



YASMINA BRITISH ACADEMY

**Annual Governance Report
Term 3 – Academic Year 2024/2025**



SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY

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SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY - PERFORMANCE STANDARD 1



ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESS, INCLUDING LEARNING SKILLS

Please see overviews for each subject area here: [Summary Statements](#)

Learning Skills (1.3)

Strengths

- Recognition as a World Class HPL School, driving the strategic development of advanced learning skills throughout the school.
- A strong culture of enterprise, entrepreneurship, and innovation embedded across all phases of the school.
- Communication and oracy are systematically developed across the school, empowering students to become articulate and confident learners through rich collaborative experiences and a wide range of extracurricular opportunities.

Areas of Development

- To develop further opportunities for students to impactfully use artificial intelligence to accelerate ownership of learning
- Continue to provide professional development opportunities that develop staff expertise in technology, particularly artificial intelligence.

SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY - PERFORMANCE STANDARD 2



STUDENTS PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR INNOVATION SKILLS

Strengths

- Positive relationships with students, with a culture of trust and respect amongst adults, students, and their peers.
- Students have very positive and responsible attitudes. They demonstrate strong self reliance and thrive on critical feedback.
- Opportunity to develop leadership for every student through the HPL characteristics of learning – acquiring and mastering skills as strategic decision makers, collaborators, and effective communicators.

Areas of Development

- Review and implement engaging tools to measure and monitor attitudes and relationships for students across the school for staff and students.
- To refine and relaunch our House system to align across the school, in line with revised school vision and new campus.

SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY - PERFORMANCE STANDARD 3



TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- Development of coaching and peer support within specific micro areas, ensuring targeted and tailored professional development.
- Implementation of an exceptional strategy through the deployment of lead teachers and our work as an HPL (High Performance Learning) Training School.
- Full compliance with the 2026 Inclusion Policy, supported by comprehensive staff training and ongoing professional development initiatives.

Areas for Development

- As part of our commitment to High Performance Learning, we aim to achieve HPL Training School status. This will enable our expert staff to support the broader Aldar network by delivering training and guiding the implementation of HPL strategies across other schools.
- Further enhance data tracking systems through Middle School assessment practices.

SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY - PERFORMANCE STANDARD 4



CURRICULUM

Strengths

- Our enriched, innovative curriculum is brought to life through whole-school focus weeks and project-based learning. It is complemented by extensive KS4 and KS5 options that enable personalised pathways tailored to each student's strengths and ambitions.
- A broad and diverse ECA programme celebrates individual gifts, talents, and interests, ensuring students are engaged, challenged, and inspired both within and beyond the classroom.
- An innovative Middle School curriculum supports through-school alignment and collaboration and enhances opportunities for continuity of learning, skill development, and a smooth transition between primary and secondary phases.

Areas of Development

- Continue to explore Artificial Intelligence tools to accelerate student achievement as this evolving technology develops in education.
- Continue to expand the specialist provision of performing arts to further strengthen opportunities for student creativity, performance excellence, and cross-curricular enrichment.
- Expand the Level 3 BTEC offering to further enhance opportunities for personalised learning pathways in Phase 4.

SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY - PERFORMANCE STANDARD 5



CARE AND SUPPORT

Strengths

- Rigour of child protection and safeguarding throughout the school through systems, training and processes. Robust safeguarding policies (CPOMS, Proxyclick, lanyard policy) with full staff, student, and parent awareness.
- Food Nation partnership ensures HACCP & ISO22000 certified food service with allergy-aware, age-appropriate meals. Health promotion is embedded across curriculum and ECAs, with student voice influencing menus and policies.
- New Campus designed with universal access in mind, ADA-compliant features, sensory rooms, and accessible toilets on every floor. Environmentally sustainable practices (low-VOC materials, natural lighting, water-saving fixtures, shaded outdoor areas).

Areas of Development

- To obtain the new certification for Inclusion quality kite mark and become an Inclusion center of Excellence
- Further develop parent training/awareness around digital safety, including advancements in Artificial Intelligence
- Develop real-time data dashboards for sustainability (e.g., energy, water, waste) to increase student ownership in environmental stewardship.

SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY - PERFORMANCE STANDARD 6



EFFECTIVENESS OF LEADERSHIP

Strengths

- An ambitious whole school vision, values, mission, and purpose, designed and owned by all stakeholder groups.
- High standards of teaching and learning through coaching programme and accreditation as HPL World Class Training School.
- A culture of empowerment through leadership at all levels, measured and developed through the continua framework and robust performance management.

Areas of Development

- Further develop the parental communication strategy in line with the new Aldar Live App.
- To develop further opportunities for students to impactfully use artificial intelligence to accelerate ownership of learning
- Continue to provide professional development opportunities that develop staff expertise in technology, particularly artificial intelligence

SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY – IMPROVEMENTS SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION




- Recognition as a World Class HPL School, driving the strategic development of advanced learning skills throughout the school.
- YBA has become a World Class High Performance Learning Training School – leading pedagogy and strategy of the HPL framework through the deployment of lead teachers across several schools within the network.
- A strong culture of enterprise, entrepreneurship, and innovation embedded across all phases of the school. Planned within the curriculum within HPL ACP ‘Enterprise’ and with the introduction of 8BillionIdeas in Middle School years.
- Development of lesson design allows more students to take risks and to be more innovative and creative in their learning, with more opportunities for open-ended and higher-order learning experiences.
- Development of leadership for all students through the HPL characteristics of learning - developing skills as strategic decision makers, collaborators, and effective communicators through teaching and learning. The number of leadership positions within the school has also increased.
- Whole school Oracy strategy developed - Communication and oracy now systematically developed across the school, empowering students to become articulate and confident learners through rich collaborative experiences and a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, from FS1 to Year 13.
- Further improvements in quality of teaching and learning with development of coaching and peer support within specific micro areas, ensuring targeted and tailored professional development.
- Development of MOE subjects with full alignment in whole school teaching and learning strategy - focus on innovation and bespoke professional training.
- Full compliance with the 2026 Inclusion Policy, supported by comprehensive staff training and ongoing professional development initiatives.
- Assessed for the IQM Kitemark award for inclusion with the following remarks - YBA is a beacon of high-quality inclusion practice, ‘Inclusion practice is exception and embodies the inclusiveness and values and of the school’, ‘Every child has the opportunity to thrive at YBA’.
- Development of PE assessment through implementation of Gymrun strategy – designed to improve fitness from Primary level.

SEF OVERVIEW SUMMARY – IMPROVEMENTS SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION (CONT'D)




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- Development of PE assessment through implementation of Gymrun strategy – designed to improve fitness from Primary level.
- YBA have been recommended as an Inclusion Centre of Excellence, with YBA Head of Inclusion asked to be a future reviewer of other schools.
- Gifted and Talented programme developed to identify students and provide pathways, through quality first teaching and personalised lesson planning. Further opportunities through extracurricular activities and special invitational clubs.
- Development of a through school School Improvement Plan – aligning goals and aspirations for the whole academy, through strategically planned professional development and Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Programme.
- A revised ambitious whole school vision, values, mission, and purpose, designed and owned by all stakeholder groups in line with moving to new campus.
- Moved into a brand-new state of the art campus, with more space and specialist teaching spaces. Improved facilities including 650-seater auditorium, black box theatre, dance studios, fitness gym, large indoor and outdoor courts, cricket nets, specialist music rooms, innovation centre, 6th form centre.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

2024-2025

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YASMINA
BRITISH ACADEMY

EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE!

GCSE Results 2025

13%

Grade 9s

27%

Grades 9-8

61%

Grades 9-6

85%

Grades 9-4

*Based on total exam entries (1000 entries)

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YASMINA
BRITISH ACADEMY

EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE!

ALevel and BTEC Results
2025

Grades A* - A

52%

Grades A* - B

76%

Grades A* - C

91%

Overall pass rate: 99%
Single entry results

BTEC RESULTS 2025

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YASMINA
BRITISH ACADEMY

CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING
BTEC ACHIEVEMENTS

80%

Distinction*

100%

Distinction to
Distinction*



Campus Development & Facilities

- Successfully opened the **Primary phase** of the brand-new campus in **August 2024** with **2,223 students**.
- Transitioned **Secondary School** to the new campus in **January 2025**, welcoming **1,254 students**.
- Expanded total student population from **3,138 to 3,477**.
- New campus features **state-of-the-art facilities** with **41,500 sqm built-up area** and **108,100 sqm gross floor area**.
- Shortlisted for the **School Facilities Stories Awards 2025**.
- Onboarding of **ONVU Learning Tool** – trialing and showcasing outstanding practice for the Aldar network.

Academy Accolades

- Became a **High Performance Learning (HPL) Training School** following Early Years World Class accreditation.
- **Kim James** and **Eliza Lock** (Primary teachers) appointed as **HPL link advisors** across Aldar schools.
- Participated in the **International Early Learning and Child Wellbeing Study (IELS) 2025** alongside **ADEK** and the **Harvard Graduate School of Education**.
- **Inclusion Quality Mark** – recommended as a Centre of Excellence and a beacon of high-quality practice.

Staff Recognition & Professional Development

- **Matthew Kershaw** – Pearson International Teacher Awards finalist as Innovator of the Year.
- **Fatma Helmy** – Pearson International Teacher Awards Finalist, Leader of the Year Award.
- **Denise Buttigieg**, Head of Food & Nutrition – earned **Doctor of Education** for study on food education in Abu Dhabi; collaborated with **ADEK**.
- **Kym Whittle** – Panelist at **Abu Dhabi Teaching Conference**.
- **Jennie Kellett**, Secondary Principal – Speaker at **Pearson Global Conference 2025**.
- **Abeer Ali Abouredwan**, HLTA Islamic – Finalist, **ADEK Unsung Hero Award**.



Examination Excellence & University Destinations

- **30 students** awarded **2024 Pearson Edexcel High Achievers Award (HAA)**.
- **6 students** received the **2024 Outstanding Pearson Learner Award (OPLA)** for highest global marks.
- Awarded **Pearson School Award 2024** for most students achieving HAA & OPLA.
- Top graduates attending prestigious global universities:
 - **Ahmed AlHameli** – University of Chicago, Mathematics
 - **Danish Husni** – Dartmouth College, Aerospace Engineering
 - **SooHo Park** – UCL, Neuroscience
 - **Muhammad Zaid Shaikh** – LSE, Economics
 - **Sara George** – Tufts University, Mechanical Engineering

Student Excellence & Achievements

- **Rashid Al Neyadi**, Year 13 – Finalist in **Arabic Reading Competition**; performed in front of 800+ audience; designed winning logo for **Aldar Fazza community group**.
- **3 students** reached **semi-finals** of **Emirates NBD Poetry for All Competition**.
- **Leena Ahmed**, Year 7 – Finalist at **Emirates Literacy Festival** Poetry Recital Competition.
- **Yassin Ali**, Year 11 – 1st in 50m Freestyle, 2nd in 100m Freestyle at **Emirates Swimming Cup**.
- **Mohamed Al Qubaisi**, Year 11 – Gold and Silver medals at **Emirates Swimming Cup**; selected for **UAE U16 Boys Swimming Team**.
- **Noah Clarke**, Year 11 – selected for the **UAE U15 National Football Team**.

Student Excellence & Achievements

- **U15 BSME Squad** – 6th Place and won the **Fair Play Award** for the 3rd consecutive year.
- **U19 BSME Squad** – 6th Place overall.
- **YBA student artwork** displayed at the **Al Muneera Art Exhibition**, led by **Maie Salah**
- **Formula 1 Ethara collaboration** for Year 5 STEAM-based racing challenge project.
- **YBA Team "Mathify"** won **1st place worldwide** in the 7–11 age category of **HPL Innovators for Tomorrow**; secured support from **DAIGON Esports** to develop MVP.
- YBA team also won **2nd place worldwide** in the 11–16 age category, securing a prize from **Dukes Plus**.



Community Engagement & Events

- **YBA Community Carnival** hosted over **3,000 attendees** in collaboration with **Yalla Yasmina** parent group, raising funds for **Red Crescent**.
- **Alumna Jana Al Ramahi** returned to launch her book *Echoes of Heritage: The Cultural Tapestry of the UAE*; also represented UAE at **UN General Assembly**.
- **Primary and Secondary Productions** attracted **350+ attendees** each night with their outstanding performances of Shrek and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.
- Return of our **annual Primary & Secondary Sports Awards** celebrating the success of all our teams and individual performances.
- **Hosted TedEx Youth** – The Fabric of Us – inspirational speakers from Year 7 to 12 with guest students from other schools in the UAE.
- Hosted **8 Billion Ideas** across Middle School – developing core skills through a project based and immersive learning environment.



Thank you

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