

NEXT CHAPTER

Editor's Note

Just 8 months ago, 16 students from across Dubai met for the first time at the KHDA office in Dubai Academic City with one goal in mind - being the voice for students in Dubai. It was a big responsibility, and one we held with great pride and honour.

Today, as I look back at what we have achieved, I feel deeply grateful for the platform we have been given to actively be the change for so many students. In these mere 8 months, we have actively provided real student insight into formal discussions. We have collected real-world data through our Dubai Students Dialogues and through surveys sent to students to understand their priorities and concerns. We had the honour of meeting with HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and sharing our ideas in the Future Circles Dialogue hosted by HE Sharif Al Olama.

But alongside these milestones, this edition reflects on our collective journey through our personal advice for the next council - lessons we wish we had known earlier, and guidance we hope will strengthen those who follow. It also brings together reflections from our mentors, whose support, patience, and belief in us shaped our work.

As we close this chapter, we do so with immense gratitude for the journey, and hope that what we leave behind continues to inspire, guide, and empower the voices that come next.



Inaya Zaidi
Grade 10
Bloom World Academy

What's Up at DSC



The council had the great honour of meeting HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, where we had the opportunity to present the council, our vision, and key achievements from the past year. We shared the initiatives we've pioneered, the impact we've been able to have, and our future commitment towards driving progress in education.

Continuing our engagement with high-level government officials, the council also had the privilege of participating in the Future Circles Dialogue, hosted by HE Sharif Al Olama, representing the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure. It was insightful to understand the importance of students in driving forward national development, student empowerment, and the vital action needed to advance toward our leaders' visions.

We also launched the Dubai Students Dialogue, with two events that collected real student feedback on education in the emirate. It was amazing to witness the stimulating conversation and projects done across the Dubai student community, which helped us understand how we can guide policy with your interests at heart. We thank all the participants and want you to know that each word you speak is a step towards a student-driven future.

We're glad to have had a productive inaugural edition of the council, and it's now coming to an end. We'd like to express our gratitude to all the students who have reached out and have been immensely receptive to our initiatives, and we cannot wait to see what future editions will achieve. We wish all applicants the best of luck!

Hein Htun
Grade 12
Uptown International School

Shaping Tomorrow: Dubai Students Dialogue

An exciting achievement for us! The Dubai Students Dialogue, convened by the Dubai Students Council, brought together 128 student representatives from 64 schools across Dubai, representing 28 nationalities and more than eight curriculum pathways. The event was hosted at the RTA Innovation Hub, University of Birmingham Dubai, providing a vibrant academic space that encouraged collaboration, dialogue, and innovation.

This dialogue marked the second edition of the initiative, following the success of the inaugural online session. The first session brought together Dubai Students Council representatives at the KHDA office, where student participants joined Microsoft Teams discussions across 14 breakout rooms covering seven key themes and their subtopics.

The overwhelming success of the online edition inspired the launch of this second session, building on its momentum with an engaging in-person experience. The second edition was structured into four interactive rooms focusing on Independent Learning, Future Pathways, Artificial Intelligence, and Student Wellbeing.

Each room provided students with the opportunity to share perspectives, critically reflect on global and local challenges, and co-create ideas that could enhance both education and student experience.

Discussions encouraged deeper thinking around personal growth, academic direction, the role of emerging technologies, and overall mental and emotional wellbeing.

The RTA Road Safety Challenge also took place, where students explored real-world road safety issues and proposed practical, youth-driven solutions to improve awareness and safety in their communities.

In addition, a lucky draw added an exciting moment to the event, where 10 students were randomly selected to receive three tickets to the Museum of the Future, celebrating their engagement and participation.

Overall, the Dubai Students Dialogue stood as a powerful platform for student voice, leadership, and collaboration, empowering young people to engage in meaningful conversations that shape the future of education in Dubai.

AbdelRahman Sayed
Grade 9
Collegiate International School



My Reflections on a Remarkable First Year



As we come to the end of the Dubai Students Council's first year, I find myself reflecting on what a privilege it has been to work alongside this remarkable group of students.

As the first cohort, they stepped into something entirely new. There was no blueprint, no precedent, and many aspects of the journey were still taking shape. Yet, they embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, openness, and a genuine willingness to contribute. They helped shape the Council not only through their ideas, but through their patience, adaptability, and belief in its purpose.

What has stayed with me most over the past year is their commitment. These are students who already excel in their schools and communities, yet they continuously made time to attend meetings, provide thoughtful feedback, participate in discussions, and support initiatives that extended far beyond their own schools. Whenever we asked something of them, they responded with a readiness to do even more. I have had the privilege of watching them grow in confidence, strengthen their leadership and teamwork skills, and become stronger advocates for their peers across Dubai. Their contributions have left a lasting mark on the Council and on the work we do.

To each member of this founding cohort, thank you. Thank you for your time, your energy, your ideas, and your trust. I am incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished, and I look forward to seeing the impact you will continue to make in the years ahead.

Reem Waleed
DSC Mentor and KHDA
Head of Learner Skills,
Wellbeing & Support

Before We Pass the Baton...

All good things must come to an end, and after an incredible term at the Dubai Students Council, we now pass the mantle on to the next batch. Before we step aside, we wanted to share a few lessons we've gathered along the way.

We hope these reflections serve as guidance, inspiration, and a little encouragement for the generations that follow.



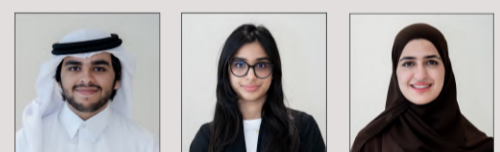
Elliott Bathe: "Don't be scared to put your ideas forward but fully think them through first!"
Moza Abdalla: "KHDA and Dubai trust you with a platform to lead and represent students, so rise to it with confidence, responsibility, and purpose."
Jasim Al Reesi: "Remember the version of yourself you are now isn't the final version of yourself, you will grow to be who you were meant to be."
Vanya Pahwa: "Never forget to include the unique circumstances and needs of the community you represent in discussions, which ensures that any changes you make benefit all students across Dubai, instead of just one group."



Inaya Zaidi: "Hard work isn't enough - you need a belief to work for, and once you have it, throw yourself into it completely and nothing can stop you."
Mouza Algergawi: "Be the reason something improves this year. No contribution is too small when it's made with purpose."
AbdelRahman Sayed: "Lead with purpose and a holistic mindset— leadership is impact, not titles, so listen, act boldly, and stay grounded in integrity."
Mila Ziller: "What's meant to be will be."



Omar AlKhalwafi: "Say yes to opportunities, speak up when you have something to contribute, and don't let self-doubt stop you from trying new things. You never know where one idea might lead."
Luca Erkol: "Big ideas are easy, finishing them is the whole job. Pick fewer things and actually see them through."
Hein Htun: "It's so important to be passionate on your stance, coupled with being able to see different perspectives on the issues we discuss."
Malak Neana: "It's okay to not have everything figured out, nobody really does."



Rashed Alnuaimi: "Remember that good collaboration requires the flexibility to let ideas evolve beyond their original authors."
Mahra Amiri: "Lead with kindness, listen to every voice, and remember that the small things you do can make a big difference. Enjoy every moment. It goes by faster than you think!"
Wid Alawar: "To next year's council—stay the loud ideas don't work, its the boring follow through ones that do."

Help Shape What's Next

We have designed a quick survey to share your priorities, motivations, concerns, and hopes.

Your voice will directly shape what comes next - take a few minutes, share honestly, and help represent students across Dubai.

Click [here](#) to complete the survey



Message from KHDA Director General

As the inaugural members of the Dubai Students Council, the 16 of you have represented the voices, hopes and aspirations of more than 400,000 students across Dubai. Together, you have shown the power of student leadership and reminded us that the strongest education systems are built with students, not simply for them.

Your ideas and insights have helped shape KHDA's policies and initiatives, ensuring that the voices of students, the direct beneficiaries of our education system, are heard where it matters most. In doing so, you have demonstrated the power of belonging, collaboration and active citizenship.

I hope this journey has strengthened your confidence to lead, inspired you to aim higher, and reinforced your belief that your voice can create meaningful change. As you pass the baton to the next Dubai Students Council, you leave behind a legacy that will continue to inspire students and help shape the future of education in Dubai.

Thank you for your passion, commitment, courage and dedication. Your impact will be felt for years to come.

HE Aisha Miran
KHDA, Director General

