

Academic Year 2026-2027

SENIOR BSA

YOUR WEEKLY BSA UPDATES

**British School
Algiers**

A peek into your favourite
Senior classes

Know your favourite
teachers - weekly profile

Students, what's popping?



About SENIOR BSA

SENIOR BSA is our weekly newsletter; an e-school newspaper that brings our senior classes to your screen, giving you a look at what our seniors are doing in their different classes, from science experiments to the theatre scripts being read in the Drama studio. Our student journalists meet with teachers and run profiles on them, closing the gap between the educator and the human. We also meet our students to get a closer look at their daily life at BSA.

This newsletter is brought to you by Habiba Eltair, Amir Barkati, Sarah Achir, and Rym Guidoum.

Our students pride themselves on working and writing for the newsletter without AI.

A Peek into Your Favourite Senior Classes

Business Studies: Year 12

Year 12 Business students have been learning about the types and methods of communication used in business. They are now applying this knowledge to real-world scenarios, choosing the most effective method for each audience and purpose.

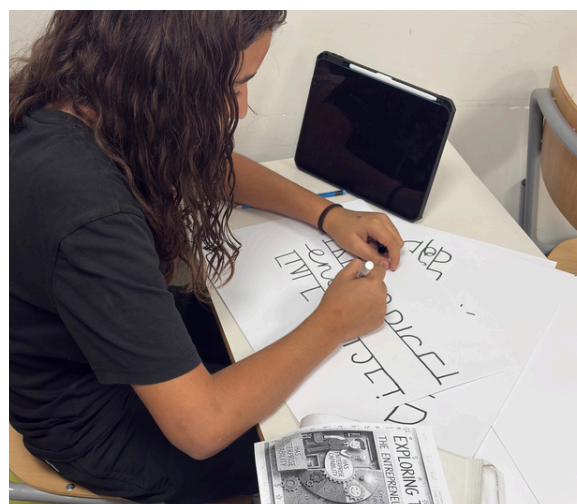
Ms Abir Boudérias for *SENIOR BSA*



Enterprise: Year 9

Year 9 Enterprise students are creating a display on how to be enterprising at home and in everyday life. They are discovering that enterprise is about showing initiative, solving problems creatively and spotting opportunities in daily situations.

Ms Abir Boudérias for *SENIOR BSA*



Spanish: Year 12

Spanish students are building their speaking skills and confidence through the “Find Someone Who” activity. They move around the room asking and answering questions in Spanish to find classmates who match a set of descriptions, giving them plenty of practice speaking with real purpose.

Ms Sarah Boudjedien for *SENIOR BSA*



This Week's Teacher: Mr Mejd Benkortbi

Armed with a clipboard, a recorder, and ten questions, Habiba chose the sixth floor as her space of friendly interrogation. She met none other than our principal and the experienced math teacher: Mr Mejd Benkortbi.



We began with the basics, easing into the conversation.

Q: Can you please state your full name and the subject you teach?

A: “My name is Mejd Benkortbi, and I teach maths.”

Curious about how he ended up here, I asked what drew him to teaching in the first place.

Q: What made you choose this career?

A: “Every job involves some transformation, but this job is about transforming people, which I think is so much more beautiful. Once you transform a person, that person can go out there and transform life itself.”

From there, our conversation naturally shifted to his current role.

Q: What made you decide to move from teaching into the principal role?

A: “It’s all about making a difference. I don’t see the principal’s job as a job of authority, but as one with more opportunities to support people and explore their potential.”

Given that shift, I wanted to know what still makes the classroom worthwhile for him.

Q: What makes being a teacher worth it?

A: “There’s a misconception that teaching is about transferring knowledge, but knowledge is available everywhere now. Alongside academic excellence, school is about building character and values like integrity, empathy, responsibility, and collaboration.”

That answer led perfectly into a question about the small, everyday moments of the job.

Q: What is your favourite part of the day as a teacher?

A: “All of it, really, from helping students avoid misconceptions to supporting teachers and meeting parents. But the most interesting part is listening to students, because we’re here to serve them.”

Staying on that theme, I asked whether some teachers lose sight of the student’s perspective.

Q: Do you think a lot of teachers have lost that value, the idea of the teacher being above everyone else?

A: “There’s a fine line between collaborating with students and using teachers’ years of expertise. Conflict rarely comes from malice, since teachers want what’s best for students. We give teachers space for their own projects through enrichment activities, and a weekly student council passes its notes on to the co-principals.”

Switching gears, I asked about his journey back to Algeria specifically.

Q: You taught most of your career in the UK. What made you come back to teach in your home country?

A: “I feel a great depth of gratitude towards Algeria, and I always believed I needed to give back to my country. I grew up with Algerian and British values, and I don’t think they diverge. Leading an international school with over 43 nationalities was also a motivating factor.”

Wanting to hear what he valued most about his new school, I asked what he enjoys most about teaching here.

Q: What do you enjoy most about teaching here?

A: “The students. They propose ideas, and teachers sometimes implement them. We’re also moving towards collaborative learning, where students learn through real projects, like writing a letter to their city hall, instead of just taking notes.”

Wanting to see a more personal side of him, I moved on to a lighter question.

Q: If you were a character in a film or a book, who would you be, and why?

A: “My honest answer is that I just want to stay myself. We can learn lessons from inspiring figures in the past, but I don’t think adopting a new personality works.”

With that reflective note, I asked him to look back on his own career.

Q: If you could go back in time, what advice would you give yourself?

A: “I used to identify a problem and try to convince everyone my solution was right. Now I spend more time diagnosing first, and I value staff buy-in and staying open to new evidence, except on safeguarding, which can’t wait for a lengthy consultation.”

Then I asked him to look ahead, toward the world our generation is heading into.

Q: What is one thing you think more people our age should know?

A: “We don’t know what the future will look like, especially with AI and its impact on the economy, medicine, and education. My advice is to keep reading and stay up to date.”

Finally, I asked him to think about the mark he hopes to leave behind.

Q: What’s one thing you hope students remember about their time at the school, long after they’ve left?

A: “The experiences. It won’t be the academic content, but the interactions with teachers, the events like International Day, and the acts of kindness they give and receive.”

To close, I gave him the chance to leave the student body with a last message.

Q: Do you have any final points you'd like us to pass on to the student body?

A: "Stay curious. Don't lose your curiosity, because that's the most valuable asset you'll have to succeed."

Habiba Eltair for *SENIOR BSA*

Leah Zhang, What's popping?

Settling down in an empty classroom, we turned on the recorder as the questions started flowing; acquiring this week's star, Leah, on assorted topics of interest; giving us an insight into the wonders of the teenager's mind:



After pondering for a little while about which movie our school would be in, Leah settled for “Spiderman: homecoming”. The constant buzz of the hallways, the various cliques laughing out loud while each struggled through the same academic challenges, and the overall Senior classes experience felt all too familiar to her.

While staying on the topic of school, Leah shared her will to change the “Jean ban” when asked about her opinion on school policies. As a model student, she had always tried her best to comply with school values; However the rule seemed unnecessarily strict even to her. In her opinion, jeans weren't unkempt clothing, and could even be considered more of a formal attire when compared to the leisure wear students throw on daily.

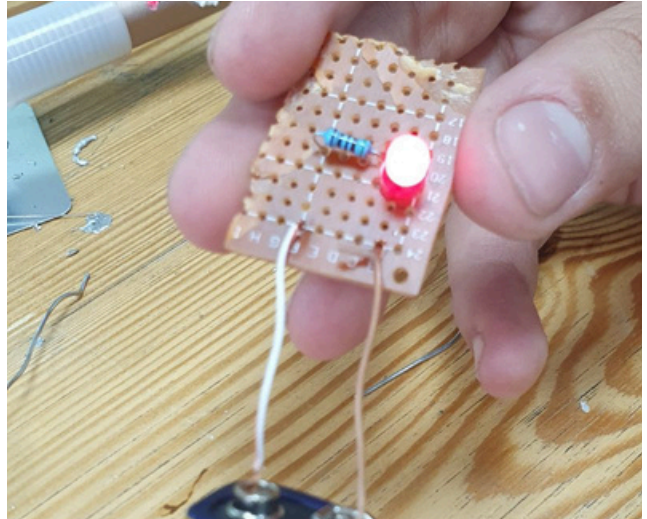
As the conversation dragged on, the questions eased onto a more personal note as Leah invited us into her quiet routine. After an exhausting school day, the high school girl found comfort in the warm Chinese meals her mother usually prepares. Varying from rice dishes to noodle soups, Leah relished in the heavenly tastes that brought her closer to home.

Accompanied with her friends, Leah shared that her usual hangout spot at school during breaks would be the quiet corner under the palm trees. Feeling the warm sunlight seeping through the leaves, she and her friends considered it a sacred haven in the middle of a stress induced environment.

As a year 12 student, Leah Zhang was no stranger to the peer pressure of having to succeed and choosing the right career. However, her passion in biology made one thing clear: her dream was to become a veterinarian. Her drive to help and love for animals only fueled that goal.

Sarah Achir for *SENIOR BSA*

BSA Clubs



Robotics with Mr Ahmed Gourine



Pottery with Ms Nadine Mokhtari



Displays with Mrs Sabrina Benkortbi

Punctuality, Real Talk

Notes from Ms Rabea Deramchi for *SENIOR BSA*

At BSA, we place great importance on punctuality as a key factor in academic success and personal development. Being on time not only ensures that students make the most of their learning opportunities but also instils responsibility and discipline values that will benefit them throughout life.

Punctuality is crucial as lateness disrupts lessons, affects the learning environment, and can impact students' overall progress. Morning registration and the first lesson of the day set the tone for effective learning, making it essential that students arrive on time, ready to engage.

We kindly remind all parents and carers to support their children in developing good habits by ensuring they leave home in sufficient time to **arrive to School no later than 8:40.**

If your child is having trouble with punctuality due to exceptional circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor, the Attendance Officer or the Pastoral Team.