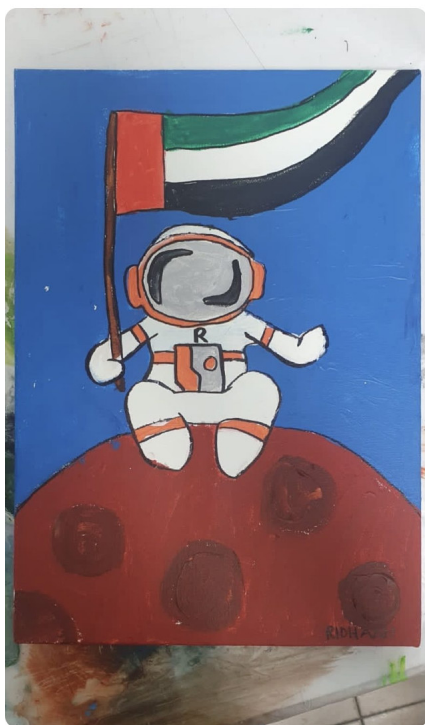


Ridhaan Whabi

A curious mind. A creative spirit. A thoughtful individual.



Personal Profile & Supporting Portfolio

● Academic ● Creative ● Philanthropic ● Other ● Sporting

Who Ridhaan is

Ridhaan is a curious, imaginative child who enjoys learning across very different areas: reading, languages, creative work and making things, alongside a natural interest in enterprise and the world around him.

He pursues interests because he genuinely enjoys them, not because they lead to certificates. When an idea captures his imagination, he turns it into a project: making, experimenting, researching or finding a practical way to bring it to life.

A recurring pattern is his willingness to make things from scratch. He designs his own costumes, works with cardboard and whatever materials are to hand, and creates characters, masks and models on his own initiative.

AT A GLANCE

Languages

English and Hindi; Arabic, French and Spanish at school; German with a private tutor since April 2025

Olympiads

UAE Rank 1, English Olympiad Qualifier (Grade 2, Nov 2024); 1st in class, English and Mathematics Olympiads 2022–23

Art

Painting exhibited and sold for AED 500

Sport

Karate 8 Kyu (Feb 2026); cricket, rugby, swimming

HIS ACTIVITIES IN FIVE AREAS

Academic	Creative	Philanthropic	Other	Sporting
German, English and Maths Olympiads	Painting, pottery, masks, models, costume	Animal welfare and the Reading Dogs proposal	Enterprise, a perfume website, Reading Ambassador	Cricket, karate, rugby, swimming

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Activities Table

Dubai College · Year 7 Application · 2027 Entry

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS
Academic	Ongoing German learning	Studies German weekly with a native tutor since April 2025. His interest has grown beyond travel preparation into sustained study of language, grammar and culture.
Academic	English Olympiads	First in class, English Language Olympiad 2022–23 (77.02/100); Gold Medal, English Olympiad Qualifier, November 2024; UAE Rank 1 in Grade 2.
Academic	Mathematics Olympiad	First in class, Mathematics Olympiad 2022–23, scoring 83.03/100.
Creative	Ongoing creative making	Creativity is a recurring interest: he makes models, masks and sculptures, has created Ganpati figures through pottery over three years, and built an aluminium foil cuboid over several weeks.
Creative	Art and costume design	His painting “Conquering Mars” was exhibited through a UAE art exhibition and sold for AED 500. He designed his own World Book Day costume and won Fancy Dress recognition in April 2023.
Philanthropic	Growing commitment to animal welfare	His affection for dogs is a lasting, growing interest. He has spent time with dogs at a shelter and donated a wheelchair for a dog.
Philanthropic	Reading Dogs proposal	Combining his interests in animals and reading, he researched and presented a reading-dog initiative to the school principal to support students.
Other	Recurring entrepreneurial ideas	He regularly develops ideas to make and sell things, including lemonade and flavoured popcorn stands; DESS Smart Start introduced product selection, pricing and sales planning.
Other	Perfume website project	Currently developing a perfume website, extending his ongoing interest in entrepreneurship into an online project.
Other	Reading Ambassador	Recognised as Reading Ambassador in Term 3 for helping promote enthusiasm for reading at school.
Sporting	Cricket — ongoing participation	Cricket is an ongoing sporting interest. He has also been recognised as a winner at the IJC Mini Cricket Festival.
Sporting	Karate — continuing practice	Achieved 8 Kyu in Shoseikan Goju-Ryu Karate; Certificate of Merit dated 14 February 2026. Continuing to pursue karate.
Sporting	Rugby and swimming	Participates in the school rugby ECA and swims at home three times a week as a self-directed fitness routine.

01 Academic

Ridhaan reads widely and has a sustained, self-motivated interest in languages, and a broader curiosity about how different systems work and connect.

SIX LANGUAGES

English Spoken	Hindi Spoken	Arabic At school	French At school	Spanish At school	German By choice
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GERMAN: FROM A TRIP TO A HOBBY

Ridhaan began weekly German lessons with a native tutor in Frankfurt in April 2025 to prepare for a family trip to Munich. After the trip he asked to keep going, and German has since become a personal hobby rather than a school subject.

Half of each lesson is language, half is culture: German history from the Roman era to Reunification, geography, food and customs, and even German home computing and puppet television, which connects to his own love of hand puppetry.

He has not sat a German exam. He studies it simply because he enjoys working out how languages fit together.

WHAT HE CAN DO NOW

- Read, pronounce and spell almost any German word
- Conjugate regular verbs he has never seen before
- Work with the nominative, accusative and dative cases
- Tell questions, statements, requests and commands apart
- Switch between casual and polite forms

“An exceptionally curious as well as receptive and engaged student ... willing to explore unfamiliar material rather than simply memorize it.”

Kent Alkan, native German tutor, Frankfurt · full letter on page 6

OLYMPIAD HIGHLIGHTS

Rank 1

in the UAE, English Olympiad Qualifier, Grade 2 (Gold, Nov 2024)

1st

in class, International English Olympiad 2022–23

1st

in class, International Mathematics Olympiad 2022–23

Olympiad results and school recognition for reading.



International English Olympiad 2022–23

SilverZone Foundation. 1st in class, state rank 7, score 77.02 / 100.



Reading Ambassador

Certificate of Appreciation, Term 3, for
spreading the love of reading across the school.

Letter from Ridhaan's German tutor

6 October 2026
Frankfurt am Main

To Whom It May Concern,

A native German speaker based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, I have been providing professional German language services online since 2013. It was in April 2025 that Mr. Rajiv Whabi first approached me, looking for a native German private language tutor for his son Ridhaan. The aim was to prepare for a family trip to Munich that summer. At the time, Ridhaan was nine years old, and our weekly one-hour video chat lessons began as a relaxed, conversational introduction to basic German vocabulary and useful phrases – including right away, however, a thorough introduction to German spelling and pronunciation.

Following the family's well-received trip to Munich, our lessons shifted focus toward more in-depth language study at Mr. Rajiv Whabi's request. Since then, the curriculum has developed further in response to the interests and preferences that Ridhaan has been expressing, as he has come to regard his German studies not merely as a school subject, but as a personal hobby and area of interest. As a result, approximately half of our lesson time focuses on in-depth language learning, while the other half is largely dedicated to comprehensive German cultural studies.

In terms of language learning, our classes have covered German spelling and pronunciation, foundational vocabulary – including numbers up to 999 – as well as the German grammatical genders and singular/plural forms, personal and possessive pronouns, the distinction between informal and formal forms of address, question words, prepositions, content clauses, and common prefixes and suffixes. In addition, we have extensively studied & practiced verb conjugation in the present tense (indicative and imperative), with increasing work on the past tense – also including modal verbs. Furthermore, Ridhaan has been exploring the nominative, accusative, and dative cases (“sender, parcel, and receiver”) with great attention and determination.

As a result, Ridhaan can now basically read,

pronounce, and spell out virtually any German word or expression he encounters. He has acquired a solid foundation in basic German grammatical structures. He can conjugate regular verbs even when ~~Alongside his own cultural studies, he includes a~~ ~~German history from the ancient Roman Empire~~ ~~through the medieval Holy Roman Empire, up to~~ ~~German Division, Weimar Republic, and beyond as well~~ ~~as geography, particularly focusing on the former~~ ~~East and West Germany. Further, his interests have~~ ~~explored German food and customs, German~~ ~~automobile brands, home computing in Germany –~~ ~~from the Commodore 64 to Windows 95 – and some~~ ~~more curious but nonetheless widely cherished~~ ~~instances of German popular culture, such as~~ ~~Kraftwerk and Hallo Spencer – the latter resonating~~ ~~with Ridhaan's personal interest in hand puppetry in~~ ~~particular.~~

From my perspective, Ridhaan is an exceptionally curious as well as receptive and engaged student. He responds particularly well when new language material is connected to cultural topics, and he is willing to explore unfamiliar material rather than simply memorize it. His development has been steady, and I consider his sustained interest over the course of our lessons particularly encouraging.

At this point, the focus of our lessons is gradually shifting toward putting together the language building blocks Ridhaan has acquired to form individual and increasingly complex sentences, while strengthening his comprehension of everyday spoken German through conversation and listening practice. I am pleased with the progress he has made so far and with the clear and genuine interest in the German language and culture that he is exhibiting.

Sincerely,



Kent Alkan
Native German Language Tutor
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

02 Creative

From costumes to painting, pottery, sculpture and models, Ridhaan likes turning ideas into something he can hold. Almost all of it is self-initiated.

COSTUME DESIGN: IDEAS MADE BY HAND



Ridhaan designed and built his World Book Day costume himself from cardboard and materials at home. It won the Best Costume award.

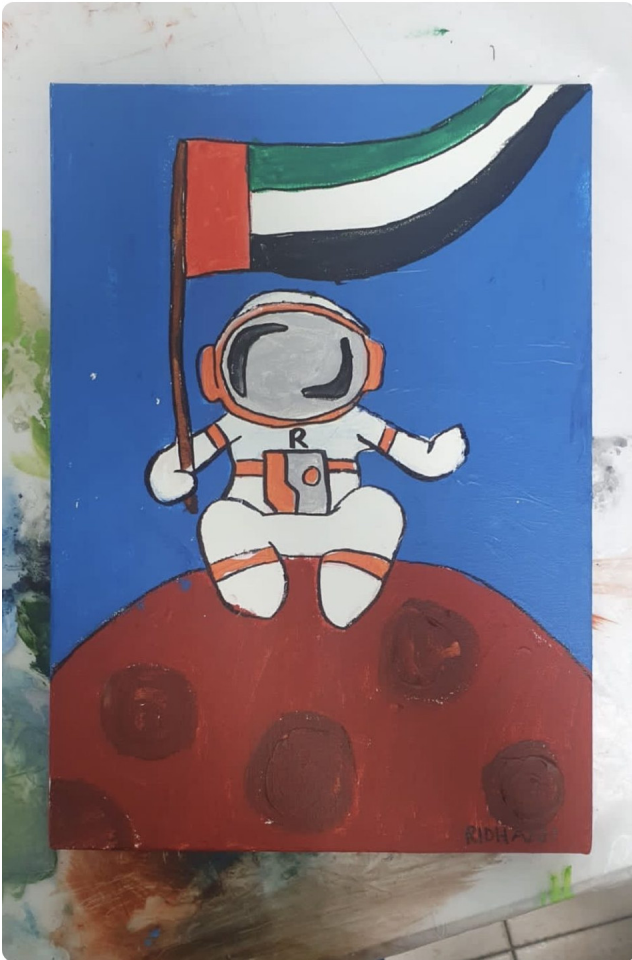


Fancy Dress Winner

Awarded on 17 April 2023 for *independently creating a traditional tale costume.*

The word that matters is “independently”: the idea, the design and the making were all his.

Painting & Art



"Conquering Mars": an imagined UAE presence on Mars.

EXHIBITED AND SOLD

Ridhaan's painting imagines the UAE on Mars, with an astronaut carrying the national flag.

The work was shown in a UAE art exhibition linked to *Love for Our Nation*, Dubai International Art Centre and Artezaar, and it sold for AED 500.

It is a good example of how he uses art: an imaginative idea, connected to the country he is growing up in.



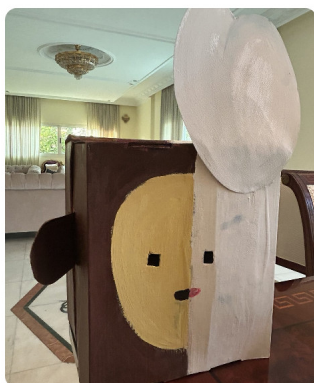
An ink landscape, experimenting with colour and flow.

Pottery, Masks & Models

Ridhaan experiments with shape, materials and construction: clay figures, wearable masks, sculptures and model scenes.



Ganpati figures in clay, one made each year for three consecutive years.



Left: a wearable character mask inspired by the comic Bunny vs Monkey. Right: sculptural work.



Model scenes, built and painted from scratch.

AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT

The Aluminium Foil Cuboid

Over several weeks, Ridhaan built a large cuboid out of recycled and newly bought aluminium foil.

Nobody set it as a task. It was his own idea, and it took patience to keep going until it was finished.

Curiosity, resourcefulness and persistence, in one shiny block.



Creative experiments & everyday projects

Street art

Developed an interest in street art on his own, and has worked with friends on graffiti and mural ideas.

In the kitchen

Enjoys experimenting with flavoured popcorn, and previously spent a lot of his free time baking.

Design

Designs menus, brochures and posters around his projects whenever there is something to sell.

03 Philanthropic

Ridhaan's affection for dogs is a lasting and growing commitment. He has spent time with dogs at a shelter, donated a wheelchair for a dog, and thinks of his friends' pets, sometimes buying them gifts. That care led to a proposal for his school.



A PROPOSAL TO THE PRINCIPAL

Bring a Reading Dog to our school

Ridhaan researched the Reading Dogs programme, wrote a presentation and petition, and presented it to the principal at DESS. It brings together his love of reading, his affection for animals and his willingness to take an idea forward.

Why read to a dog?

- Reading aloud can feel hard or embarrassing
- A dog doesn't judge mistakes
- Builds confidence and comfort reading aloud
- Makes library time something to look forward to
- Links reading with a positive experience

A library session

1. Choose a book
2. Sit with the reading dog
3. Read aloud
4. Pet the dog
5. Give an approved treat
6. Leave happier and more confident

Keeping everyone safe

- A trained dog, suitable for schools
- Adult supervision and the dog's handler present
- Students taught to interact safely
- Treats only with permission
- Another option for anyone uneasy around dogs
- Regular breaks for the dog

THE REQUEST

A reading dog for one week each year during library sessions, backed by signatures collected from students who support the idea.

04 Other Activities

Ridhaan regularly comes up with ideas to make and sell things, and likes understanding how earning money can serve a purpose.

Idea

Menu

Pricing

Promotion

Sales

How his small ventures come together, from first idea to first sale.



LEMONADE & POPCORN STALLS

Ran a lemonade stand and a flavoured popcorn stall with friends. He wrote the menus, set the prices and made sales at both.



CUSTOMER ACTIVITY

Created a themed word search and crossword for younger customers to enjoy at the stall.



GAMING CAFÉ CONCEPT

Explored the idea of a gaming café and designed its promotional poster on his own.

SCHOOL ECA

Smart Start

At DESS, explored product selection, pricing and sales planning.

IN PROGRESS

Perfume website

Currently building a perfume website, taking his interest in enterprise online.

SCHOOL ROLE

Reading Ambassador

Recognised in Term 3 for promoting enthusiasm for reading at school.

05 Sporting

Ridhaan enjoys sport in many forms. He likes teamwork and a physical challenge, and he builds discipline through routines he sets for himself.

Karate

8 Kyu, Shoseikan Goju-Ryu (Feb 2026), and still training

Rugby

A favourite through his school ECA, for the teamwork and challenge

Cricket

IJC Mini Cricket Festival winner

Swimming

Three times a week at home, by his own choice, to stay fit



Certificate of Merit, Japan Karate Center / Budobas International Karate-Do Academy, 14 February 2026.



IJC Mini Cricket Festival Winner, It's Just Cricket, Sports Village.

Curiosity · Creativity · Enterprise · Compassion · Initiative

Ridhaan follows his interests because he loves them, and turns ideas into things he can make, share and improve. We believe he would thrive in, and contribute to, the Dubai College community.