضور الاجتماعات المعلوماتية العائلية الافتراضية الأسبوع المقبل. ستشارك هذه الاجتماعات معلومات مهمة حول الحياة المدرسية لطفلك ، وكيف يمكننا العمل معاً. الترجمة ستكون متاحة. يرجى الاطلاع على روابط زوم أدناه:

Monday 14th Sep - 3pm

Upper Primary (Years 4,5,6) Family Information Meeting- zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75339054097?pwd=bWxKaTU4SlJlSnBITHNacZ1MFp2UT09>

Meeting ID: 753 3905 4097

Passcode: 38GMNu

Tuesday 15th Sep - 3pm

Lower Primary (Years 1,2,3) Family Information Meeting- zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/95492280547?pwd=akRVb1U0dTVlanhxWnNoWi9aQXYwdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 9228 0547

Passcode: 1TPH1S

Wednesday 16th Sep - 3pm

FS2 Family Information Meeting- zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75132788828?pwd=bVlBcjNNWFdpWXNLSmInbDV3WEtwUT09>

Meeting ID: 751 3278 8828

Passcode: E8tvP7

## Engage

You will have been sent an invitation to join the Parent Portal for our Pupil database system- Engage. It is important that you have access to this, as all school reports, letters and attendance are logged on this system. If you need some support with this, please contact our school administrator Miss Diana drayyan@ahbs.ae and she will be able to help you.

## Seesaw Family App

Yesterday we sent a letter to FS2 and Primary families detailing the steps you can take to download and log into the Seesaw 'Family app' to enable home and school to work more closely with both school-based, distance and home learning. Please reach out to your child's class teacher if you require support.

## Ready for Secondary!

At Aspen Heights we are always looking to improve outcomes and the environment for our children and young people. The new secondary break out area is complete; we are ready for our secondary students to commence onsite learning and enjoy their break times in a socially distanced, beautiful environment. We will update you as soon as schools in Abu Dhabi have approval to open for onsite learning for secondary pupils. The provisional date is Sunday 27th September. In order for us to plan appropriately, please can secondary families complete the distance/ onsite learning survey by 9am on Sunday 13th September.

في أسبن هايتس ، نتطلع دائماً إلى تحسين النتائج والبيئة لأطفالنا وشبابنا. اكتملت منطقة الاستراحة الثانوية الجديدة ؛ نحن على استعداد لطلابنا الثانوي لبدء التعلم في الموقع والاستمتاع بأوقات الراحة في بيئة جميلة متباعدة اجتماعياً. سنقوم بتحديثك بمجرد حصول المدارس في أبو ظبي على الموافقة لفتحها للتعلم في الموقع لطلاب المرحلة الثانوية. التاريخ المبدئي هو الأحد 27 سبتمبر. لكي نخطط بشكل مناسب ، يرجى أن تكمل العائلات الثانوية استطلاع التعلم عن بعد / في الموقع بحلول الساعة 9 صباحاً يوم الأحد 13 سبتمبر.

<https://forms.gle/bi4RybWxBeruDYu7>

Have a happy, safe and healthy weekend,

We are looking forward to another week of learning and growth at Aspen next week.

Kind regards,

Mrs Emma Shanahan, Principal

# Primary Update



What a fantastic week it has been with all of FS2 to Year 6 being in school every day! It has been lovely welcoming you all in the mornings, and seeing everybody leave with a happy face in the afternoons.

Thank you to our whole community, children, staff and parents, for making this week a success. I have seen some amazing talk for writing learning happening and everyone has been working hard to complete their baseline assessments in reading, phonics, writing, science and maths. We carry out these assessments to gauge where your child is, in their learning. This has involved reviewing objectives that should have been consolidated last academic year, to assess their levels of confidence. Not only is this crucial in determining their next steps, it is also very important in identifying gaps in learning that may be critical building blocks to future progress. This information will inform differentiation for the year group objectives in the class, enabling learning to be personalised. I have also really enjoyed seeing all of the posts on Seesaw that our distance learners have been making. Well done to everybody who has joined their class live sessions and interacting with their teachers and peers. We are working extremely hard to support our distance learners further, so please look out for the weekly emails from your teacher every Thursday about this. You will also receive a family overview today of the learning that will be taking place this term.

Another highlight of the week was our 'family fun with numbers' live Facebook event - we clearly have some talented mathematicians at Aspen Heights!

Most of you know that I often report on our school attendance each week in the newsletter. I have looked at the attendance across EYFS, lower primary and upper primary for both onsite learners and distance learners. It is important for you to come to school every day, where possible, or interact with your teacher online each day so you do not miss any learning. This week I am pleased to announce that the following classes had the highest attendance figures for their phase: FS2 Sparrows, Oasis, Year 3 Ostrich and Year 4 Swifts! Well done everybody and keep up the good work.

Next week there will be online phase family information meetings, please look out for the family dates so that you are able to join these meetings. Thank you families for all of your support and adaptability whilst we continue to work together in making sure your children are safe, happy and supported in their learning achievements. Have a lovely restful weekend.

Mrs Laura Stevens  
Head of Primary





## Secondary Update

This week in secondary we have been completing our baseline assessments with the children so that we can help them to make amazing progress each lesson, day, week, term and year using our challenging target setting process.



The transition to Key Stage 3 and to a new distance learning programme for many of our children is going well. Transition involves pupils adjusting to different procedures and to subjects being departmentalised with different teachers teaching them. Currently, our pupils are coping well with the transition.

We are following the 4C's of Aspen Heights: cooperation, consideration, common sense and courtesy. I am pleased to say that many children have received a 'Golden Ticket' this week for demonstrating our 4C's and for some amazing learning. Well done secondary children!

It is important that your child attends school every day to learn. Each live lesson helps to construct new subject knowledge and skills. Absence at this early stage will have an impact on your child's learning and their ability to feel like a valued member of their form class.

We are encouraging all children to become independent young people and as such please encourage them to prepare for their lessons the night before by having their laptops or chromebooks shut down and put on charge. They should also have their uniform laid out ready for the next morning so that they can have a good start to the day. All children should open their electronic devices by 7:50am so that they are logged on and ready for form time to start at 8am.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's form tutor.

Year 7 Aryam - Ms Nisha (nmohamed@ahbs.ae)

Year 7 Dalma - Mr Delaney (jdelaney@ahbs.ae)

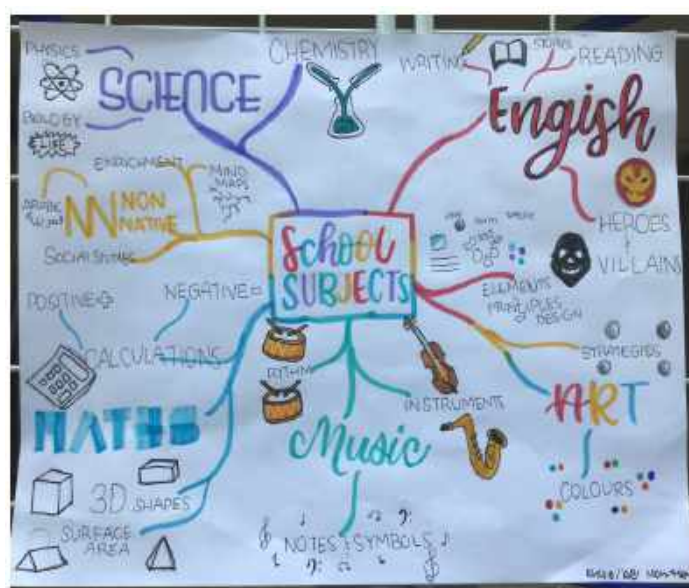
Year 8 Saadiyat - Ms Stewart (fstewart@ahbs.ae)

Year 8 Maryah - Ms Lavin (elavin@ahbs.ae)

Year 9 Yas - Mrs Joubert (jjoubert@ahbs.ae)

Year 9 Futaisi - Mrs Grice Glover (aglover@ahbs.ae)

Dr. Kate Plumb  
Head of Secondary





# Family Workshop

Thursday 17th September at 11:30 am

**Google Meet link:**

[meet.google.com/fbg-iimi-nmu](https://meet.google.com/fbg-iimi-nmu)

We have started using MyiMaths in lessons. All AHBS children can log in and practise maths there:

[https://app.mymaths.com/assessment/school\\_admin](https://app.mymaths.com/assessment/school_admin)

Login: aspen  
Password: square160











Mahd FS2 B - "I love all my new friends."



Helena FS2 P - "I like my new friends because they play with me."



Nursery have had a fantastic week of elearning. They have all really enjoyed the different activities.

FS2 children have been busy making new friends and getting to know their new class. They have started learning the story of 'The Magic Porridge Pot' and have all made beautiful collages of their class birds.

Casper FS2 Do - "My favourite part is playing with the cars and the dinosaurs."





# Primary

Wow - what an amazing week Year 1, 2 and 3 have had! It is lovely to have the children in full time and it is great to see so many of them engaging in exciting, relevant activities in their classes and at home. This week we have enjoyed learning all about our new topics of 'All About Me', 'Bright Lights, Big City' and 'The Garden of Doom'! The children have loved the hook lessons into their new topics and have been starting to form some amazing pieces of writing linked to what they have learned.

Well done to all the children for a fantastic week of learning, we are already excited to see what next week brings!

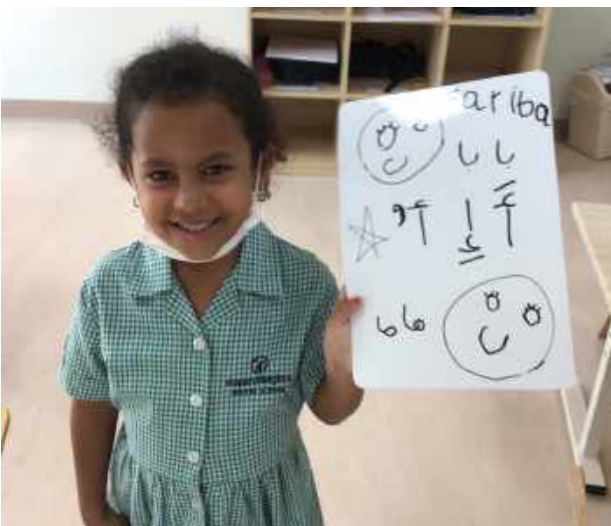


In Year 1 Hind said "I'm happy to be at school because I play with my friends Dabia and Wedad. We play 'What's the time Mr Wolf' and hide and seek."

Noura from Year 2 said her favourite part of the week was "seeing my friends again and making new ones".



August from Year 3 said "I'm pleased to come back to school and see my friends again. Also I love maths and reading. This week I've been doing stories with a lot of words I don't know yet like tusk, stroll and underground so it's interesting to learn more."





# Primary



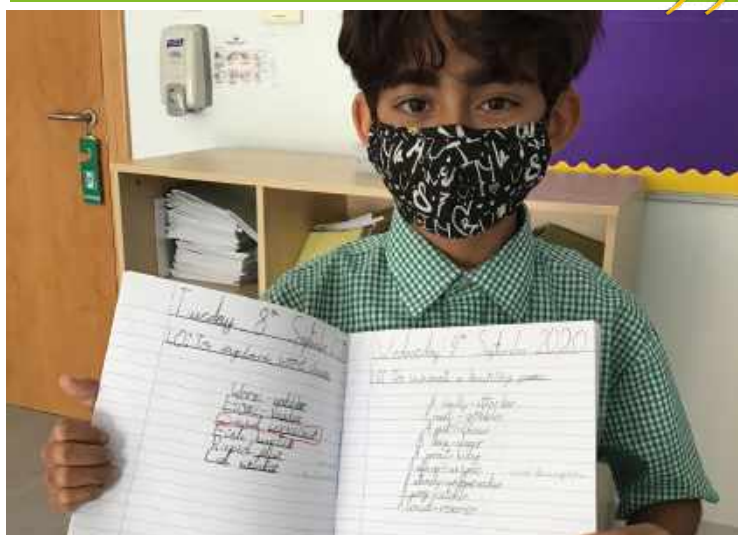
Megan from Year 4 Falcons:

*"I really enjoyed science this week as we did an investigation on how to look after our teeth using eggs and cola!"*



Marwan from Year 5 Parrotfish:

*"I enjoyed writing my own kenning because it made me think about how to describe my animal and I got better at describing."*

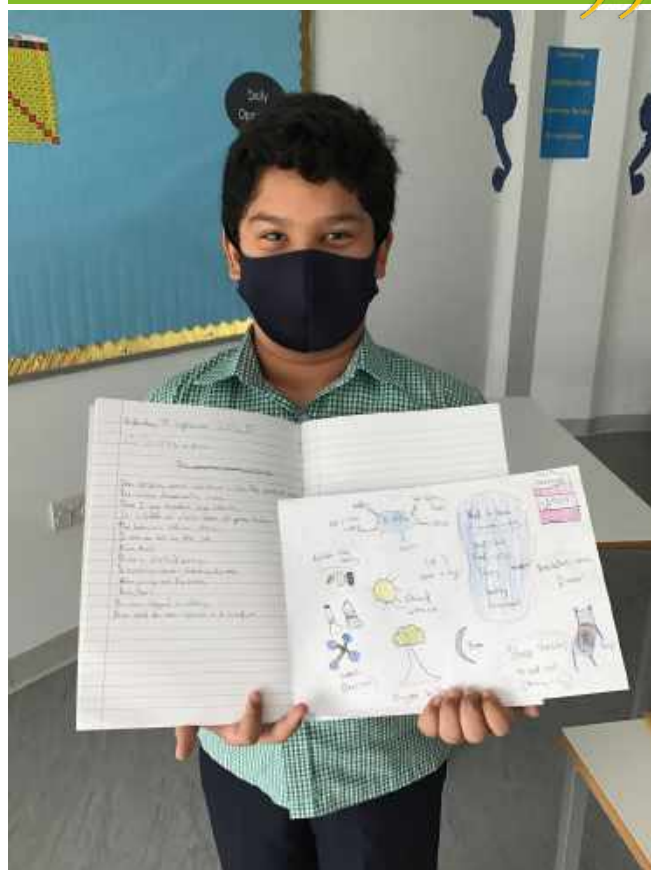


This week we have enjoyed learning all about our new topics of Flotsam, Explorers and Marvellous Maps! We have found out lots of new information and researched new places, exciting animals and interesting people. Year 4 have really enjoyed carrying out their science experiments on teeth, they used eggs to see how enamel would react to different liquids. It will be interesting to see their findings. Year 5 have explored their model text and looked at some beautiful illustrations with some really interesting photographs. Will they create their own? In maths they have found out about different methods for calculations and solved problems. Year 6 have explored the rainforest and looked at all the unusual animals and plants that live there. They wrote and performed their own poems!

Everyone has had a great first week keeping safe and finding new and exciting ways to show their amazing learning!

Rashed from Year 6 Seahorses:

*"I really liked that everything started to be normal again this week. In our new topic in science 'Living Things' we learnt about what makes something alive. I also really enjoyed writing and performing my rainforest poem!"*



# Oasis Class



This week in our Oasis class, we were glad to introduce ourselves and meet each other after a long 6 months break. We were happy to meet our teachers and new classmates. We are loving our new class and new activities on the screen and in class.

We had turn taking activities about shapes and some of our classmates are good at shapes and we helped each other during the activity.

Learning shapes makes us understand other signs and symbols around us, it also helps us learn skills in other curriculum areas including reading, maths, understanding the world and science. We see shapes everywhere around us.





# Year 7

This week has certainly been a challenge as we have been completing many baseline assessments in our English lesson. We have shown how organised and resilient we are by arriving to class on time and completing our work in the given time frame. How appropriate then, that our overarching theme for this half term is 'survival'!

In Maths this week we completed our baseline assessment and then started our new topic learning all about 'Data'.

We completed our baseline assessment this week in French. We are looking forward to working on our speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in French lessons this year.

This week in Art and D&T we have been doing our baseline assessments so that I have a better understanding of what your children know. In addition, we also started our new unit called "Master Chefs Aspen Heights!" Be prepared to have some wonderful guest Chefs in your home.

In Science this week, Year 7s have completed their baseline assessment. This assessment was designed to encourage students to apply their previous knowledge in science and show their current level of understanding. Students will be given feedback after the tests have been moderated. I will also be able to provide students with their targets for this year. We then

# Year 8

In Maths this week we completed our baseline assessment and then started our new topic learning all about 'Negative Numbers'.

We completed our baseline assessment this week in French. We had to draw on much of the knowledge we acquired last year. We are looking forward to progressing even more this year.

This week in Art and D&T we have been doing our baseline assessments so that I have a better understanding of what your children know. In addition, we started a unit about "Zentangles" and reflecting on mindfulness and how art can be therapeutic.

Science this week, Year 8s have completed their baseline assessment. This assessment was designed to encourage students to apply their previous knowledge of Science from Year 7 and show their current level of understanding. Students will be given feedback after the tests have been moderated. I will also be able to provide students with their targets for this year. We then reviewed all the names of the Science apparatus.

In English this week the Year 8s have demonstrated tenacity, perseverance and excellent behaviour for learning.

Each pupil committed to the tasks set before them - well done! You were definitely the heroes of the lesson!



# Year 9

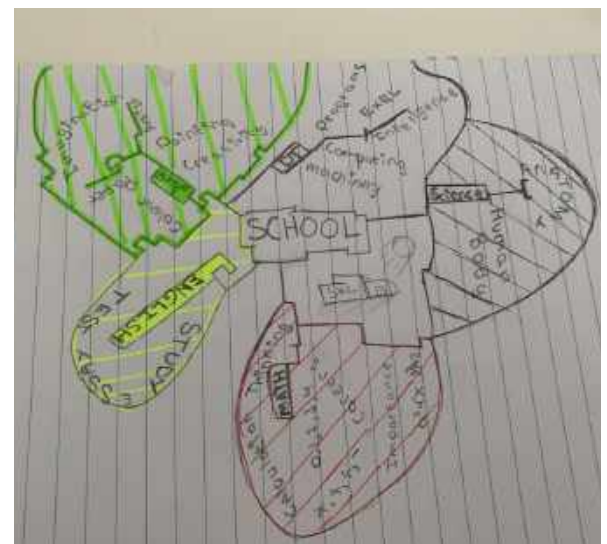
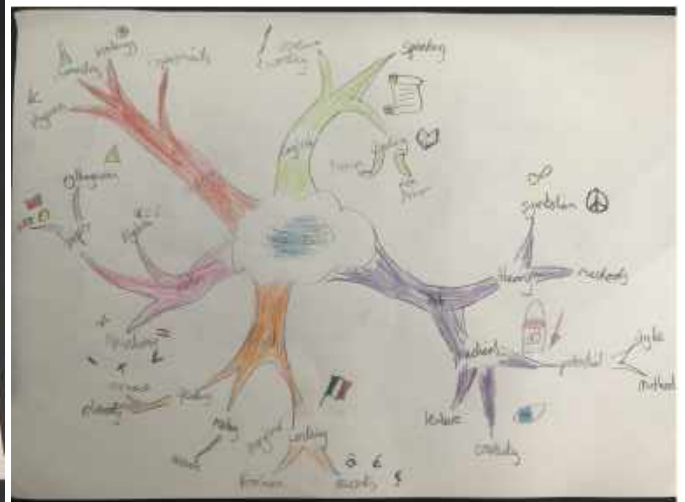
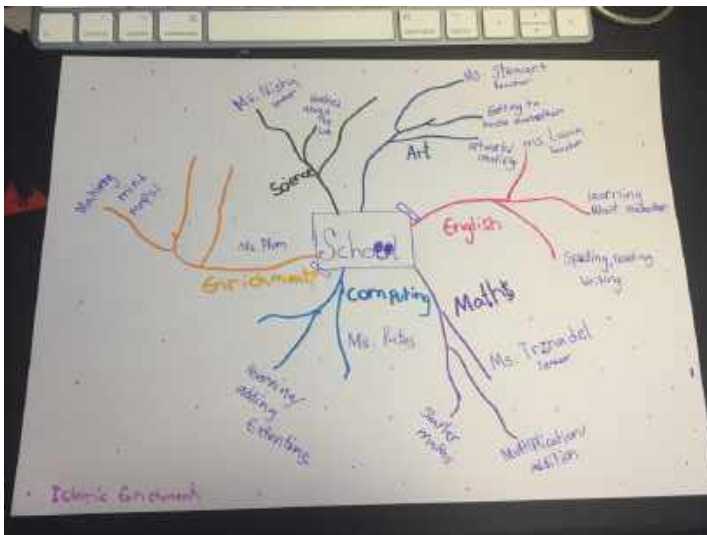
In Maths this week we completed our baseline assessment and then started our new topic learning all about 'Fractions and their application'.

We completed our baseline assessment this week in French. It was quite challenging but we are looking forward to making lots of progress this year.

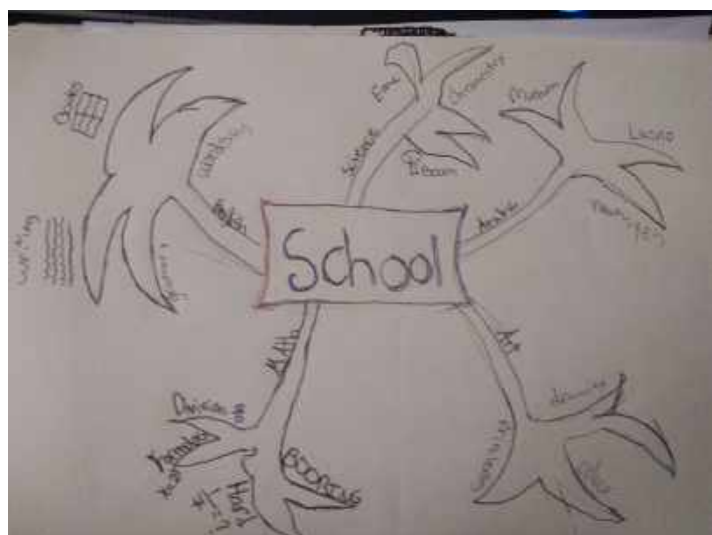
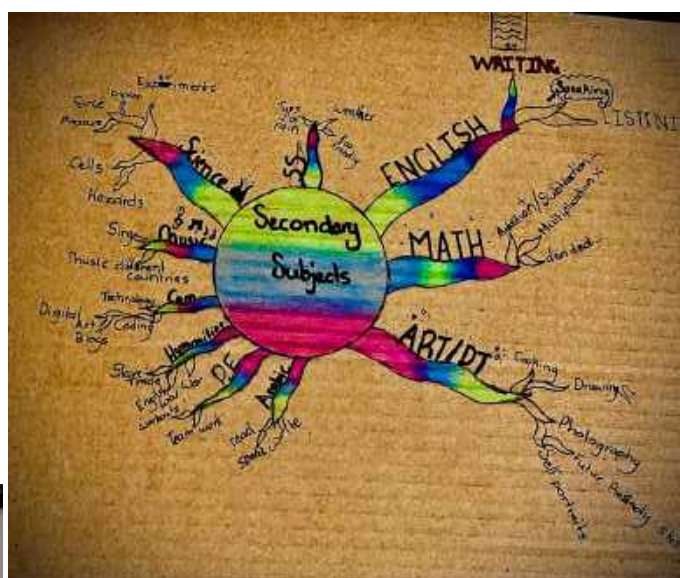
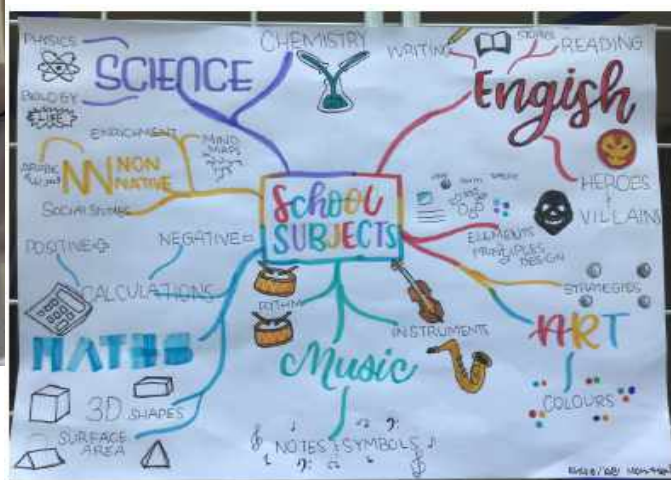
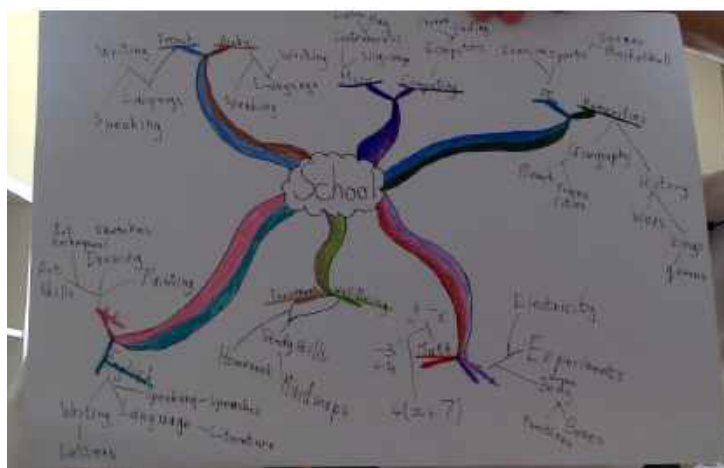
This week in Art and D&T we have been doing our baseline assessments so that I have a better understanding of what your children know. In addition, we started an Art Challenge where students have to "interpret" the meaning of words and experiment with different media.

Science this week we made a start on the first topic of the year 'Genetics and Inheritance.' We learnt all about inherited variation and environmental variation. We looked at why we have similar genes as our siblings and how the environment may change our physical traits as well as characteristics.

Gripped by the mystery of a week of tasks and assessments our Year 9s enquiring minds were set to comprehend, produce and succeed whilst under pressure. A stirring attempt was made by all. Perhaps you could ask your child about the odd marine mystery of the 1970's found on a beach in the UAE!







**A big welcome to the new academic year.**

**Whilst we are disappointed that we are not able to physically deliver PE lessons yet, we remain committed to ensuring we keep all our students moving and enjoying physical activity.**

**For nursery, FS2 and primary students, a pre recorded lesson will be uploaded to Seesaw weekly every Monday. These will be fun sessions which will ensure students are exercising and we are sure they will enjoy them. We encourage families to join in too! We look forward to receiving all your uploaded photos and videos on Seesaw of your children participating.**

**Whilst secondary students remain at home for distance learning, we will deliver live PE sessions. These will be every Tuesday at 1:30 pm and can be joined through the PE Google classrooms. These will be high energy sessions to keep our students active and moving. Last week we had a good number of students join us, this week numbers increased and we would like to see all secondary students join us next week. Students should wear Aspen PE kit if they have it otherwise suitable, comfortable clothing is fine.**





# Arabic



This week everyone has had a fantastic week in Arabic lessons, enjoying, learning and showing a different way of amazing learning.

The children have loved doing their baseline assessments using their iPads in order to help teachers to make amazing progress in learning in each lesson.

Children have really enjoyed sharing lots of facts about themselves, their hobbies and favorite activities and games.

We have seen some amazing Arabic learning across all year groups and it is great to see many of them engaging and enjoying different activities in classes and at home.

