

MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO - MAGAZINE

MESSENGER

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AROUND THE WORLD WITH MES CAIRO



PRIMARY NEWS, WHOLE SCHOOL CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION, MODEL UNITED NATIONS, SPORTSDESK... AND SO MUCH MORE!

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Whole School Principal Foreword



We squeeze so much into an academic year at MES Cairo that it is far too easy to overlook something significant as we reflect over the 'year that was'. Fortunately, we have our wonderful MESsenger publication to remind us of many of the amazing things our students get up to during each term.

This edition celebrates our students' achievements on the sports field and the stage. We update you on academic successes and share our students' experiences representing the school in a variety of different capacities from MUN, to Pioneers events, to cultural excursions abroad. We review our two successful Art Exhibitions: the IBDP gallery of examined pieces and the MES Cairo Annual Art Exhibition featuring works from students from four to eighteen years of age. You will find notes and photographs about the many theme days and special events that have added excitement to the learning experiences of our Primary students and the creative ways that our Secondary students have been deeply exploring their curriculum. Alongside an insight into our students learning experiences you will find out more about the way our staff demonstrate a lifelong

commitment to their own learning and professional development.

The vibrant and dynamic nature of MES Cairo can sometimes make it hard to keep up, but it always ensures that there is never a dull moment. Each experience shapes each child's development; beyond the formal curriculum, through a rich and varied programme of exciting events and activities, students learn beyond the facts and figures and develop human skills such as collaboration, empathy, creativity and adaptability.

As another busy year draws to a close, find time to speak with your son/daughter about their year. Whilst they will be excited about the next one it is important to engage them in deep reflection about how much they have grown in the space of just ten months. Their physical development is easy to measure, but their intellectual and emotional growth is harder to quantify. Discuss the highlights and the challenges; set targets for the summer and the year to come. What better time to do that than whilst you turn the pages of this wonderful archive of memories of recent events.

Mrs Nicola Singleton

Foundation Stage One Concert and Grandparents Day



THROUGHOUT Term Three, Foundation Stage One has been busy! The students have grown, developed and matured a great deal since starting their MES Cairo journey back in September. They made this abundantly clear at their final two events. On Tuesday 23rd May,



the students and teachers hosted a Grandparents' Day. This day was made special by the children performing their concert and showing their grandparents around the yard. They introduced them to some of the games and activities that they participate in on a daily basis. The grandparents had a great time and boasted with pride as they watched their young grandchildren act so grown up. The students performed their concert with confidence



and ease. Parents, grandparents and students talked about this special day for the remainder of the week.

Following the Grandparents' Day, parents were invited in to watch the final concert performed by their children. The students sang their hearts out! With pride and confidence, they pretended to be divers showing the audience around the depths of the ocean. They met different sea creatures and every class had a chance to be in the spotlight. Blue class started off the adventure as jiggling jellyfish. As they swam on, they found Green class who were swirling, twirling starfish. Returning to the shore, the experienced divers found Orange class who were snappy orange crabs. Since the crabs were hot, they dove back in and found some lovely Red class dolphins jumping near the surface. Ready to go back in to the ocean, they dove further and ran into Yellow class who were wiggly octopods. Finally, they found the Violet class clownfish swimming around the anemone. With a grand finale consisting of a catchy song about avoiding fisherman, followed by a lovely



Arabic song, the show was over and the parents couldn't be more proud.

The students enjoyed their premiere on stage and now they are looking forward to participating in assemblies for their parents the following year. They are also excited about performing in a full production. With many young performers showing so much potential, we are sure they will experience much success in the future.

Ms A Creasy – Foundaton Stage One Year Leader

Student Conference Day in Foundation Stage Two



This special day was designed to instil a sense of pride and confidence in our students, not only as learners but also as teachers. It was great to be able to observe the students confidently reflecting on their learning and the quality of discussions between children and their parents was phenomenal.

The activities covered a range of different areas of the curriculum.

These included:

Literacy

Students read their reading books and answered given questions about a story.

Maths

Students solved addition and subtraction questions, using number lines and counters to support them.

Expressive Art and Design

Students designed and created a kite using a range of art resources available for our topic, Up Up and Away.

Book Station

Students went through their workbooks with their parents, sharing their favourite pieces of work from throughout the year.

Pod

Students showed their parents around the pod and chose an activity to work at with them.

It was a very positive experience for parents, students and teachers. Students were completely in charge of their learning which gave them confidence and a greater sense of belonging. Parents gained much awareness of their children's learning inside the classroom. As for teachers, we were delighted to see our young learners ready to lead learning and to teach others in line with our school motto; 'Leadership through education.'

Ms Mona Salama - Foundation Stage Two Green



Year One – Man on the Moon!

Our

Year One topic this term was called 'Man on the Moon', where the students learned all about Space and the history of space travel. To get everyone interested in the topic, we began with a very special visit from 'Neil Armstrong'. The students had worked hard to prepare their own questions for Neil and, after he explained his experience of travelling to the moon, they were given a brief Q & A session. We were very impressed with the students, who listened attentively



throughout the presentation, demonstrating maturity in their behaviour and asking well-formed and thought-provoking questions. One particularly memorable question came from Findlay MacDonald (Y1B), who asked "How did you get back to civilisation when you returned to Earth, after landing in the Pacific Ocean?"

The students were absolutely fascinated by Mr Armstrong's visit, which created much enthusiasm for the topic. Many students began investigating Space history at home and

5 4 3 2 1 **blast off...**

were coming into school with amazing facts and information to share with their class. This kind of engagement and connection to learning is always a pleasure to see and it motivated both students and teachers in developing and exploring a deeper understanding of the subject. It also boosted interest in the Space Race, where students researched and discovered information about America and Russia's race to send the first man to the moon. Laika, the first dog to go to Space, was a much-loved favourite amongst the Year One students and many of them were very sad to learn that she died in Space. Some students from Year One Yellow were so moved by Laika's story that they decided to make a card for Laika to thank her for her service!

The knowledge the students gained about astronauts and the Space Race was transferred into their English lessons, where they created timelines to identify which events came first and used these timelines to develop their understanding of



chronological order. The timelines were also useful in helping the students understand information about other astronauts, such as famous women in Space or when the International Space Station was developed. Finally, the students applied this knowledge through creating a recount of all they had learned about Space history, beginning with the Space Race and following all the way through to modern day astronauts and how the International Space Station is operated.



Another key event that boosted interest and curiosity in this topic was our 'Aliens and Astronauts' dress-up day. The Year One Pod was taken over with multi-coloured aliens and official looking astronauts who were keen to show off their costumes and role-play their favourite Space characters. The teachers were very pleased to see that so much effort had gone into creating home-made costumes and accessories, each one ingenious and interesting in its design. The students were surprised with a



special 'Cosmic Art' lesson from Ms Lacey, which was a real treat. Each student created their own solar system of planets and stars using various artistic techniques such as marbling and splatter painting.

Overall it has been a very exciting term and a fantastic way to end the year, with all the students showing enthusiasm and interest in our Space topic and demonstrating a keen curiosity about the world (and universe) around us. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such eager minds this year. The Year One teachers wish the students all the best as they move on in their academic careers.

Ms N Dobbin – Year One Yellow Teacher



YEAR TWO PRODUCTION - 'THE JOLLY POSTMAN'



One of the highlights of this year was preparing for and performing our year group production of 'The Jolly Postman'. Our show was inspired by the much-loved children's book which features a jolly postman who delivers letters to different fairytale characters.



Year Two teachers adapted the story by putting a twist on each of the traditional tales. We had a lot of fun re-telling familiar stories from a different perspective.



The production featured a remorseful Goldilocks being tried in court, a group of witches and wizards who decide to cast a spell to protect themselves against terrifying children only to discover that children aren't scary and dangerous after all, a tiny boy called Jack who invites a giant to an MES Cairo party, a group of wolf bullies who work on their relationship

skills and see the error of their ways, twenty little people who teach us all about being resilient and working hard and two step-sisters who realise that they haven't been very kind to their sister, Cinderella.

Preparations started with working with the Music Department to learn the songs. The Music Department used the script to write several original songs and adapt some other well-known songs for us. The students (and teachers!) had a lot of fun learning their class songs along with the three songs that we sang together as a whole year group! It was then time to begin work on learning the script! Many of the students had lots of lines to learn. The weeks before the performance day were spent on the stage rehearsing the songs, dances and acting parts. The students learnt about projecting their voices, getting into character and acting even if they weren't speaking at the time. It wasn't always easy and there were times when the students had to be very patient and wait for some time while the other classes rehearsed their parts. Time passed, the costumes arrived, the band rehearsed with us and slowly everything started to come together.

Finally, the day of the performance arrived. The excited albeit slightly nervous cast waited on the stage with anticipation as their parents came into the theatre. Wowed by the set design and costumes they knew they were in for a real treat, and what a show it was. The Year Two students were incredible throughout; performing the play, songs and dances with huge smiles and lots of enthusiasm. It was a wonderful day and one that will be a treasured memory of Year Two for parents, teachers and students alike.

Ms H Straub – Year Two Orange Teacher



YEAR THREE UPDATE

It seems like it was just yesterday that the school year started and we were meeting everyone for the first time. How small all the Year Three students looked! Over the past ten months we have shared many laughs, smiled and sometimes cried. Not all our days were easy, but they were filled with learning, excitement and happiness. Through hard work and dedication, the students have accomplished some extraordinary things! Their mathematical, reading and writing skills have improved greatly. The students are also inches taller, more mature and responsible. It has been a great pleasure for the teachers to watch the students grow and see their personalities unfold day by day.

Maths

One area in which they have grown considerably is in Maths. Remember the beginning of the year? Many of the students didn't know their times tables... fractions? There was a strange and terrifying word which gave them shivers. 3D? Isn't that something we find at the cinema? Fast forward ten months and they can now recall their times tables much faster. Not only that but they have started tackling division problems! 3D objects are cool and they especially enjoyed building them. Fractions, even though they might still be a little scary, are much less so now.

English

Time flew like an arrow in English this year! At the start of the year, that sentence would have been confusing for the students. But now they know what a simile is and can use them confidently in their writing. The students have learnt to write in many different genres

whether it be stories, play scripts, or reports. Comparing their writing from September and now, it is amazing at how much progress they have made! The students are also much more confident readers. They are now able to understand a text in far greater depth and can show this by inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions.

Topic

Topic was also an area full of excitement! Our Humanities units on Ancient and Modern Egypt were fascinating. Who can forget our trip to the pyramids! Even though it was hot outside the students enjoyed learning about their history and importance. They were also lucky enough



Y3R had loads of fun exploring the pyramids

to go inside one of them! Many of the students conquered their fear of small and dark spaces that day, congratulations. They thoroughly enjoyed our Science units as well. From learning about rocks to our bones to forces, it was a lot of fun filled with exciting experiments! Ask them which one was their favourite? Was it dissecting a fish? Mummifying a tomato? Or maybe it was our tug-of-war challenge? Whichever it was, they did it with open arms and huge smiles on their faces.

It's sad to think that the school year is almost over. Where did the time go? The students are ready to move on to greater challenges. Much of this year may fade from their memory over time but all your teachers hope that we will meet again. Whether it be next year or in fifteen years on the busy streets of Cairo, maybe in Canada, or in England, or anywhere else in the world, stop and say hello. Remember one thing: all the teachers believe in each and every one of you and know that you are capable of great things.

Mr J Orr – Year Three Yellow Teacher



Y3O learning about push and pull forces in a fun Tug-of-War!



Y3V fresh from their assembly all about risk taking



Y3Y practising mummifying a tomato



Y3G had many opportunities to explore Science



Y3B celebrating the end of our unit on Ancient Egypt

YEAR FOUR RESIDENTIAL TO AIN SOUKHNA



A huge pool, fabulous food, games on the beach, a disco, a talent show! Is this what school is supposed to be? It certainly wasn't a part of my school days!



You might have noticed some suntanned, cheerful faces in Year Four over the past few weeks and lots of smiling students. This is because we have just enjoyed our residential trip to the Stella di Mare hotel at Ain Soukhna.



The trip started about two weeks before we left when the students picked their room partners and received their list of what to bring. There were a million questions to be answered and a few nerves to be calmed and before we knew it, the bus was outside and we were all ready to go.

We couldn't all go at the same time so we divided up into pairs. Green class with Mr Boswell and Red class with Ms Carydias were the first to go, then Violet class with Ms Godber and myself with Orange class, leaving Mr Williams with Blue class and Mr Shilley with Yellow class making up the third trip.

Each trip followed the same format. We arrived at 10.30am and then it was the excitement of being given the keys to our rooms. A quick half an hour of unpacking and sorting ourselves out and then we had a stroll around the grounds before we sat down to a wonderful lunch. As usual the students from MES Cairo proved to be exceptionally polite and were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

After lunch we divided into our groups for some learning activities. There were five different activities: trust games, where students tried to navigate whilst wearing blindfolds, sand sculpture, orienteering, team games and sketching or parachute games. Each group found its own space in the outstanding hotel grounds.





It was great fun to do some learning outside and the whole atmosphere was very relaxing.

We enjoyed two activities and then it was time for a swim in the huge pool. The temperature was just perfect. We all jumped in for a swim and splash about before going back to the rooms and getting ready for dinner.

Dinner was a real delight and then it was time for the much-awaited Talent Show. Each class had chosen three acts to perform and the stage was set for the final. The quality of the acts was very impressive indeed. We had expert gymnasts, wonderful dancers and singers, comedians, magicians and even a memory act. We also had a little international flavour with one of the students performing his Pencil Rap, all the way from Lesotho.

We had a disco to round off the evening. Although some students still had lots of energy and were showing off their moves on the dance floor, many were tired and were glad to get back to their comfortable beds for a well-earned rest.

The next morning saw us all enjoy breakfast before we completed

the final three activities. We then packed our bags, had lunch and then sadly waved goodbye to Ain Soukhna before heading for home.

Although the trip was, of course, incredibly good fun, there is a more serious purpose to a residential stay. As part of the MES Graduate profile, we want our students to be independent, resourceful, resilient individuals who can cope in testing circumstances. Staying overnight, away from your family, is a huge challenge. A school trip is often the first time that students have been away from home on their own. The Ain Soukhna trip is part of a well-thought out Key Stage Two programme. In Year Four we have just one night away, then in Year Five students undertake a Nile Cruise and in Year Six students visit Cyprus. All of these trips help our students to become independent and develop skills that they will need for the future.



The Year Four teachers are very proud of the students as they all behaved fantastically well, showed wonderful maturity and brought tremendous energy, fun and a refreshingly positive attitude to the whole trip.

Mr A Hainsworth
Year Four Orange
Teacher

YEAR FIVE STUDENTS TRAVEL DOWN THE NILE

From sailing down the River Nile with the feel of a luxurious breeze on our faces, to the awe-inspiring remains of an ancient civilisation, the Year Five Nile Cruise had it all. A quiet terminal at Cairo International Airport soon became a bustling hub of anticipation as our Year Five students arrived, anxious and excited, ready for a wonderful experience. The students were provided with hats to wear throughout the trip and not much later, the sea of colour soon made its way to the boarding gates.

Upon landing in Luxor, the stifling heat was immediate and we made our way onto the buses, ready to experience one of the most iconic temples, the Temples Karnak and Luxor. Standing tall, lining the corridors throughout the temple, the columns were an intimidating presence. Each piece of stone had been intricately hand-carved and transported with precision. The site was truly remarkable. Each of the sites we visited was not only significant in size but also held fascinating stories written in hieroglyphs, covering every inch of the stone work. It was a truly inspirational place to be.

We were privileged to experience a tour of the West Bank as well as Kom Ombo. The Temple of Philae was an



incredible feat of Science as each rock had been pieced together from its original underwater site and then rebuilt on a small island.

The food on the boat was fantastic and a wonderful variety was served for each meal. Although unpopular at first, Mr Robertson's insistence on vegetables and salad paid off, with the line for those usually the busiest of all. We were also very honoured to share special tenth birthdays with three of our students. One of the students' biggest highlights each year, is the Talent Show and this year the acts were incredible, ranging from dance to comedy. A wonderful evening of entertainment was provided by the students.

The peace and tranquillity of the Nubian Village was a welcome change of pace compared to the bustle of Cairo. We enjoyed the opportunity to barter with the local sellers, as many of us purchased gifts and memorabilia to take home.

All in all, the Nile Cruise was a trip of a lifetime and a real highlight for our Year Five students at MES Cairo.

Mr A Hinchliffe – Year Five Red Teacher



Year Five Summer Fete

Years

One to Four
and Year Six
were treated

to an incredibly fun and entertaining event when Year Five students hosted their annual Summer Fete on the morning of 11th May. The theme of this year's Summer Fete was Collaborative Creativity, key qualities in the MES Cairo Graduate Profile. All the profits from the day went to the MES Cairo 'Adopt a School' project.

Ideas for the Summer Fete were gleaned when Year Five had the opportunity to attend the Year Eight Enterprise Day in April. The students thoroughly enjoyed trying out the different games at the various stalls. On the morning of the Summer Fete, there were a wide range of stalls set up, each offering activities and games, all designed and led by the Year Five students.



tokens collected (awarded to Yellow Class) and the individual group with the most tokens collected (Youssef Khalifa, Moustafa El Zayat, Ali Badr, Youssef Shokry and Yassin Megahed (Y5G).

Mr McCormick was given the daunting task of selecting the individual group with the most creative and innovate game/stall. Congratulations to Laila Selim, Maryam Nassar, Karin Youssef and Farah Fady (Y5G).



The students were given two weeks to complete their projects. From the initial concept and idea, to creating posters and promotional material. Students remained in total control of everything that went on their stall.



One of the most popular stalls was 'Pie Face', which as the name suggests, involved students getting splattered with a large amount of whipped cream. Enthusiastic crowds of students

gathered to witness some of the Year Five teachers participate in this activity!

Students worked tirelessly all morning, from the setting up of their stalls at 8.00am until the last of the groups left at 12.00pm. Despite the warm day and constant flow of students, the students were in high spirits and enthusiastic throughout. They were also motivated by the prospect of winning one of the three special prizes on offer. These were given to the class with the most



Feedback from the students after the event suggested that this was their favourite event of the calendar, rivalled only by the Year Five Sports Day. All the teachers agreed that what made the day so special was the amount of smiling faces that were on show. Everyone involved had such positive attitudes and each class should be proud of their efforts. All the students displayed the 5Rs to the best of their abilities. Well done Year Five!

Mr K McCauley – Year Five Yellow Teacher





French Day 2017



Excellent work was submitted by a number of students for French Day this year. Some students researched key people in French history and compiled a list of them, others created a timeline of important events whilst others drew a map of France showing the locations of French cities, towns and places of interest. We also collected fact-files about France, created a tour guide for people who are planning to visit the country, compared the population and area of France with other countries and found out about the countries that share a border with France. The students made an extensive list of French speaking countries and the currencies that are used there.



France. Laila Nasr (Y6R) made a fantastic poster about French food, architecture, culture and sport. Malak Lotfy (Y6R) and Ali Lasheen (Y6R) undertook a research project about famous French people. Judy Badawy (Y4V) made a comprehensive list of French speaking countries. Jana Gad, Maya El Zuheiry and Malak Abou Laban (Y4V) made detailed fact-files about France. Tia Wael Zarifa (Y4B) gave an excellent presentation to her class about famous French people. Maleeka Ramadan (Y4B) did a project on Sandrine Bonnaire, the famous French movie star. Briana Ailincal (Y4B) drew a map of France and its bordering countries.



Outstanding work was produced by:

Hala Khedr (Y4V) and Essam Adel (Y4V) both made superb models of the Eiffel Tower. Hala also prepared a fact-file about

Bravo! Bon travail!

Mr D Murphy – Primary French Teacher



A Year of Discovery in Primary Science

At MES Cairo we aim to cultivate a generation of students informed by Science, inspired by its wonder, aware of its value and willing to engage with its implications for the future of Egypt and the world.



This year Science lessons across the Primary school have been embedded with scientific enquiry to provide students with opportunities to engage in a variety of actions, including observing, explaining, concluding, sorting, classifying and predicting.



Working scientifically encourages our students to discover the principals for themselves. By prompting enough curiosity, our students are motivated to explore and

exercise independent thinking, and they are encouraged to analyse problems and think critically.

We have incorporated a range of exciting science trips into the Science curriculum. These trips provide students with experiences outside their everyday activities, such as going to the Wadi to investigate the properties of rocks and fossils, visiting Fagnoon to explore how different materials are used and spending time at the Wadi Environmental Science Centre to examine animal habitats. Year Six thoroughly



enjoyed their residential trip to Cyprus where they had the opportunity to observe ecosystems in their natural state. The students experienced hands-on learning based on the research they completed in class about habitats prior to the trip. The rock pools along the beach proved to be a treasure trove of discovery as the students found crabs, shrimp and even a tiny octopus hiding in the crevices under rocks. Overall, these science trips aim to develop a lifelong interest for our students in science, nature, and the environment.



Our year of discovery has shown that Science can help us to answer the what, the why and the how, while also revealing new questions. Thanks to the wonderful opportunities and resources available to our students at MES Cairo, the only limits are those we imagine!

Mrs J Boukottaya – Primary Assistant Headteacher for Topic



YEAR SIX CYPRUS TRIP

At the beginning of the academic year, the students were often asked what they were looking forward to most of all in Year Six. The near unanimous response could be summed up in one word... CYPRUS! The outdoors would become our classroom and the culture, language, customs and traditions will be a new experience. In the time leading up to departure, not one week went by without mention of the trip; for many it was going to be the highlight of the school year. Soon it was time to check passports, tick off items on the clothing and kit list, pack bags, attach luggage labels and jump in the car to head to the airport. We said farewell to our families and made our way to check-in and then to the departure gate.



Strangely enough, none of the students seemed that interested in the aircraft and its technical specifications as we were bussed to our waiting flight. "It's a narrow-body, Brazilian-built Embraer ERJ-170 short-haul aircraft!" enthused the teacher. This vital nugget of information was met with blank, uncomprehending stares. Moving on, we were soon seated, airborne and then on our way. After an uneventful flight lasting just seventy-five minutes, we landed at Larnaca Airport and, without delay, were whisked by coach to our hotel in Paphos. With our rooms allocated, it was time to unpack, have an evening meal and prepare for the next day: our first full day of outdoor activities.



The next morning, we were greeted by an azure sky, brilliant sunshine, a gentle breeze and the opportunity to fully appreciate our new surroundings. The immediate landscape was green and it was peaceful ... no traffic noise anywhere. With rucksacks around our shoulders, packed lunches safely stowed and strong trainers on our feet, our first foray into this new environment saw us heading off to Avakas Gorge, a masterpiece of nature with its towering limestone cliffs, rare plants and magnificent views. After a two-kilometre walk, with a certain amount of clambering over small rocks and criss-crossing the babbling stream, the gorge narrowed and we could go no further. Re-tracing our steps, we arrived back at the bus and then it was on to the coast for beach study where time was patiently spent looking for aquatic specimens in the many rock pools. It was warm work, so the unexpected ice-cream, prior to heading back to the hotel, was a welcome treat indeed! On our return, we changed quickly into swimming costumes and enjoyed an hour's relaxation in the hotel pool, before the buffet dinner and an evening's entertainment provided by a highly-talented group of Cypriot dancers. Our verdict on the first day? An amazing day filled with fun new experiences!

With the domestic routines at the hotel now firmly established, the second day beckoned. Following a short bus ride in the morning, we spent time preparing for a day of fieldwork activities based in and around Episkopi Environmental Centre. It was quite a trek from the Centre to an idyllic, off the beaten track location to spend an hour or so pond-dipping and exploring stream life. With the need for keen observation skills and a great deal of patience, we were soon dipping our nets and collecting a wide range of specimens for later



examination. With weary legs and tired bodies, we arrived back at the Centre. However, our aches were soon forgotten as we experienced enjoyable and meaningful hands-on learning, when we examined those specimens up close and under the microscope. With a pleasant diversion to engage in a spot of late-afternoon, souvenir-shopping in Paphos completed, it's not surprising that a few eyes were firmly closed as we headed back to the hotel for dinner, a fun-filled quiz and a welcome bed.

An early start was required for our third day outdoors. It was going to be physically challenging, so we were told, but excitement rippled through the group on hearing that we would be rock-climbing, abseiling, experiencing survivor skills and orienteering. An hour's bus ride away and we arrived at the Zephyros Adventure



Sports Centre, to be greeted by our team of fit, energetic and enthusiastic instructors. With safety a top priority, we were ready to push back the boundaries and step outside of our comfort zones by scaling a rocky outcrop. With a 'have a go' mentality, some of us experienced the thrill of reaching the top and abseiling safely down. Others, likewise adopted a single-minded, determined attitude and climbed as far as they could. Everyone rightly wore a proud smile. That was something special!

We then moved onto orienteering; with map and compass in hand we had way-marks to find, survival activities to practise and there could be no adult intervention, so this called for teamwork, cooperation, thinking skills and shared decision-making. Yet, we managed it and the orienteering course was safely and successfully negotiated. Back at the hotel, dinner was served and the much-anticipated disco provided an opportunity to let our hair down, have fun and just enjoy the company. Tomorrow would be time for the return flight to Cairo and our waiting parents, but not before a morning spent enacting the Greek myth surrounding Aphrodite's Rock and a visit to Curium, the site of an ancient Greek-Roman amphitheatre.

As we reflected on the Cyprus adventure, we could all say that we gained much from the experience. It gave us the opportunity to develop a sense of teamwork, cooperation, ownership and responsibility for self and others. We also seized the opportunity

to communicate solely in English and to experience a new environment and a different culture. We demonstrated our readiness to accept physical and problem-solving challenges that required teamwork, individual stamina, focus and determination, as well as being prepared to extend ourselves by experiencing a range of previously untried activities. Last, but not least, we took pride in our own achievements whilst appreciating and celebrating the achievements of others.



Our grateful thanks and appreciation to the SMT, PSLT, Year Six teachers and MES Cairo administrative staff for working so hard to provide us with a truly unique Primary school experience... never to be forgotten!

Mr B McCormick – Year Six Yellow Teacher



PRIMARY ART



Primary
students from Year One through to Year Six had the opportunity to showcase some of their artwork from this academic year as part of the whole school Creative Arts Exhibition hosted by MES Cairo on Monday 22nd April 2017. The Artwork featured



ranged from Contemporary to Renaissance styles. These pages are filled with beautiful examples of students demonstrating their creativity.

Ms K Odekirk – Primary Art





The Creative Arts Exhibition 2017



This year, the Secondary Art, Primary Art and Design and Technology departments aimed at putting on a show that celebrated our talented students' creative work and we wanted to ensure that the whole show was also a visual delight in itself. Special framework was designed to cater for our 'unpredictable' weather and to hold 3D and 2D work of all sizes. Designed with acute use of line and angles to complement our school's architecture, we also chose bright pastel colours with neon lights as our colour base to off-set the beautiful grounds and plants of the school.



Specially featured were members of the charity 'Right to Live', whose work was proudly displayed with many of the artists in attendance. It was delightful to see so many people purchasing work in support of the charity.

We would like to thank Mr Clement and Mr Tamer and their very special teams, including Mr Mohamed and Mr Ahmed the carpenters, and Mr Mahmoud the electrician. None of this would be possible without them. Their patience is legendary! The Art,





The Art and the Design Technology teachers spent much time, energy and effort in creating the work



in the first place, and then to showcase it. We are all very proud of the results.



A special thank you to Mrs Sawsan Dajani, Ms Ghada Dajani and Ms Nicki Singleton for allowing us such ambitious plans and supporting us all the way. The continual support and investment in all our creative endeavours is very much appreciated.



A final thank you to our teachers and students for your hard work and attendance. It was a bright and pretty exhibition which we hope you all enjoyed.

Ms K Tapsell - HOD, Visual Arts

LIPSTANDER FURNITURE PROJECT

Grade Nine and Ten students researched artists who were activists and who use their art to make the world a better place, such as using sustainable materials for



Grade class with tables

architecture, encouraging human rights and making art accessible to historically marginalised people.



Aliaa Hussein G9B and Rawan Louai G9R



Amina Shourbagy G10R and Hassan Sinbel G10R

Students chose a personal upstander (activist) as inspiration, someone who has shown them how to be a better person. This upstander provided colour and design choices, and all the designs you see with the mosaics started with a design proposal that captured the essence and meaning of their personal upstanders. Students also worked on effective collaboration, by working with a partner throughout the mosaic process.

The mosaic tables have been much admired and sold to raise money for charity.

Ms J Walker – Art Teacher



Gana Kassas G10R



Omar Sharkawy G10Y and Mohsen Mohamed G10B



Essam El Din G9B and Seaf Hossam G9G



Nada Iskander G10Y



Natalie Aziz G10Y and Nancy Azazy G10Y



Leila El Taweel G10Y and Tia Hossam G10B



Sondos Abouhozaifa G9G and Sara Barawy G9Y



Zeinedin El-Helw G9B and Hussein Ragui G9B



Nina Battioni G9R and Jomona Mohamed G9R

Oriental Weavers Rug Competition 2017

Congratulations to the Oriental Weavers Rug Competition winners. This year our competition was based on the 'act of giving' to link to the Creative Arts Exhibition. Thank you to Mrs Talbot for being our final judge. This year we decided to choose the best ten from both Primary and Secondary, rather than by age group. We had some beautiful entries and Mrs Talbot found it extremely difficult to pick just ten. We were very fortunate that the Oriental Weavers



Farah Khalil Y7B



Farida Megahed Y2G



Habiba Attiah Y7R



Jana El Sherif G10R



Khadija Tawfik FS2V



Jana Farid Y8R



Jana Safi Y2B



Maryam Atta Y7R



Ali Abdel Hady Y7R



Merna Tarek Y7Y



Maurice Andrawes Y6G



allowed us to have an extra rug made as there were so many good ones. Many thanks to Mariam at the Oriental Weavers for all her arrangements and hard work. Well done everybody, we hope you enjoy your rugs.

Ms K Tapsell – HOD Visual Arts



International Baccalaureate Exhibition 2017

After

two years of hard work, reflection and revelations the IBDP Twelve students curated their Final Exhibition representing



40% of their final grade. Each student had a very definite individual style and vision, thus they worked hard to maintain their independence whilst curating the show that had a holistic overall appeal. Demands of sound, sand and



light meant the Exhibition was constantly evolving and the students rose admirably to the occasion, sharing beautifully two floors in the MPH amongst the six students.

Students were asked to curate between 8-11 pieces of work, that were all personal and thematically based and that showed how they had worked in three practices 2D, 3D and lens-based media. Each student worked to their strengths and it was a genuine pleasure to see how diverse the Exhibition was from light installations, to a sand mountain,





to a recycled family of sculptures surrounded by neon light. Underpinning this were the many personal themes the students had chosen, applied to national and global contexts.



The artists were strongly supported by all of the other IBDP students. On the first floor the gentle piano accompaniment by Yassin Osman (DP11Y) created an elegant ambiance and it was fun to have Youssef Hanna (DP12R) as a live model as part of the show, whilst upstairs the rocky guitar



riffs from Mahmoud El Shabba (DP12Y) created a more edgy atmosphere and befitted the works, especially



the installation from the ceiling. It was an exciting and interesting evening, and we hope these promising students continue on with their creative and international learning journeys.

Congratulations to Yola Elwy (DP12Y), Habiba Dessouky (DP12Y), Farida Waleed (DP12Y), Sarah Taweel (DP12R), Ali Baha (DP12R) and Fatima Talaat (DP12Y).

With special thanks to Mr Tamer and Mr Clement and their teams, especially Mr Mohamed, Mr Ahmed and Mr Mahmoud for all their support and patience.

Ms K Tapsell – HOD Visual Arts

YEAR EIGHT ART

This term Year Eight students have been celebrating the golden age of Egyptian film. They have been developing their excellent observational drawing skills and up-scaling classic Egyptian

film posters using water colour pencils. The students have been very committed and have enjoyed working with modern materials on the classic film posters.

Ms L Lacey – Art Teacher



Shuhud El Dajani Y8B



Youssef El Refaie Y8B



Zeina Fawry Y8O



Hussein Soliman Y8O



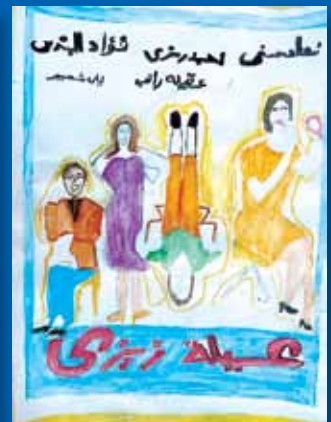
Claudia Verdi Y8Y



Farida Zeidan Y8B



Fayrouz Badr Y8B



Malak Halafawy Y8B



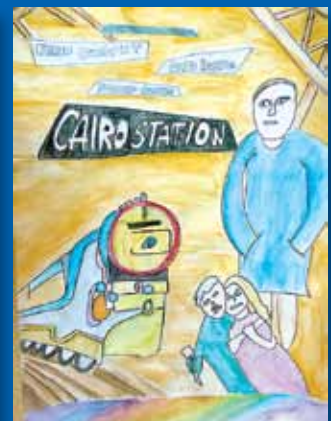
Nadine Helmy Y8O



Nouri El Zarki Y8O



Jana Farid Y8R



Layla Dajani Y8R

Year Nine Photography

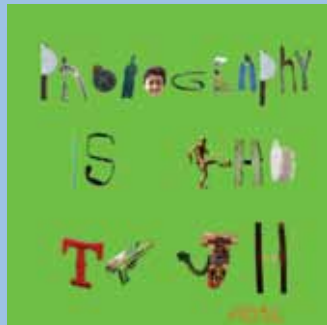


Michael Tapsell Y9Y

cartoon like style, featured onto a mixture of collage and inks that are scanned into Photoshop. Their skillset continues to develop at an excellent pace.

Ms K Tapsell – HOD Visual Arts

Year Nine students have had a very busy final term exploring mixed media with photography. Looking at the artist Kenny Scharf and at design properties they have created inspirational posters, using famous quotes about photography with every letter represented by one of their own photos. They have taken their favourite food, photoshopping them into a flat



Adel Serry Y9B



Hana El Badri Y9B



Aisha Mostafa Y9R



Omar Mazloum Y9B



Aisha Mazen Y9R



Nadia El Gohary Y9Y

YEAR NINE ART TRIP



Year Nine had a unique experience this term when they visited the studio of prominent Egyptian artist Mohamed Abla in Giza. He graciously hosted us for hours; answering questions, giving the students painting and photographic tips, showing them how he paints and painting for the students themselves in their sketchbooks. He opened up his studio to us, allowing us to see his new projects not yet exhibited to the general public as well as get a close-up look at all

his tools, equipment and material. Students will benefit immeasurably from meeting a working artist, their new knowledge will help them

in their research and technical skills for their coursework and final exams next year. Students who start coursework for final submission this summer are already considering how Mohamed



Abla has inspired them and how his philosophy of creating can help them become better artists themselves.

Mohamed Abla is a very successful and constantly in high demand artist, for him to grant us his time and wisdom was a sheer delight and a great honour.

Ms K Tapsell – HOD Visual Arts



Grade Nine and Ten Puppets

Students created puppets based on personal characteristics. Next, they found animals that were associated with these characteristics, much like Egyptian and Native American Cultures do through masks, sculptures, and costumes. They used these animals to design a "creature" that was a combination of three or more animals. These drawings were then cut up, and students made their puppet as a combination of drawings from their peers.

Ms J Walker – Art Teacher



Nina Battioni G9R



Sondos Abouhazifa G9G



Carine Mohamed G10B



Natalie Aziz G10Y



Mohsen Ghafar G10B



Leila El Taweel G10Y



Leina Khaled Wahab G9Y



Kenzy Walid G10B



Youssef Shokier G10G

Zamalek Grade Nine/Ten Art Trip



Grade Nine and Ten students went to the Egyptian Museum of Modern Art and the Palace of Arts located at the Opera Centre of Culture in Zamalek. Working with partners, they studied the paintings and sculptures by world famous Egyptian artists



through guided discussions and sketches. Next, they went to the Palace of Arts to view an exhibit of artists from over seventy countries who created political cartoons addressing gender issues all around the world. Students reflected on common themes expressed in many cultures. The trip achieved its goal of building visual literacy as well as cultural pride.

Ms J Walker – Art Teacher

Year Eleven - AS Level Art

Practising with a variety of drawing and painting media, the AS Level Art students experienced real growth as they explored various topics in depth. Most recently, they completed the Controlled Test by working for fifteen hours over three days of vigorous art creation.

Mr B Myers – Art and Photography Teacher



Tala Mosalam Y11R



Tala Mosalam Y11R



Bushra Mettawa Y11B



Bushra Mettawa Y11B



Lama Amin Y11Y

Grade Eleven Art 3 and Pre AP



Ismail Hiza G11R

Collage

Onto a canvas size and shape of their own choosing, students fixed a layer of newspaper and magazine pieces. This initial

layer served as a background onto which each student collaged a likeness of an MES Cairo staff member. The final artworks represent a successful study in collage, composition and colour.

Cardboard

Students worked with a mixture of media to construct pretty imaginative pieces. With only an unfolded cardboard box as a starting surface, the artists had to tear, glue, draw and paint to establish a final artwork emphasising texture and shallow three-dimensional space.



Alia El Abassiry G11Y



Nour Rizk G11B



Malak El-Ahwal G11Y

Mr B Myers – Art and Photography Teacher

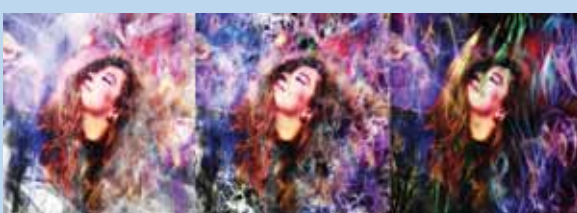


Farida Badie G12Y

AP Art

AP Art students worked hard to finish their final pieces and get them sent off to the United States for marking. After one year of class, they each now have a portfolio of twenty-four excellent works of art.

**Mr B Myers
Art and Photography
Teacher**



Brigitte Khozam G12G



Rozan Saber G12B

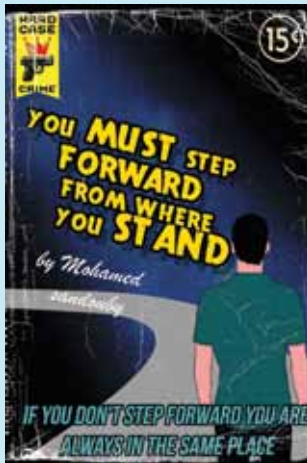


Hana Moamen G12R



Salma Megahed G12B

Grade Twelve DVM



Mohamed Sandouby G12R



Tarek Abdel Wahab G12G

Our Grade Twelve DVM class worked on digital design properties for advertising and to create posters that illustrated their future prospects, by working from the phrase 'we must step forward from where we stand'.



Ahmed Hakim G12G



Farida Salem G12B



Hoda Sherdy G12R

Students used a mixture of photography, drawing and photoshop skills to be able to create their motivational posters and adverts.

Ms K Tapsell – HOD Visual Arts



Yassien Ashour G12R

Grade Twelve Photography

The Senior Photography students were exceptional this year. Several aspects of photography and artistic design were explored and many fine pieces of art were created.

Mr B Myers – Art and Photography Teacher



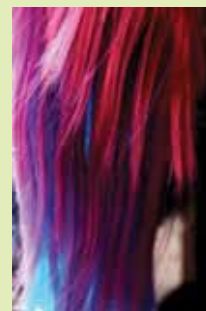
Layla Maksoud G12B



Nour El Rifaee G12B



Brigitte Khouzam G12G



Zeina Khaled G12G



Hoda Sherdy G12R



Amina El-Helw G12B



Salma Megahed G12B



Karim El Kersh G12B

American Section

English

Grade Seven

Ms Scott's Grade Seven students began the transition into Secondary English with short stories and then enjoyed the leap from short story to full-length novel through the whole-class reading of *Hatchet* by Gary Paulson. After a brief non-fiction unit on health and wellness, students continued the theme of self-identity through the study of *Wonder*, by R. J Palacio. Students wrote character analysis essays, poetry, participated in Socratic Seminars, and "hot seat" role-playing and created their own self-portraits in the same individual style as the characters portrayed in the novel. Students then composed poetry of their own while creating projects around song lyrics and other forms of spoken/written language. The theme for the year was "Everyone deserves a standing ovation at least once in their lives," and every single one of those Grade Seven students deserved exactly that!

Grade Eight



Ms Elsadaany's Grade Eight English class launched the year with the dystopian world of *The Giver*. Students collaboratively worked on a *Parallel Project* as a culminating effort comparing the class novel to chosen texts and film versions. *Maze Runner*, *Divergent Series*, *The Hunger Games*, and *City of Ember* were represented in the exciting project work that followed. Term Two saw students celebrate Black History Month by exploring the Great Depression and the hardships and troubles faced, specifically by African Americans, with *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. In Term Three, they studied Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Students evidenced their learning through multi-modal technology platforms like Quizlet, as well as, debates, Socratic Seminars, and presentations. Well done!

Grade Nine

Ms Hawthorne's and Ms Scott's students began the year with *Freak the Mighty*, and they continued the theme of mentors and the hero's journey through *Of Mice and Men*. *Animal Farm* was a sharp departure from the character-driven novels as it focused on the allegory of the Russian Revolution and the idea of power and language. Students learned about positive and negative propaganda and how both affect their beliefs in society. This was followed by the study and literary analysis of *Romeo and Juliet*, the classic Shakespearean drama that students enjoyed as they made connections to their Egyptian culture as well as the modern world. They concluded the year by creating their own anthology of poems reflecting on their personal journey.

Grade Ten



Ms Cole's and Ms Hawthorne's English 2 classes began the year questioning the inherent nature of mankind through the reading of the novel *Lord of the Flies*. In the Honors class,

students explored the novel *Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian* through various literary lenses, which they applied to different texts throughout the year. In a short story unit, students explored literary devices while questioning the status quo of female archetypes in a broad range of texts. In their third unit, students were asked to critically reflect on what Chimamanda Adiche calls “the danger of a single story.” Through a deep exploration of various texts along with Achebe’s novel *Things Fall Apart*, students looked at the language used in stories from multiple perspectives in order to synthesise a less biased truth. They developed a 26-page “Literary Ethnography” of information gleaned about the Igbo people using cultural relativism (versus ethnocentrism). The school then voted on the best projects, and winners were celebrated for their efforts. The Honors class, studied the play *Macbeth*, looking at what it means to be a tragic hero. Through a variety of activities, students gave riveting performances and developed analytical journal projects. In the last unit, all English students looked at the art of rhetoric. They began by looking at rhetorical strategies used in both print and commercial advertising. In groups, they developed their own commercials/print ads applying Aristotle’s appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos. They then examined the art of Spoken Word, or slam poetry, by studying the rhetoric used by various artists in the documentary *Louder than a Bomb*. Students ended the year by developing their own spoken word poems in order to perform in a grade-wide poetry slam, showcasing their hard work and growth this year!

Grade Eleven



The Grade Eleven students have studied multiple literary works through which they have analysed the meaning and complexity of The American Dream, questioned identity, and international mindedness. Classes have primarily followed a chronological arrangement of texts meant to complement their studies in their U.S. history classes. They began the year with a study of the foundations of American culture and literature and compared that culture in its similarities and differences to that of Egypt. They started with texts

grounded in the Native American oral tradition and then moved through a series of literary and philosophical periods. Students learned to identify the types of historical and social events that bring about the transition from one literary movement to another through



shorter texts and/or *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. They explored the modern period through the jazz age classic, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and into the post-World War II period with Arthur Miller’s critique of unfettered capitalism in *Death of a Salesman*. In Term Three, they read *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare and examined the text in a variety of lively and engaging ways. Ms Bull’s Grade Eleven Honors students defended their ideas about the themes in *The Crucible* in a formal debate with a guest judge. Mr Moataz Abdallah, a lawyer from Alexandria. In Term Two, the students conducted a final American Dream debate, carrying out research involving seven various literary works in front of the guest judge, Mr Patrick Scott, a freelance journalist for *The New York Times*. English II Honors students also studied *Invisible Man* by taking part in an International Collaboration Project (ICP) with students from a High School in the state of Ohio. The ICP required the Honors students to work asynchronously, much like they will be required to do at the university level. Excellent work, Grade Eleven! We are looking forward to next year!

Grade Twelve

Ms Croix’s students responded in journals to difficult and thought-provoking quotes by famous writers and thinkers. We explored concepts such as utopia, colonialism and its effects, human rights, individual identity and society, guilt and redemption. The works through which we explored these themes included, George Orwell’s *Shooting an Elephant*, Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*, Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner*, Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, and a series of speeches by winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, including Desmond Tutu and Aung San Suu Kyi. Students completed a research unit in which they prepared a multimedia presentation and a briefing memo on an area of concern for human rights in a country of their choosing. Ms Hawthorne’s Honors Grade Twelve students’ found a different set of challenges as their focus shifted to America, where they analysed the novel *In Cold Blood* by Truman

Capote and examined the theory of Nature vs Nurture. The class enjoyed the legal aspect of dissecting a real case, and at the end of the term the students submitted their unique ideas for their final literary research paper and presentations. Good luck! The future is yours!

AP Literature



"You cannot teach a man anything, you can only help him find it within himself." Galileo Galilei

The AP students fulfilled Galilei's and Ms Bull's hope for them. They were challenged with the endeavour of understanding a work's complexity and its richness of meaning. They began with studying multiple short stories by Chopin, Oates, O'Connor, Hawthorne, Marquez, and Gillman. Then they moved into a comparative analysis of *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad and *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe; they analysed Conrad's style and Achebe's reaction to both the text and Conrad's personal bias in "An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness'". Their analysis was presented in a debate and dialogue in front of a journalist who has written for *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, and other various publications. The journalist provided feedback, asked challenging questions, and offered advice to the young scholars. Students then considered language profile and identity paired with gender and ethnicity within social relations through their close reading of *Invisible Man*, during which they collaborated via blogging and project based learning with international AP students in America to reflect on their reading and personal experiences. They also enjoyed a poetry unit that asked them to consider the social and historical values. Finally, they studied works of drama ranging from *A Doll's House* to *Death of a Salesman*. The AP students were challenged, but as Galilei asserts that the educator must help the student to do, they found *it* inside themselves. Ms Bull is excited to see what their futures hold!

AP Language

This year in AP Language and Composition, Ms Croix's class examined a variety of non-fiction texts and essay types. They examined visual works with the unit culminating in their writing an essay about the rhetorical effects of an award-winning photograph of their choosing. They then moved on to examinations of speeches and essays by a diverse range of writers including Queen Elizabeth I, John F. Kennedy, Henry David Thoreau and David Foster Wallace. The class also studied the rhetorical devices and strategies used in their classmates' writing. They practised the essay types that appear on the exam; synthesis, rhetorical analysis and argument. Using the beautiful and moving memoir about life in Egypt and beyond, *A Border Passage* by Leila Ahmed as a launching point, students completed a research paper exploring some aspect of gender representations in the media or gender relations in society. All in all, it has been a year full of powerful language and fascinating discussions.

Media Studies



This year in Media Studies, students gained an understanding about the meaning and influence of media through critical evaluation of new and old media technologies. Students studied and analysed the centrality of media in politics, economics, social life, and global and local culture. Students also discussed and reflected upon the contemporary and historical impact of media on individuals and societies. Through the analysis of film, advertising, documentary, and critique, students created their own Public Service Announcements, calling the world around them to reflect. They wrote their own critiques, letters of concern about potential negative impacts of the media, drafted their own websites, and created their own film and commercials, ultimately demonstrating their newfound appreciation and inquiry of the media in which they are constantly immersed. Well done, Media Analysts. You will be missed next year.

Ms K Bull – Secondary English, American Section

MONUMENTS TO THE BIRTH OF MODERN EGYPT

On 20th April, the Grade Ten Global Studies students set out to discover the monuments to Modern Egypt. Except for the Alabaster Mosque, Khedive Cairo is often overshadowed by structures like the pyramids and the many examples of medieval Mamluke mosques.



Scholars often cite Mohamad Ali Pasha and his dynasty as the founders of Modern Egypt. As an Ottoman General, Mohammad Ali came to Egypt to rid Egypt of the French army left by Napoleon. Seeing Egypt's untapped potential, he ended up staying. His ambitions often clashed with his Ottoman employers. His impact on Egypt, however, turned it into one of the most valuable provinces in the Ottoman Empire.



Our first visit was to Abdeen Palace, which was built by Khedive Ismail in 1863. The building itself serves to establish Egypt's European influence. Leon Rosseau, one of the pre-eminent French architects of the day, drafted the building's design.

This year's trip was really fun and useful at the same time. It was slightly different from many before as we were using snapchat to make a story on the things that we see in the museum and the tombs. My favourite part of the trip was going to Abdeen Palace; I've always wanted to go to this palace.

Youssef Abbas (G10B)

I was amazed at the architectural details at each stop. From intricate designs on silverware to symbolism on tombstones, this trip had it all! I learned so many things about the history of Egypt in a motivational out-of-class environment. In addition to that, watching everyone's snapchat stories about the whole day was almost like reliving it multiple times as different people. I could see everyone's favourite moments while thinking about my own. I genuinely enjoyed learning about my country's history because I feel like I never really explored Egypt outside of Tagamoa. My favourite stop was Al-Refaei mosque because it was an extremely calm place in general. However, I really liked seeing Abdeen Palace because I previously watched a TV show where the palace was the main setting and it was nice to see it in real life.

Sarah Kamel (G10G)



The second stop was to El Refaie Mosque, also started by Khedive Ismail. Instead of bridging Europe and Egypt in design, El Refaie Mosque's architecture connects the ruling family (European in origin) to Egypt's Mamluke past. In many ways, the trip brings the student experience in Global Studies full circle. El Refaie Mosque serves as the resting place of King Farouk, the last of Mohammad Ali's dynasty.



Students gathering in whatever shade they could get at Hosh al Basha

The third stop was to the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali's family. Although he is not interred in this structure, his sons and immediate family members are present. The stunning headstones display a transitional ruling Egyptian culture. On the one hand, they are typical in geometric design; on the other hand, they are adorned with wreath decorations typical of European ornamentation. Blonde pigtails are painted on the backside of any female family members' headstones.



Snap some modern Mamluke architecture



Snap next to Father of Modern Egypt's favourite son. (Tusun)

At each of the sites, students participated in a Snapchat Treasure Hunt. Here are some snaps from the winners, Mabrouk Wegdan, Rauf El Galaly, Mariam Abdallah (G10R), Nour Fahmy (G10B), and Khaled Sadek (G10B).

Mr S DeJohn and Mr A Ayele – Global Studies II Teachers, American Section

The following are pictures from the winning Snapchat with the scavenger hunt clue associated with it.



Snap a selfie with a huge heap of sturgeon caviar. It tastes metallic and you will need more than a knife and fork to bite these.

I loved how our tour guides were able to take us through each journey in a very interesting way. Another thing I really enjoyed during the time in Abdeen Palace was the room created for President Sisi. This is a room full of his precious gifts, accomplishments and portraits created by famous artists. Our next stop was the fascinating mosque of Mohammed Ali, situated in the Citadel of Cairo in Egypt and designed by Muhammad Ali Pasha. What I loved about this Mosque was the architecture behind it, how it has been so carefully designed and built to stay for hundreds of years after he died. When we entered the mosque we found out many great people were buried there. My favourite part of this trip was visiting this Mosque. Overall, this trip was very enjoyable, full of adventure and I would do it all over again!

Nada Iskandar (G10Y)



TAKING SPANISH TO GREATER HEIGHTS SECONDARY SPAIN TRIP 2017



"Buenas dias!" declared the Sun, as it greeted the Sierra de Gredos with its first warm rays of spring, and the mountains wept with joy! Tiny tears trickled from the melting snow on peaks which touched the sky. Moisture formed into dancing channels, gradually persuading their way downwards through the sloping rock whispering "Por favor," on their way. As the tiny water flows widened into streams, pine trees started to line the gentle descent. A high pitched "Bravo!" filled the cool air as birdsong serenaded the welcome return of greenness to the rolling hills further down. As the branches of water converged, plush meadows adorned the banks at the birth of the Rio Tormes and all around were grateful for the life giving waters flowing within. "Muchas Gracias!" they cried. The river flowed uninhibited on its journey away from this glorious valley in the heart of Spain. The Tormes was content with its accomplishments, replying "De nada," as it passed and all was peaceful and splendid around.

Then a new sound became gradually audible in the valley but it wasn't a natural occurrence. A diesel engine hummed merrily as a bright orange bus navigated the winding roads and gravel



tracks. After spewing its hot exhaust into the untamed surroundings it finally halted to a rest. A mechanical hiss preceded two great doors opening and out stumbled the weary travellers trying to adjust to their new surroundings at the Gredos Centre.

Although the first languages to be spoken by the human cargo were Arabic and English, this was quickly adjusted with the welcoming phrases and the warm smiles of Spanish hosts Bea and Noelia, the Gredos Centre instructors.

"Beunos Tardes Chicos, escuchen con atención y repitan," would become so familiar on this trip.



Over the following days and nights MES Cairo students from Grades and Years Seven and Eight were immersed in an array of activities, all with exclusive Spanish instruction and with each individual recording their endeavours in their own trusty 'cuaderno'. Their tasks included mountain biking, Spanish cooking, archery, arts and crafts, movie making, aerobics and

orienteering. Given they were in Spain there was always time for a little football during the breaks of course! With the scenic backdrop of the white crusted mountains, surroundings of pine trees and hearty cooked meals, it was impossible not to embrace everything Spanish.

Los Estudiantes were progressing nicely with their linguistic skills in the most beautiful of environments, but an even richer cultural experience was in store in the second phase of the trip as they boarded their bus for the ancient city of Salamanca. The route crisscrossed the Tormes and passed the fortress town of Avila with its imposing medieval stone walls. Finally after a few hours and further multiple scenes of both historic and natural wonders, the road and the river came together again and the journey reached a welcome end.

Transformed in time to the eighteenth century, their next language lesson took place in the Plaza Mayor Salamanca, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful squares in all of Spain. What more encouragement could be provided than an outdoor classroom adorned with glorious Baroque sandstone arches on stout pillars decorated with unique medallions? Work-books were opened once again, along with adoring hearts. What followed was simply mesmerising in the form of a tour of the architectural splendours of the Casa de las Conchas (House of Shells) and Romanesque style Catedral Vieja de Santa Maria, not to be outdone by the Gothic Catedral Nueva de Salamanca. And since this was an educational excursion the Universidad de Salamanca dating from 1134 AD could not be missed either, with its fascinating history as one of the oldest institutes of learning in Europe. The facade of the majestic main entrance included tiny carved frogs above minute detailed grey skulls.

Academic fortune is bestowed on those who can see one apparently! It was a sad moment having to leave such an exquisite location as Salamanca, but this was soothed given the exit commenced by foot over Emperor Augustus's Puente Romano of 89 AD, the oldest bridge across the Tormes. What a fitting way to depart to the bus stop.

The last nights of the Spanish tour were spent in the luxurious surroundings of the Hotel Parador de Gredos nestled in the aromatic pine forests, beneath the now familiar sierras. Darkest oak and pinewood furnishings adorned the corridors, just as they had originally when the stone clad building first opened its doors to travellers in 1928. It was in fact in that very



location that the leaders of Spain had sat to write the final draft of their country's new constitution in 1978, to bring the nation out of one of its darkest periods and into the modern era. One can understand why they chose such an inspirational place to focus, given that the future of Spain was in their hands.

When the MES Cairo students departed for the capital city of Madrid and the longer route home, they too had been inspired.

They had grown to love the country, its spectacular geography, rich history and of course, as the trip had fully intended, to be immersed in the language they now loved and wanted so much more of. Viva Espana!

I would like to add a 'Muchas Gracias' to fellow chaperones, Ms Noha Abdel Basset (Languages Department), Mr John Roman (American Section Mathematics Department) and Mr Mohamed (GoToKnow) for all their care and attention towards our young learners of Spanish.

Mr S Perry - Deputy Head Secondary, British Section



Year Seven ToTAL Trip to Hurghada

Dear Future Year Seven Students,

I imagine you are all so excited to join Year Seven next term, like we were last year. We had no idea just how amazing this year would be. The best part of the year, however, had to be the Year Seven residential trip to Makaadi Bay in Hurghada which links to our ToTAL unit, The Environment.

We wouldn't want anyone to miss out on this trip, so we've decided to share the highlights with you, give you our honest feedback and suggest some top tips to help you on your way.

The Desert Safari

On our first day, we travelled in jeeps through the desert. It was thrilling to go off-roading. It was a bumpy ride full of laughter and amazement. Our driver had music blasting from the speakers which added to the atmosphere. We parked up at the top of a magnificent dune which we promptly climbed and then charged down... again and again and again. What a blast! We were then taken to experience Bedouin life. We tasted freshly baked unleavened bread, learned about life in the desert and explored various herbs and natural remedies found in the desert and prescribed by the tribe's elders. Then it was time to hop on a camel. Those of us who were a little nervous were reminded that the best memories are made when we step out of our comfort zone and we couldn't agree more. It was hairy and scary but well worth the ride and many of us left feeling very proud that we had taken part and were desperate to see the photos. We then hiked to a camp where we ate a delicious meal 'al fresco' (outside). We finished just in time to see the sunset then it was back into the jeeps to return to our hotel rooms. We fell asleep as soon as our heads hit the pillows!

Top Tips for the Safari

- Try to get plenty of sleep before the trip as it is a long day
- Wear closed shoes and long cotton trousers for this outing
- Don't forget your suntan lotion and a cap

Lily Bowley (Y7G) says "This trip was amazing. I loved it. My favourite parts were the desert safari and the snorkelling. I had so much fun with my friends."

The Yacht

Everyone on the trip had the chance to go on an amazing yacht trip which involved snorkelling in the Red Sea and taking part in a clean-up project on a small island. The coral reefs and the marine life were mind-blowing. Pretty Phillippe (Y7G) said "I only used to like swimming in the pool but I took a risk and jumped from the boat. I could not believe my eyes, this wasn't Photoshop, this was real!" What made this trip even better was that we had lessons with our teachers on the beach to understand more about the ecosystems, food chains and conservation of the coral reefs we were witnessing with our own eyes. This made the whole experience very real and purposeful and we all felt we could have a big impact on our environment not just today but tomorrow and in the future.

Top Tips for the Yacht

- It's a good idea to wear a t-shirt when snorkelling to avoid sunburn
- Take an underwater camera with you if you have one
- Remember that we can impact our environment just by throwing our waste away responsibly



'My favourite activity was snorkelling. It was fantastic. We were able to see so many fish and a lot of corals. It was also great getting to know people better and making new friends. It was such an amazing experience'.

Zeina El Morshedy (Y7Y)

The Hotel

There was no time to get bored, we were active from the moment we woke up to the moment we went to sleep. The hotel was brilliant. It was really nice to share a room with our friends though we did not spend much time in our rooms at all, other than to sleep. The hotel staff organised water polo matches and team competitions in the pool, some of us even won medals. We had free time to spend in the aqua park on two of the days, which was very exciting. The food at the hotel was delicious and there was a lot of choice. On our last evening, we all met in the amphitheatre after our meal for



a talent show, organised and hosted by **Pretty Philippe (Y7G) and Lina Helal (Y7Y)**, followed by a disco where everyone got on stage and danced, even the teachers.

We were allowed to call home every day but we were so busy we did not have much time to miss our families.

Saying that, we were very happy to see our parents greet us at the airport on our arrival.



Top Tips for the Hotel

- Keep your room tidy so that it's easy to find your belongings and to pack at the end of the trip
- You do not need to bring food with you
- Don't worry if you are not sharing a room with your best friend, you will do lots of activities with them during the day

Yours faithfully,

Year Seven Students

Student Comments



"I loved the trip, not just because of the activities but also because I could spend so much time with my friends. I want to thank all the people who made this possible."

Bakry Abdallah (Y7G)

"I enjoyed everything we did in Hurghada so much that I can't choose my favourite part. I wish I could turn back time and enjoy it all over again."

Salah Mattar (Y7Y)

"I loved the snorkelling, when we went inside the water, I felt like I was a fish swimming too, I can't wait for next year's trips." **Hana Amr (Y7R)**

"I enjoyed every single second of this trip, seriously, from the day we arrived at the airport until the talent show." **Lina Helal (Y7Y)**



Year Seven ToTAL Sekem Farm



As part of our ToTAL learning for 'The Environment', we went on a trip to Sekem Farm to understand more about their vision of sustainable development and giving back to the community.

Sekem prides itself on being a successful organic farm, despite its location being the middle of the desert. The staff at Sekem educate visitors in ways to reduce, reuse and recycle and to care for their environment.

Our Year Seven students were invited to take a tour around the farm and to participate in a variety of activities to put the theories learnt in class into practice. Those activities include:

Renewable Energy

Some natural sources of energy are infinite and do not pollute the air we breathe or the water we drink. We made our own wind turbines out of wood and paper to demonstrate how wind energy can be harvested. We also enjoyed a cup of organic herbal tea brewed using water boiled in a solar oven.

Plants

The compost used for planting is made on site and means everything planted at Sekem is grown 100% organically. We were given clay pots and compost to grow our own organic mint.



Livestock

We handpicked clover from the field to feed the cows and then had an opportunity to milk a cow in the traditional way, although these days milking machines are used on the farm.

Water

Out in the desert it is difficult to imagine that so much life can flourish. It all began by the discovery of water 100 metres underground. The first well was physically dug by labourers around

forty years ago and is still in use today. Nowadays there are machines that can tunnel through rock to access the water in a fraction of the time.

We must look after the environment if we want it to look after us. We hope to lead and inspire Egypt to use sustainable energy for its agriculture and industry, as this truly is the way forward. In the meantime, there's so much we can do today.

Join us in this effort by:

- Not leaving electrical equipment on when we are not using it
- Using energy saving light bulbs and machines
- Turning the taps off while we are brushing our teeth and taking showers rather than baths
- Closing the shutters when it is hot outside to keep the house cool instead of putting fans and the AC unit on full blast
- Using rechargeable batteries
- Avoiding plastic and paper alternatives eg plates, cups and bags

Ms C Williams – Assistant Headteacher, Years Seven - Nine, British Section



YEAR EIGHT UPDATE



Well

done to Year Eight students for a fantastic year that marks the end of your Key Stage Three journey! There have been many great events and learning opportunities throughout this academic year which have allowed you to develop your skills and nurture your talents, but most importantly have fun and enjoy learning.



At the end of Term Two, we held a very successful Enterprise Day and Science Fair event as part of the Year Eight Thematic Approach to Teaching and Learning (ToTAL) and we enjoyed seeing the inventiveness, creativity and team work displayed by all our students, especially our winning teams.

Firstly, congratulations to our 2016-17 Year Eight ToTAL Enterprise Event Winners led by Ms Ingham and Mrs Cole!

The team named 'Fans' with team members Fady El Meeri, Nadine Helmy, Adam Nagy and Sarah Sharara, all from Year Eight Orange did a phenomenal job of making the most profit and earning a whopping 300 tokens! Their 'Apptastic' stall showed creativity, effort, great team work and was both professional and impressive. They were deserving winners and role models to their peers and younger students from Years Five and Six, who visited the stalls throughout the event.

Secondly, well done for a fantastic effort to all who were part of the MES Cairo Science Inventors Fair led by Dr Geoshy! A special congratulations to our winners!

Joint First Place	Junkie by Zeina Fawzy (Y8O) SWACKET by Mostafa Tarek, Omar Osman, Kareem Asaad, Amr Bahaa and Mahmoud Aly (Y8R)
Second Place	Portable solar powered electrical generator by Ahmed Ehab, Ali Badawy, Youssef Shoukry and Ahmed El Gohary (Y8O)
Third Place	Portable cutter Techcut by Layla Sadek, Ziad Tamer and Seif Farouq (Y8B)

Many inventions were highly creative and solution-focused to real-life problems and showed the potential for our Year Eight students to go on to make a positive impact on their environment through Science. They were also inspirational to our visiting Primary students who have now seen excellent examples of the type of work we do in Key Stage Three.

As you embark on the start of Key Stage Four and the IGCSE courses that you have selected, reflect on all your learning from Years Seven and Eight and identify what you need to do to be successful. Over the summer, continue to develop your team work skills through fun with your friends. Use the time to read and make the most of the opportunities available to you; either on your doorstep here in Egypt, or further afield if you travel abroad. Be creative, be imaginative and continue to look for opportunities to inspire or help others.

We look forward to welcoming you into Year Nine refreshed and ready to enjoy the next part of your academic adventure!

Mrs J Cole – Assistant Headteacher, Years Seven - Nine, British Section



YEAR NINE UPDATE

The end of the academic year is a time for contemplation and reflection for Year Nine students. As their first year of the IGCSE



draws to a close, students should recognise their personal strengths and passions, congratulate themselves for their successes and make plans for what they will do next to bring them to the academic success they strive for as they enter Year Ten.



Our cohort set themselves high expectations from the very beginning of this four-year journey to graduation with great aspirations to make a difference to the future success of Egypt. They plan to be Egypt's future doctors, business



managers, programmers and engineers by studying interesting subjects at the world's top universities in the UK, Europe, USA, Egypt and worldwide. We also have amongst us aspiring Diplomats, Architects, Graphic Designers and Politicians to name but a few of the worthy career choices that Year Nine students hope to ascend to.

At the beginning of the year, many of our students demonstrated a positive commitment to their new subjects as they commenced Key Stage Four and this has continued throughout Year Nine. It has been a pleasure to see their confidence grow. Many are using this opportunity to intelligently express their views, problem-solve and lead by example. As well as developing transferable life skills and expanding subject knowledge, our Year Nine students have begun to specialise in

their subjects, taking responsibility for their own success and developing their abilities as reflective learners.

Alongside their IGCSE studies, Year Nine have been developing into well-rounded learners and nurturing their talents outside of the classroom by balancing the challenges of their courses with an enrichment programme of After School Activities,

Sports and Gifted and Talented opportunities. From lead and supporting roles in Mary Poppins to being involved in the Peripatetic Music Programme, it has been astounding to see individuals shine with the support from the wider school team. Several of our students have shown perseverance, dedication and excellence through sporting success outside of school representing Egypt; bringing pride to their peers, families and the whole MES Cairo community.

Well done to everyone who has worked hard this year. We are proud of what you have achieved so far. Thank you to the teachers for providing quality and engaging lessons. Thank you to both parents and homeroom teachers for supporting our Year Nine on their journey to a bright and exciting future! Thank you to Year Nine for embracing all that has been on offer.

Good luck to you all as you join Year Ten in September!

Mrs J Cole - Assistant Headteacher, Years Seven - Nine, British Section



WEIMAR GERMANY COMES TO HUMANITIES

Our Year Nine historians continue to investigate the interwar years (1918 – 1939) in Germany, the move to a democracy in Weimar Germany and the rise of the Nazis. This in-depth study is an integral part of their IGCSE course.



Nadia Megahed (Y9B), Malak Besri (Y9R), Aisha Mostafa (Y9R) and Maya Raafat (Y9Y) created engaging and informative displays focusing on art and literature in Weimar Germany.



Shahd Atef (Y9G), Ali Kamel (Y9Y), Hana Taha (Y9G), Hana El Badri (Y9B) and Farah Rady (Y9Y) researched a cast range of Weimar cultural changes and displayed these using music, mannequins and an academic display.



Laila Salhab (Y9B) and Kenzi Shaltout (Y9Y) created a fantastic display about Weimar arts and fashion which included recreating pieces of Weimar art by Otto Dix!

In May, our students worked in groups to transform the first floor of the N Building into a 'Weimar Germany exhibition' – a fabulous display of academic research, creativity and team work. Our students excelled themselves through their independent work and creative exhibits, as well as demonstrating their understanding of the cultural changes in Weimar Germany and how these emphasised the divisions within society at that time.



Hannah Breitingner (Y9Y) and Hana El Hilaly (Y9Y) based their project on the architectural Bauhaus movement in Germany. They created a unique display of Weimar cabaret music (translated from German!) and 'played' through a model gramophone.



Karim Gendi (Y9B), Omar Abdel-Aziz (Y9R) and Omar Raafat (Y9B) researched key figures from the Bauhaus and art scene in Weimar Germany, including Fritz Lang and F.W. Murnau.

The students all worked very hard to produce these excellent results.

Ms K McTigue – Secondary Humanities, British Section

Engaging and Exciting Science

Term

Three has been a fruitful and exciting term for all our British Section Science students with lots of creativity, group work and fun learning taking place in and out of the classroom!

Year Seven Topic



Our Year Seven students have been busy learning about their environment, along with classification, variation and food chains for

their Biology topic whilst for Physical Science they have been actively working on studying states of matter, chemical solutions, forces and speed. Lots of practical activities were carried out by the students to help them measure time, distance and then graph their results on Microsoft Excel using their ICT skills. Their Y7 Environment ToTAL experience was enhanced by their trips to Sekem farm and Hurghada. These experiences helped them understand the relevance of what they have been learning to real-life situations.

Year Eight Topic

Year Eight students started their term off with the much-awaited Year Eight Science Fair as part of the Y8 Enterprise ToTAL experience. Their Egg Drop Challenge helped prepare them for this by developing their teamwork skills. They got a chance to showcase their original inventions that were designed to benefit their community and help solve a problem that they might be



facing. From solutions to litter on the playground, to portable solar-powered energy from recycled materials, they had excellent ideas. One

group even invented a way to help both students and teachers during their hectic school day! Well done to all participants!

Practicals

During classes, students have been exposed to various practical investigations helping them link the science they're learning to



authentic real-life examples. This has helped the Year 8 students understand their Physics topic on Speed and Pressure. They have observed and carried out experiments to

investigate the effect of pressure on both liquids and gases. They have blown up balloons in vacuum flasks and crushed empty cans using their understanding and knowledge of pressure and the Particle Theory of Matter.

IGSCSE

Year Nine IGCSE students have been busy finishing off their final topics before the End of Year exams in all three Sciences. They have been developing their skills in observations, data collection and data analysis in preparation for their Paper 6 exam. They have also had regular assessments and completed practice Past Paper questions to help them get ready and feel more confident before their final exams.

We would like to wish our exam classes the best of luck as they await their results from their Cambridge IGCSE, AS and A-level exams. Our IGCSE and A-level students prepared by attending revision sessions at school with their teachers during their study leave. This helped prepare them for both their practical exams and their theoretical exams.

Across the Key Stages, students have enjoyed using Game-based learning opportunities such as Kahoot to compete against each other which has helped to further increase their enjoyment whilst learning. Kahoot has been used to start off lessons in an engaging manner, as a plenary recap and more recently, as a revision method to help students prepare for their end of year exams. Moodle continues to provide our students with excellent learning resources to access, both in and outside of school.

Best of luck to all our future Egyptian scientists!

Dr R El Geoshy – Secondary Science, British Section



British Section



HUMANITIES



As part of our 'Medieval Realms' unit, students took part in a castle making competition to show how King William the First took control of England after the Battle of Hastings. The Castle project formed their end of unit assessment and required students to use a range of new historical concepts, such as causation and change over time. As part of the unit, students assessed William's short and long term strategies of gaining control over the country. These included: Castle building, the feudal system and taking control of the

country's wealth through the introduction of the Domesday Book.

The quality of the projects produced was exceptional. The students created amazing artwork and models of castles and their key features, Minecraft castles and several others made from cake. The effort put into this assessment was phenomenal. The whole of the Humanities teaching team is extremely proud of Year Seven students and we look forward to seeing their talent shine even more in Year Eight!

Ms J Rainsford
Secondary Humanities,
British Section



What's been happening in the English Department?



This

term has been an exciting one in the English Department.

The Key Stage Three students have undertaken lots of exciting activities, whilst in Key Stage Four they have been busy preparing for their important IGCSE exams.

Year Seven students have been studying different forms of poetry; learning how to write everything from a Haiku to a ballad. This culminated in an exciting inter-class competition where students wrote a performance poem based on John Cooper Clarke's famous piece, 'I wanna be yours'. Year Seven students performed their poems in a Slam poetry style in groups and winners

were chosen based on their performance skills and the quality of the poem itself. There were six winners in total from all four classes and Ms Sliney and Ms Hollingworth were very impressed with the students' outstanding efforts.

In Year Eight students embarked on a study of the book *Stone Cold* by Robert Swindells. This short novel is about a boy who becomes homeless and



must survive on the streets of London while a serial killer is on the loose, targeting homeless people. The students really enjoyed the gripping dual narrative and showed real empathy for the main protagonist. They





were tasked with creating a charity leaflet or poster about homelessness, based on the information they had gleaned from the book. They had to consider the quality of their persuasive writing while using presentational features to ensure their posters/leaflets were attractive too. Needless to say, the students worked very hard in creating their products and many excellent leaflets were produced.

In Term Three, Year Nine students finished poetry analysis and moved onto studying different forms of non-fiction texts. They wrote and presented several impressive speeches about 'pet peeves' to their peers and teachers, and found it quite interesting to hear each other's speeches. Students then enjoyed reading and researching travel writing. They were excited about creating their own travel pamphlets – for which they chose their own locations. This work gave them an opportunity to develop their descriptive and informative writing skills. The English teachers were very pleased with the hard work and effort that Year Nine students put into their projects.



In Year Ten, the students have been studying hard for their IGCSEs. They have attended revision sessions and completed practice papers galore, all to ensure that they maintain the excellent standards set by the English Department. Students who are completing the Second Language qualification have been working on the listening paper as well as the written paper, while First Language students have been working on their skills of analysis and inference. I am sure all of their tireless efforts will result in outstanding outcomes on results day in August.

In Years Eleven and Twelve, the focus has been on English Literature and preparing for the AS and A2 examinations. This year the AS students have studied plays by Alan Ayckbourn and Brian Friel, the poetry of Ted Hughes, and the Pulitzer prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri's novel, *The Namesake*. At A2 we have studied Shakespeare's *Othello*, the poetry of Liz Lochhead, Arthur Miller's classic drama, *Death of a Salesman*, and Chaucer's *The Franklin's*



Prologue and Tale. All in all, an exciting and diverse range of texts!

Ms Dina Ghalwash – Secondary English Department, British Section

Outreach Garden Project – Al Shohadaa School

It was a lovely bright morning back earlier in the year when MES Cairo students and staff, visited the Al Shohadaa School in Katameya. Our annual bag drop is a wonderful



charitable tradition organised and funded by Ms Ghada and Mrs Sawsan Dajani. Our students, from Key Stage Two to Y/G/DP12 met with the youngsters at Shohadaa to provide them with a bountiful bag full of essential learning equipment for the academic year ahead.



As we gathered for a final photograph on the ground floor, looking across a pleasant, if underdeveloped central garden, a seed was planted in Ms Ghada's mind. What if this space could be transformed into an effective social space for the Al Shohadaa School Community to enjoy? Thus, a plan was hatched and a

team of willing participants assembled to set to work on the space - from Mr Tamer our Engineer and Mr Anwar, our Gardener to Ms Glancy's Primary students all under the tutelage of Ms Ghada Dajani's vision.

The project was launched. The Primary and IBDP12 students began by surveying the land, measuring the plot and formulating their ideas. It was decided that the space would be half herb



garden and half outdoor adventure play area. The students spent a couple of weeks digging and preparing the land ready for planting.

As well as Ms Glancy and Ms Lamia Afifi, the students were joined by Ms S Cole and Mrs Scott, who were certainly not hesitant in getting their hands dirty or picking up a spade.

The garden developed rapidly over the weeks and began looking more and more like a beautiful productive space. The students worked extremely hard to transform the garden and it is now a space that will be enjoyed for years to come. We have plans to raise funds at the beginning of next academic year to complete the adventure play area and furnish it with lots of fun equipment for the young Al Shohadaa students to enjoy.



Mr E MacAuley – CAS Coordinator



Outreach Primary Partnership

After a successful partnership on the Shohadaa School garden project, we decided to team up our IBDP students with our enthusiastic and aspiring Primary Ambassadors from Years Four and Five. This time we coordinated our Outreach Programme and invited both our partner orphanages to the MES Cairo campus. Both Dar El F'aeza and Dar El Yousra attended and the children participated in a range of fun activities over three weeks in the run up to the holy month of Ramadan.



Our DP11 students helped organise their Primary peers as they awaited the arrival of our visitors for their first combined visit. We had basketball taking place in the Sports Hall and on the Primary yard whilst the impressive F'aeza girls were leading the footballers on the field. It was an extremely successful first week and we all looked forward to week two and working with Mr Wael.

During the second visit Mr Wael had arranged some fun activities including a tug of war and the precarious passing of water balloons back and forth attempting to avoid the inevitable bursting and soaking. Suffice to say the students had a great time getting soaked and Mr Hainsworth's crisp pink shirt ended the day a significantly darker hue. We ended with our now ubiquitous football game on the field. The Primary students were particularly impressive and their leadership qualities have started to emerge to good effect. They were able to capitalise on the relationship building from the previous week and more efficiently facilitate the activities.



Our final session was during the week before Ramadan. It was a fun-filled afternoon for all as the students had worked hard to build relationships and trust that was founded in the previous weeks. Again, there was a great collaboration between MES

Cairo students and our partner orphanages. There was great teamwork shown during the games on the field and basketball on the yard. We are proud of the DP11 students' ability to lead and encourage the younger students and this bodes well for an

excellent and meaningful CAS project next year. I was particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the Primary students. Mrs Glancy and Mr Hainsworth can be confident that the students will hit the ground running at the start of next year's Outreach Programme when we hope to further develop these partnerships.

Mr E MacAuley – CAS Coordinator

Student Comment

My Experience of the Outreach Programme

The Outreach Programme is an after-school Service activity (ASA). MES Cairo invited children from Dar El-Faiza orphanage to take advantage of our resources and premises and enjoy activities and games. The programme offers students the opportunity to take part in either an internal or external programme. Those students participating in running the activities inside school are required to plan events and activities for the orphans to participate in without any teacher intervention. This encourages students to become proactive, to problem-solve and to be responsible. The main focus of the Programme is to ensure that the children enjoy their visits. Physical activities such as football and basketball appear to be the preferred option by the children. Computer-based activities are also offered and these give the children an opportunity to use the school computer labs and learn computer skills. Students that choose to participate in the external aspect of the Programme are given opportunities to visit the orphanage. During their visits, our students teach core subjects such as English, Arabic and Maths to the children. I participated in the internal aspect of the Programme so that I could become more familiar with the Programme's objectives and the plans of action that needed to be undertaken. The Outreach ASA allowed me to engage and interact with children who were friendly and kind. It was a new experience for me, as I had never dealt with orphans until now. I am glad that I joined this project because it allowed me to build connections with individuals and it made me feel I was a part of something significant in helping the orphans feel accepted into their community. This idea has motivated me to sign up for Outreach every school term and I look forward to participating in next year's Outreach Programme.

Hashem Afifi (DP11Y)



Workers' Appreciation Lunch

Each year, the National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) students host an appreciation lunch for MES Cairo workers. On Saturday 20th May, the day finally arrived for the lunch. NHS and NJHS students had the opportunity to personally express their gratitude to approximately two hundred MES Cairo workers by serving a hot lunch along with tea and desserts to each person. Several students spoke during the event to thank our workers, cleaners and security guards for the fantastic job they do throughout the year keeping our campus beautiful and secure, as well as the drivers who ensure students



bake sales and being weekend tour guides to teachers through Islamic and Coptic Cairo. It was a lovely afternoon and although we are a bit biased, we thought our students did a wonderful job.

**Mr T Roodvoets
and Ms C Flake
- NHS and NJHS
Advisors**



are safe during the daily journeys between home and school.

Students were not only responsible for providing and serving the meal, but were also responsible for preparing the lunch venue and cleaning after the event. NHS and NJHS students work throughout the year to raise money for this event by hosting



MES CAIRO STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Saturday 15th April 2017 our staff engaged in a day of learning, sharing and reflection with each other as part of our MES Cairo Continuing Professional Development Programme.

Primary Professional Development



Delivering an outstanding, modern education to our students requires more than excellent lessons and motivated children, it requires teaching staff who are superbly well trained in the delivery of those excellent lessons and in the caring, structured support needed to motivate their students. At MES Cairo, the Primary Department is absolutely committed to this and is always looking for ways to build a love of learning not just in its students but in its staff too; and this was perfectly reflected in our recent Professional Development Day for Teachers and Teaching and Learning Assistants.

The morning began with further training on the recently updated National Curriculum document for writing. Staff were given the opportunity to read and discuss writing examples from the UK and make judgements about this work. This is something that teachers do regularly and, because of the recent and important changes to the National Curriculum, it is essential that we keep up to date with the changing standards and expectations so that our students are fully prepared for the educational path that lies ahead.

Following this, staff were divided into groups, with a cross-section of year groups represented, to moderate judgements made about our students' writing assessments. This collaborative process gave teachers the opportunity to work together and discuss their judgements on students' performance against the National Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks; this ensured consistency and continuity amongst MES Cairo teaching staff whilst providing opportunity for professional dialogue across the year groups.

The afternoon session, for Teachers and Teaching and Learning Assistants, was entitled 'Bring and Brag' and enabled staff to share outstanding teaching techniques from their classroom. Colleagues were sat in two concentric circles, facing another member of staff, and were given a few minutes to listen to each others' ideas; once shared, the circles of staff moved and new combinations of staff and ideas were shared. Some of the new ideas included exciting new iPad apps, engaging behaviour management strategies, creative ways to display work, alternative approaches to teaching writing, brain-busting Maths challenges and superb ways to promote reading. Although staff were initially hesitant about this new learning experience, it proved to be a great success with many teachers stating that it was the best part of the day; indeed, everyone left the session brimming with brilliant teaching strategies that will continue to ensure that our lessons are excellent and our students fully motivated to make the most of them.

Ms A Clarke – Primary Deputy Headteacher

Secondary Professional Development



The day started with a large Speed Share session where colleagues each brought an idea that they use in class to explain to others in just three minutes.

Staff circulated in a carousel, meaning each staff member left the room with a whole host of great, dynamic and easy to implement



ideas. The variety and range of creative ideas ranged from developing cooperative learning strategies, to Socratic seminars, revision and exam techniques, differentiating learning in

the classroom, flipped learning and much more. Some shared the latest apps and websites using technology, others shared more traditional but tried and tested and examples of great classroom practice. All served as a reminder of what a committed and talented team of staff we have here at MES Cairo.

Ms J Cole – Assistant Headteacher, Years Seven-Nine, British Section

WIRED – A Tech Shout-Out!

Welcome

to the final article of the year where we highlight how we have been using technology in the school to support our students in the learning process. Throughout the school, you will find so many examples of how technology enables students to communicate and collaborate with one another. This also allows for students to use a variety of tools to complete projects and to review needed materials in a way that piques student interest. As Modern English School Cairo embarks on its 5th year as a *Bring Your Own Device to School* learning institution, access to technology will help your child develop greater independence, increase engagement, and develop skills required to thrive in the 21st Century.

WIRED members are continuously collaborating with teachers who are both advanced and intermediate in their technology use and implementation. Our first technology shout-out goes to **Ms Sally Elsaadany**. **Sally Elsaadany**, American Section Middle School 8th Grade Team Leaders, and **Tatiana Kolesnikova**, American Section Learning Development Support Teacher, continuously plan and develop lessons that embed technology. One recent idea that they had was to use Quizlet Live to promote student engagement, motivation, challenge, collaboration as students learned, reviewed, and grew innovative with vocabulary acquisition. Quizlet Live allows students to compete in groups with one another with the content they are learning. This turns any classroom into a stimulating environment where students strive to master the information they are learning to be the first on the total board. The teachers and students were equally excited about the success of the interactive tool and how it not only provided students with a FUN and ENGAGING lesson, but also helped them achieve the goals of the lesson.



Sally Elsadaany is always enthusiastic to try out new digital tools and implement them into her classroom. She effectively differentiates her lessons with the help of technology to meet the needs of every student. She uses a variety of tech education tools such as *NoRedInk*, *Newsela*, *Storybird*, *Quizlet*, *Quizlet Live*, *Socrative*, *Kahoot*, and *Peergrade* to keep her students engaged and motivated to achieve their goals and improve their literacy.

Our second technology shout-out goes to a teacher who is using class games to motivate her students in order to enhance the learning process in her class. **Dr Rania El-Goeshy**, British Section Science Teacher, has been experimenting with using Game-based learning opportunities such as *Kahoot* to capture the student's interest at the onset of the class, as a way to recap and end a lesson to determine the level of success student have had in class, and as a way to review and who student progress in preparation for the final examinations at the end of the year.

Ms Shelby Fowler, American Section 7th Grade Teacher, has also gamified her classroom using *MineCraft* as a way to focus student energy on creating unique virtual learning spaces where students can communicate and collaborate with one another on a given project. This not only helps the student master the content, but the students are learning key and valuable literacy skills as well. Shelby's students are always involved in creative digital activities and engaged in technology-enhanced and inquiry-based learning. Students are taken on adventures back in time to ancient civilizations with *Minecraft*. They build Mesopotamian Ziggurats or construct mysterious secret chambers of Pyramids in ancient Egypt. Every day students work on interesting projects that embrace technology and have empowering learning experiences with *Blendspace*, *Padlet*, *Playposit*, and *Storyboard That*.





Mr Sam Cole, Year Five Primary Teacher and **Ms Georgina Dean, Year Two Primary Teacher**, shared how their students are currently using a variety of applications using the class iPads. Different tools like Showme, Linoboard, Visualize, and Skitch are terrific resources for our student because they allow for students to create their own content and make sense of their own learning. There are multiple advantages to students completing their learning objectives on the iPads, rather than on paper, primarily that the student's engagement is at its highest peak. Students access more areas of their brain when completing work using technology, as well as the 'fun' factor being in full effect. We are



In the Secondary Arabic Department, **Mr Mohamed Abd El-Hamid**, uses a tool called *Blendspace* to curate resources for his students in 9th Grade. Using *Blendspace* provides opportunities for students to work independently guided by the teacher for a variety of topics. Students are also able to collaborate and comment on topics online, answer quiz questions, and take sample tests to gauge. Mr El-Hamid is able to monitor student progress online from anywhere at anytime.



looking forward to a combined project between Y5V and Y2V in the next couple of weeks.

These are just a few examples of how our teachers across the school are using technology to provide students with a collaborative learning environment. Students are able to develop teamwork and how to work more independently. Students are able to connect with others to further develop critical thinking and literacy skills. Using these engaging tools students are not only consumers of content, but they are also using the content to create something quite new.

Ms D Ballard – Secondary Principal, American Section

SECONDARY LEARNING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT NEWS

Top Tips for students for the Summer holiday

Exams are finished, you've packed away your school uniform and you're looking forward to two months of holiday. Tempting though it is to simply spend the whole time watching films, playing video games and hanging out with your friends, you should also spend some of the time supporting your studies so that you're in a good place when you head back to school in September.

Read!

Nothing improves comprehension, vocabulary and grammar as much as reading does. Besides, your brain is a muscle and needs regular exercise, just like the rest of your body! Of course, there are novels of all kinds but if you don't usually read

paper books or fiction, then try <https://newsela.com/> which covers news and non-fiction. You can also choose the level you read at as each article has easy to hard versions. The articles themselves do not take a long time to read – maybe fifteen minutes – so you can easily fit this in with a busy day at the beach! Each article has a fun quiz so you can test what you have understood.

If you are feeling creative, you may even want to write. Try one of the sites listed here:

http://www.word-ink.net/blog/10_outlets_for_youth_publication/

<http://www.readbrightly.com/6-great-websites-teen-writers/>

Review your subjects

That subject that you've been

grappling with all year with concepts you're still not quite sure of... Review notes and information. Get ahead and be prepared for the next academic year by finding out what you're going to be studying.

It can be very exciting seeing family and friends but don't forget to eat well and get some proper rest.

Finally, have fun and stay safe!

The Learning Development Department will unfortunately be losing two very valuable team members this year: Mr Chris Norman and Mr Liam Beckford.

Mr Norman is known for his wacky sense of humour and practical jokes, and his enthusiasm and dedication to both students and colleagues alike. He is always willing to help out colleagues with ideas and resources, always available to students to provide extra help during breaks and always able to see the funny side of any situation. Famous for his cucumber, yogurt and garlic dip, we hope he will return again to make it in person.

Mr Beckford has only spent one year with us but during that time has had an enormous impact. From his dedication to the football team to his thoroughness in planning for his Homeroom, his energy, commitment and flexibility have been evident from day one.

Both will be sorely missed.

Ms T Sliney – Head of Secondary Learning Development Department, British Section



Gifted and Talented News

The MES Cairo Gifted and Talented Programme boasts a long list of the accomplishments of our students and celebrates proud moments, no matter how big or small! As the academic year draws to a close, this is an ideal time to highlight the MES Cairo students and to acknowledge their remarkable achievements not only in their academic pursuits but also in life-long interests and personal aspirations. Each student deserves a moment of special recognition for their hard work, perseverance, and innovation. Meet some of our young talents!

Spectacular in School Career

The Gifted and Talented students are recognised for their academic excellence in different areas of study. Every day they demonstrate qualities of an active learner such as independent and critical thinking, initiative, commitment and determination.

Karma Youssef (G7B) and Malak Kandil (G7B) are known for their fast thinking skills in Maths and ability to use strategic thinking to carry out a computation. Karma is proud to be representing MES Cairo in the Maths Olympiad in South Korea next year.

For Noam Alon Benjamin Henning (G8R), this is his first year at MES Cairo. He has already travelled to South Korea, Seoul to participate in the Maths Olympiad where he received a Merit medal. Noam considers



Fady El Mairy Y8O

his greatest personal strengths adaptability and responsibility.

Fady El-Mairy (Y8O) is the Year Eight Edjo House representative in the Student Council. This year, Fady received several awards including Scientist of the Month and the Deputy Headteacher award for Excellent Interpersonal Skills. He considers time-management and punctuality his strongest personal assets.



Zeina Fawzy Y8O

Zeina Sherif Fawzy (Y8O) participated in eight ASAs this year. She took the first place in Photography, Internet Safety and Science Fair Competitions, Geography Globalisation Project. Versatility and determination are Zeina's biggest personal strengths. The 'Truman Show' movie and book have both impacted and influenced her perspective on life. She has learned to confront fears, to question everything, to never stop dreaming and to take risks.



Nadine Helmy Y8O

The Gifted and Talented community is thrilled to have Nadine Ahmed Helmy (Y8O), who is not only a

multiple academic award winner in different categories, but one out of three students chosen to participate in Spelling Bee in CAC. Moreover, Nadine auditioned for a voice-over actress for a cartoon and got the job. The cartoon show will be aired in Ramadan. The show required a British accent so she practised hard to develop her accent and it paid off!

Skillful in Technology

The Gifted and Talented Programme supports students' development of digital literacy and aims to foster their interest in technology. The students are encouraged to actively seek out opportunities for personal growth and experience in the IT arena.



Adham Amr Abdel Majeed (G7B) is quite a genius at Video Game Development. He created a video game called 'Ravenfield' and won the Second Place in the Steam Greenlight competition. Steam Greenlight helps game developers promote their game, gain community support and receive feedback from potential customers.



Jayhad Tawfik (Y7B) and his team took fifth place in the National Robotics Competition. He participated in the Strategy Game tournament at Aberystwyth University, Wales and the Microsoft Kids 2016 Software Competition, where he scored within the top 100 in the Middle East.

Outstanding at Sports

There's no secret that being an athlete is hard work and takes outstanding time management and flexibility. It is not easy to find a way to balance school and social life, and dedicated hours to sport. However, The Gifted and Talented star athletes manage to combine their academic work with sporting activities with brilliance and excel in sporting endeavours.



Maya Ahmed Emam (G8R) and Sarah Sharara (Y8O) have been taking ballet classes since they were three years old. Maya's determination and commitment has helped her gain a Ballet Award for Best Solo Ballerina Dance. Additionally, Sarah's passion for athletics has enabled her to receive two bronze medals in shotput and 100m sprint girls (Year Eight) at Sports day.



Nour Darrag (G8R) took the First Place in a British Tennis tournament.



Mostafa Hany El-Shamy (Y8O) is an accomplished equestrian and winner of many trophies for horseback riding. He regularly performs in local show jumping competitions, and has received different awards such as first place for the Egyptian cup and the Egyptian finals and second place overall for the 2016-2017 season.

Nour Barsi (Y8G) is not only the captain of Middle School Basketball team, he can also speak four languages: English, Arabic, French and Flemish. Richard Branson's autobiography *How I've Survived* has greatly impacted Nour's life and taught him to believe in himself and overcome challenges.

Dedicated to Community Service



The Gifted and Talented Programme builds a sense of belonging to a common humanity and enables students to become responsible and active citizens. Our students

demonstrate public spirit, respect, empathy and compassion for themselves and for others by engaging in community events to raise awareness about causes they support. For example, Salma Walid El Hadidy (G8R) helps to raise money to save dolphins as part of Seaworld Camp. Nadine Helmy (Y8O) is a member of Egyptian Society for Mercy to Animals (ESMA) Cat Shelter.

Leadership

The MES Cairo Gifted and Talented students learn how to become capable leaders who possess such attributes as vision, confidence and collaborative skills. They improve their leadership skills by taking on different projects inside and outside school.

Leila Hamad (G8R), Natalie Botros (G8R), Salma Walid El Hadidy (G8R), Zeina Sherif Fawzy (Y8O) undertook a mentoring role in Primary and helped students to improve their skills in Drama, Football and ICT. Malak Kandil (G7B) secured a main part in *Ali Baba*, this year's Middle School Production. Maya Ahmed Emam (G8R) received Best Intern award for hard work and efficiency at Nola Cupcakes in the summer where she demonstrated punctuality, a great work ethic and strong communication skills.

Congratulations to all of our Gifted and Talented students for displaying such remarkable personal growth! There is no doubt that the MES Cairo Gifted and Talented students will shine in their future roles and contribute to the future well-being of Egypt and the world at large.

Dr Tatiana Kolesnikova - Gifted and Talented Instructor, American Section

PRIMARY SPORTS DAYS



EYFS

Foundation Stages One and Two both had amazing afternoons of fun demonstrating the many different skills they have been learning and developing in PE. All the girls and boys (and parents!) were wearing their class colour and lots of noise was made by the spectators on whistles and horns, as well as lots of cheering!

The children all showed excellent relationship skills demonstrating good team work whilst participating in numerous activities. These included parachute games, tagging games, relay races and obstacle courses. All the children fully deserve a big round of applause and a pat on the back!

Well done, Foundation Stage!

Years One and Two



In Years One and Two the students were placed into four teams.

For Year One, the teams were linked to their 'Under the Sea' topic and for Year Two, they were named after mini beasts. All of the students competed in a variety of activities across an hour and a half period where they worked incredibly hard showing resilience and great team work.

Each activity required the students to use a different skill they had been developing within their PE lessons as they scored points for their teams.

The winning team in Year One was the 'Seahorses' and in Year Two, the winning team was the 'Dragonflies'.

Year Three

Year Three Sports Day was a great success for all involved. Many students tried their hand at competing in individual events for their House for the first time, and were hoping to gain a medal. For those students who were not competing as an individual, they demonstrated excellent team work and relationship skills working together and gaining valuable points for their teams. All the students worked extremely hard and gave 100%. The PE Department team was incredibly impressed with the resilience shown.



Having spent the last five weeks practising the different individual events, the competition was becoming fierce between Houses! Records were being chased in all disciplines with some excellent 300m sprint times in soaring temperatures. Meanwhile the team events were continuing with well thought out tactics for Cops and Robbers and some fantastic construction skills in Team Jenga. With lots of medals and points being won by all four houses it was going to be close, with only 90 points separating first and second place.

The final results were:

First Place	Thoth - 2100 points	Third Place	Anubis - 1580 points
Second Place	Ra - 2010 points	Fourth Place	Horus - 1520 points

Year Five



With over 34 students taking home an array of medals for the individual events and points being added on in the team events, it was going to be close!

The final results were:

First Place	Anubis - 2040 points	Third Place	Ra - 1570 points
Second Place	Horus - 2020 points	Fourth Place	Thoth - 1450 points

Congratulations to all involved!

Year Four



With over 12 Gold medals up for grabs and students setting new records for their year group in lessons, competition for Gold was going to be tough. With two new team games also introduced this year, enthusiasm and team work were at the forefront of everyone's minds.

Connect 3 not only needed speed but also a lot of thought and this is where points would be crucial. Each team worked together running, throwing and jumping, earning points and medals as they went, showing excellent sportsmanship along the way.

For the first time in MES Cairo's history there was a draw for 2nd place!

First Place	Ra - 2420 points	Third Place	Anubis - 1800 points
Joint Second Place	Horus and Thoth - 1880 points		

Year Six

Traditionally, Year Six Sports Day is packed full of fun, passion and competitive spirit, and the latest definitely lived up to our expectations! Having spent a whole term practising for both individual and team events during their PE lessons, the students were very excited to show off their athletic ability! Throughout the day records were toppled as each student did their utmost to out-run, out-throw and out-jump their competitors. There were instances during the track and field events especially that will live on



in the memories of all the spectators! By the end of the individual events there were some very proud, beaming, faces amongst the medal winners. That wasn't the end of it though, as every individual's medals counted towards their respective House points on the day.

The final results were:

First Place	Horus - 2690 points	Third Place	Anubis - 2340 points
Second Place	Ra - 2520 points	Fourth Place	Thoth - 2150 points

Congratulations to all who took part in Sports Day.

Ms L Young and Mr H Gad – Primary PE

Under 10s and Under 12s CISSA Football Success

On Friday 19th May the MES Cairo Cougars had one of their most successful ever mornings in the Under 10s and Under 12s CISSA football competitions.

The Under 12s Boys were imperious throughout, as they beat every school emphatically to win first place. The Under 12s Girls showed great resilience to overcome some senior players' absence to finish second overall in the competition.

In the Under 10 Girls event MES Cairo secured a respectable third place finish. This was no reflection of their performances though, as all coaches agreed that the MES

Cairo Under 10s team played by far the most attractive football in the competition. In the Under 10s Boys event the competition finished with all teams having won one match each. Due to goal difference, MES Cairo finished in second place. ISC Cairo scored just one more goal in the competition and unfortunately for us that put them in first place.

All teams demonstrated great passion and will to win. Most importantly however, all matches were played in a fantastic spirit with all MES Cairo teams being congratulated for their great sportsmanship. Well done to all our Cougars!

Mr H Gad – Primary PE



TEAM COUGAR GIRLS FOOTBALL

On the day of this tournament, our three top players and Coach Bennett were on a trip to Cyprus. I therefore drafted in Zeina Saleh (Y4Y) to play against Hayah (HIA) which proved to be an excellent decision!



Playing a new attacking formation, the girls went out looking strong with a few chances early on. Zeina Fouda (Y5G) and Khadija Hamada (Y5B) created some great linking play with Zeina Saleh and continued to create chances in front of goal. However, it appeared we had left our shooting boots in the changing rooms! A debut for Nour Kamel (Y5V) in defence and we were looking solid with our captain, Hana Mahmoud (Y5B), setting the example, leaving Dana Zaki (Y5G) in goal with very little to do.

In the second half MES Cairo saw some excellent defending and dribbling from Amina Farag (Y5G), along with Sara Masarany (Y6O) who was continuing to use what we had worked on in training and getting the ball into the box. I was beginning to think we were never going to score but we were given a lucky break with a penalty awarded for an unfortunate hand ball in the area. With shouts from the side lines of 'Little Zeina to take it!', Zeina Saleh stepped up and scored! The game finished 1-0 to MES



Cairo with the team showing excellent sportsmanship throughout the game.

Following an emphatic win, the girls then had their 'end of season' awards, where we celebrated the highs and lows of the season with a rainbow cake and popcorn. With so many players making amazing progress this year, both myself and Miss Bennet had a difficult decision to make.

The award winners were: Dana Zaki (Y5G - Players' Player), Hana Mahmoud (Y5B - Player of the Year), Zeina Fouda (Y5G - Coach's Player), Amina Farag (Y5G - Coach's Player), Lara Hegazy (Y6B - Captain's Award), Sarah Toma (Y6B - Best Sportsmanship) and Nour Kamel (Y5V - Most Improved Player).

Miss Bennett, Miss Young, Hana Mahmoud (Team Captain) and the rest of the team would like to wish Sarah Toma, Lara Hegazy and Sara El Masarany good luck for next season with the Middle School Team Cougar Programme.

Ms L Young – Primary PE

Year Four Team Cougar Girls Football

The Year Four Team Cougar Girls Football Team took part in an 8-a-side tournament at Cairo English School (CES) on Sunday 21st May 2017.

The team played two matches against Year Five teams from Cairo English School and Malvern College and achieved wins in both matches, winning 1-0 against Cairo English School and 3-0 against Malvern College. The team was awarded first place overall in the tournament.

Team Members:

Haya El Barhamtoshy (Y4Y), Shirley El Masarany (Y4V), Yara Seada (Y4Y), Lilly Hussein (Y4O), Zeina Tamer (Y4O), Mariam Allam (Y4G), Amina El-Mallah (Y4B), Zeina Salah (Y4Y), Karma Abou-Gabal (Y4O) and Leila El Serafi (Y4G).

Well done girls! You all played your hearts out and everyone at MES Cairo is very proud of you.



Mr W Hussein – Team Coach

Athletic Mentor Programme 2017-2018

The Athletic Mentor Programme, originally set up by Ms Quarin to help grow our sporting Cougar Programme, has been running now for four years. Our talented Senior students have worked hard to make the project a success. When I took it over, we aimed to develop the programme by making small steps each year, giving more students the chance to participate, be creative and inspire our young athletes.

I am extremely proud of all our previous Athletic Mentors, and I know that without them our Cougar Programme would not be as good as it is now. Their help, enthusiasm and willingness to

get involved with as much as they can, has inspired not only our young athletes but our coaches too.

I am more confident that I am leaving a cohort of Athletic Mentors which will continue to inspire and develop the talents of our young athletes, ensuring the continuation of the Programme. With the quality of athletes, young leaders and coaches we have at our school, I am sure the Cougar Programme will continue to grow each season, with plenty of medals, trophies and successes along the way.

Mr J O'Connor – Secondary PE Department



Mariam Aly G10R



Mariam Nabhan
Y11R



Alia Shabrawy
Y10Y



Badr Fikry G11B



Ismail Rizkana
Y10R



Ismail Taymour
G10R



Khaled Megahed
Y10G



Fatimah Al Harbi
G11B



Hana Omera G11R



Carol Ramy G10G



Alia Sabbour G11B



Natalie Bishay
G11Y



Omar Soliman
G11B



Sandra Massoud
G11R



Mohamed Babli
Y10Y



Mohamed Taymour
G11G



Maya Mehrez G10B



Lama Amin Y11Y



Sara Zaki G11G



Tia Saied G10Y



Zeina Badawi
G10G



Yasmina El Gendy
G11R



Youssef Shukri
Y11Y



Sherif Soliman
Y11Y



Shehab Abu El
Fadl Y11R

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM ENJOY PENALTIES GALORE!



the highly respected AIS side. The nerves were settled when our boys came out extremely composed and experiencing some great possession football. This dominance was soon rewarded with a goal from Mohamed Shaarawy (G9B). We came out for the second half with the same great attitude and Omar Rashed (Y9Y) managed to double our lead. With only eight minutes left, the game appeared to have been won, but then AIS scored out of nowhere! Unfortunately, the boys seemed to panic a little, and lost the ball immediately from kick-off, allowing HIA to score again, ending the game at 2-2. The team left the field

The Middle School Boys Football Team experienced a successful season, with every member of the squad contributing and developing as a player.

This was an extremely difficult squad to get into, with over sixty boys from Years Seven through Nine trying out for the 16-man squad. The boys worked extremely hard throughout the season, from the vigorous training sessions to the friendly games, all in preparation for the CISSA Tournament.

We arrived at Hayah International (HIA) in the scorching heat on the morning of Friday 12th April. The boys were very punctual and were mentally prepared as we went over our tactics for the day. Our first game was against

disheartened, but learned the lesson that the game is never won until that final whistle is blown! They lifted their spirits for their



final round robin game, where only a win would guarantee progression. They put in another solid performance and won 1-0 against ISC-C, with Mohamed Shaarawy adding to his goal tally.

We then faced NCBIS in the semi-finals. We were stunned early, conceding an early goal after committing too many players forward and being caught off-guard. The team responded well this time and dominated the remainder of the game totalling way over fifteen shots. We hit the frame of the goal twice but to no avail. The breakthrough came with just

minutes to go, sending the game into a penalty shootout. With calm and collected heads, Amir Aziz (G8R) and Yehia Tantawy (G7B) both finished their penalties well which turned out to be enough as Khaled Zaki (G9R) stepped up to the plate and saved both of his penalties in heroic fashion.

MES Cairo were through to the final against hosts, HIA. Both teams were clearly laboured after a long day of intense football in the sweltering desert sun. The boys from both teams dug deep and put in the little energy they had left. After some ludicrous decisions from the referee, the boys managed to stay disciplined and finished with a draw. So it was penalties again and the boys were feeling confident after demonstrating their competence in the semi-final. But penalties are also a game of luck, and unfortunately after a near-miss and hitting the post, we missed our first two penalties, which meant HIA were this year's CISSA champions.

A very respectable second place banner was presented to our captain Ahmed Rady (Y9Y), and to be honest, it was the least our boys deserved. Special mentions go out to Ziad Saleh (Y9B), Adel

Serry (Y9B) for their rock-hard and self-assured performances, to Omar Rashed (Y9Y) and Amir Aziz (G8R) for their pace and skill on the wings and to Yehia Tamara (Y9G) for his huge impact coming from the bench, particularly in the final. Well done boys!

Mr C Carroll – Team Coach



Middle School Girls' Football Team are On Target!



The Middle School Girls' Football Team has had an amazing season this year playing as a true team and competing at a very high level. The team came to the tournament with high hopes and demonstrated their ability to work together during the round-robin tournament at the International School of Choueifat, Cairo.

During the first game against New Cairo British International School the team came out with a lot of energy and had about ten shots on goal compared to the three that NCBIS put up. The first game finished with a

draw and then the team prepared themselves for a match against Cairo American College. The team knew CAC very well as they played against them the week before and won 3-1. The MES Cairo team continued to demonstrate their strength as a defending team but they were unlucky when a deflected clear from the goal keeper's box was rebounded by CAC for an easy unmarked goal, ending in a 1-0 loss. In the last game the team played really well but were out-matched against the International School of Choueifat who ended up winning 4-0.

Overall, the season went really well and the team has grown tremendously. The team is looking forward to next year. Go Cougars!

Mr A Koene – Head of Secondary PE



SECONDARY HOUSE NEWS

We are now well into our final term and the House competition is coming to a close! The competition between the



Houses is stronger than ever as everyone is trying to win the last few points to add to the overall totals. Will anyone be able to knock Kheper off the top spot? All will be revealed in the final House Assembly!

The 'Speed Stacking' House competition made a popular return this term, and staff and students battled it out on the Secondary Yard to stack the cups as quickly as possible into two triangular towers, then dismantle the towers to finish the challenge. There were loud cheers, flustered faces and cups flying everywhere as each competitor tried to keep their form under immense pressure from the cheering crowds. In the end, the Selket staff and students came out 'on top of the stack' finishing in 1st place. They also won

extra bonus points for every staff member and student who played or supported wearing their Selket House T-shirts! Amun were a close second and Edjo and Kheper tied at the bottom of the table.

Our Student Council Representatives from Year/Grade 7-12 and DP11-12 have made exceptional progress this term, and they are striving to make some positive changes in and around MES Cairo for staff and students alike. They have created electronic surveys to collect data on the PE Change Facilities and the Secondary yard. They aim to put forward proposals to make those changes that have been suggested by our student body. A 'Design your own PE uniform' competition was also launched this term. All entries received valuable House points. Good luck to all our designers!

Ms O Walker – House Coordinator

Well, what a year it has been for Kheper House! We have absolutely smashed nearly every competition that we have competed in, with enormous effort from all. Congratulations to our staff team for winning the Staff Extravaganza back in September. Well done also to the Y/G7-8 Netball team for winning their tournament and for everybody who participated in our 'First Place' victory at Sports Day!

It has not all been all first and second places, we've had a couple of bumps along the way. Our results in the Extravaganza this year were not great, we came in third and we also came in third in the chess tournament.





I want to take this opportunity to thank every single staff member and student who has come out to participate or support the House system this year and I wish you all the best with next year's House competitions! My time as the Head of Kheper has come to an end but it has been a magnificent and outstanding two years and I hope I have done you proud! Fingers crossed let's hope we go out with a bang and seal that 1st place in this year's final assembly! Let's go Kheper, let's go!

Mr J O'Connor – Kheper Head of House



What a year for team Selket! A massive highlight for me has been the huge commitment of students and staff who have turned out in record numbers this year to wear the yellow shirt at so many different events. I would like to give a special thanks to Adam Khalil (G7R) who has

led the charge for Selket and attended every House event wearing his Selket t-shirt with pride! You will always find Ms Downey, Mr Kasmani, Ms El Masarany and Mr Kelly, wearing the House colours with passion and being fiercely competitive in every event. Selket has excelled in the last few events such as Board Games and Cup Stacking, showing that teamwork and problem-solving is our specialty. Winning these events has allowed us to creep towards the top spot and I am hopeful for another strong finish for the Selket team this year.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to give a huge thanks to all of you who support the Selket team by getting involved and challenging yourselves. Team Selket needs you!

Ms L Lacey – Selket Head of House

This year has produced some highs and lows for the Amazing Amuners. We finished in second place in the student extravaganza, fourth in the staff extravaganza, first place in staff chess, second in hula hoop, first in Sports Day football and fourth in Sports day overall. Fortunately, it's not over yet with the final House assembly still to come. I have a very positive feeling that we can finish on a high and take the lead from Kheper.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and staff who have participated in the house events this year, your enthusiasm and drive to win has kept the Amun spirit alive! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Head of Amun and I wish the new Head of House and all staff and students lots of luck for the coming year.



Ms C Mackenzie – Amun Head of House

All hail Edjo! This year was an exceptional year for Edjo. As we finish the year, we remain lying in wait to strike the current first place position holders, Kheper. Whether it be physical tests or games of mental dexterity, the Edjo team has shown itself to be a fierce competitor. Though we have yet to match our success of winning the Extravaganza, we have held onto second place position all year. We have our rivals right where we want them, and we will bask in the lamentations of the current first place holders when they are toppled at the end of the year.

In addition to competing, Edjo has shown great leadership in the Student Council. May the new PE kit be worn with pride! Such are the ambitions of our Student Council. It has been an honour to lead Edjo House for the past two years, and I am proud to have taken it from the bottom finisher to the top. May Fortun push us beyond the Edge of Glory (or Edj-O Glory)!

Mr S DeJohn – Edjo Head of House

MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)

Model United Nations conferences are an excellent opportunity for MES Cairo students to gain life changing experiences. They provide students with a unique hands-on experience of not only learning about international issues and concerns but also an opportunity to create and debate possible solutions. Students learn the arts of negotiation and compromise while participating in student-



led committees that are based on the United Nations example. Interaction with other international students allows an appreciation and understanding of different cultures and perspectives to develop for participants.

This year, fifty-eight Secondary students participated in three different MUN conferences: Suzdal MUN in Russia, PRAMUN in Prague, Czech Republic, and Nevsky MUN in Saint Petersburg, Russia. MES Cairo students participated in these conferences in a variety of ways including opening speeches, sponsorship of resolutions, and the delivery of persuasive speeches to their fellow delegates. Students also experienced cultural tours and sight-seeing activities outside of the official conference



times which helped to create an understanding of the hosting country and its history.

Thank you to all those students who participated in a MUN conference this year. Through your MUN adventure hopefully you came away with a sense of international empathy, additional knowledge of major issues existing in our world today, ideas on how to peacefully resolve them, a new appreciation for the cultural experience from your MUN conference country, and new friends from around the world.

Ms C Flake - MUN Coordinator



Student Comments

MUN was one of the many great experiences the school has provided. Even though it was only four days, they were full of communication, debating, and getting to know issues of the

world while meeting students from all around the world. Not just that but also exploring the beautiful city of Prague, known as the heart of Europe. From day one we explored the city; its remarkable architecture and history is truly inspirational. One of the best moments was crossing the Charles Bridge that was



full of birds and from both sides you can see Prague's beautiful skyline. In the Conference itself, I was the delegate of Canada in the Disarmament Committee. I had the opportunity to favour my resolution in the General Assembly. It made me understand what politics really is. The MUN trip allowed me to become more confident when communicating. I did not just have the opportunity to meet new students from around the world, but also to get to know my school mates more and share more memories with my friends. Until today



I am still in touch with the delegates that I got to know including my Russian friend Peter who made all of MES Cairo students laugh every day. Despite the long travel journey, this is one of the trips that I would definitely want to repeat all over again. **Khaled Hussein (G12B)**

The PRAMUN conference was truly the highlight of my senior year. MUN is an opportunity for young adults to get a taste of how policies are developed in the real world. Our delegation was able to collaborate with students from all over the world on solutions for current world issues. As all these different viewpoints came to light, we were able to re-evaluate and question our stance on certain topics.



The students at the Jan Neruda School in Prague were, as always, such incredible hosts. They gave us an in-depth look into Czech history, took us on a tour of their city and introduced us to traditional Czech food and music. As much as the conference was the main focus of the trip, we also had time to explore the gorgeous city. MUN trips are not just about the hours spent lobbying, merging, writing resolutions, and debating, they are also about stepping out of your comfort zone. **Malak Arafa (G12B)**





Primary Pioneers End of Year Update

As

we come to the end of another challenging and action-packed year, it remains for me to reflect upon the behaviour of the students in the Primary Pioneer programme. My role with the Pioneers



were a gold for every member of the group! This meant that we, as the Pioneer team, needed to improve the standards of each of the badges. To raise the goal line and increase the challenge for the Pioneers made us question our own definitions of the Pioneers. After the change was implemented,

began in September 2014, and part of my attraction to the role was the reputation that the Primary Pioneer students hold. They have always been well-known for excellent manners, dedication to learning and willingness to try.

As each year has passed, the Pioneers have grown from strength to strength. They have continued to develop their reputation by wearing their uniforms with pride every Monday. They have worked within our school community and they have enthusiastically supported our sponsor school. The Pioneers have shown graciousness, team work and tenacity.

This year, the Pioneers have had impeccable attendance and have raised the standards of the awards. For the first time in Pioneer history, not one but four badges that were awarded



the Pioneers rose to the challenge and continued to excel in their achievements.





In addition to this, the Pioneers have remained the most responsible and reliable of previous years. With attendance and badges at an all-time high, it has also meant that letters of warning were at an all-time low!



Each year I say that I have enjoyed working with the Pioneers and each year it is the truth. The Primary Pioneer programme is made and delivered to support those individuals who inspire their peers and demonstrate the Modern English School Cairo Graduate Profile.

I am truly proud of the Pioneers that sat before me at the graduation ceremony. It was a mix of all the Pioneers I have worked with over the course of three years, from those



I inherited from the previous leader to those I personally selected. They have worked hard in Pioneer sessions to grow and mature and to develop their talents. They have supported one another and in turn helped me to grow and mature as I developed in the role and as their leader.



It was delightful to hear stories from the Pioneers themselves, about events they have run and badges they have achieved. It was nice to hear these events being reflected upon so fondly.

It is memories like these that build a bond between the Pioneers, a trust and a friendship that breaks the barrier of classes within our year groups. The memories will be treasured by all those involved.

To all those Pioneers that have helped to make the programme such a successful experience for everyone, I would like to say



a huge thank you. Well done on a fabulous year, you have all out-done yourselves. I hope you are as proud of your achievements as I am.



Ms J Godber – Primary Pioneers Coordinator



Secondary Pioneers Update

The last few months have seen a whirlwind of activity for the Secondary Pioneer Programme at Modern English School Cairo. A variety of trips and events have given our students the chance to be farmers, recyclers, electricians, leaders, dancers, dodgers, speakers, graduates, singers, navigators, chefs, medics and, through it all, Pioneers. Wow! Looking back on that list, I can't help but be proud of the skills and dedication displayed by the Secondary Pioneers this year. Please continue reading to hear some of the highlights from this last part of the year in the words of some of our accomplished participants.

'Green Day' with the Oasis Community Centre



In continuing with our Term Two theme of community service, the Pioneers packed into busses and headed to the Oasis Community Centre on 18th March. There, we participated in a 'Green Day' workshop designed to introduce students to a more environmentally lifestyle. The day was full of fun and new experiences. A huge thank you is owed to the Oasis Community Centre for giving our young leaders a new set of tools to help create a greener, brighter, and better Cairo. Now let's hear from our students about what they learned from their "Green Day" workshop.

"The difference between upcycling and recycling is that upcycling is reusing waste without changing its shape or form. For example, when we made a chandelier on the Green Day trip it was upcycling since we didn't change the form of the cups. Recycling is completely changing the form of a piece of waste. An example of a recycled product is a low-quality newspaper, it is made up by old pieces of paper that thrown away then shredded and stuck together by glue to make a new, larger piece of paper."

Leilah Raphael (Y7B)

"I think littering is a big problem in Egypt as there are a lot of people and littering is difficult to control. Generally you do not find recycling bins on the streets in Egypt which means that all types of litter are mixed up together. This makes it very hard to separate the litter that could be recycled and the waste. Even though people think it's much easier to just throw away their litter, it actually isn't, as you can just recycle your things and save a lot of money as well as be creative. This problem could be solved by adding recycling bins all over the country instead of burning the litter and destroying the environment. There should be a law that fines anyone who is caught littering on the streets. If this is done, then our country will have done its job to keep our world clean and environmentally friendly." **Kareem Asad (Y8R)**

"During Green Day, the Oasis staff showed us the solar panels they had on the roof and informed us that the whole ecolodge ran on the power that it produced. We learnt that the solar panels use the energy that it is given during the day while the sun is up and store extra power that can be used when the sun goes down at night. This was a shock to me as I never knew that a person could easily rely on the sun for energy instead of normal electricity. Moreover, we also learnt that Egypt's population can sell the power that is collected by the solar panels to the government for money. This showed us that using solar panels can be an overall simpler and cheaper way to collect energy for electricity. In my opinion, I think that more people should use solar panels as they are very cheap and are much simpler. Furthermore, using fossil fuels to collect energy can release harmful chemicals into the air which can cause pollution. On the other hand, solar power simply uses the sun's energy that is there every single day without releasing a single bit of harmful gases into the wonderful air."

Nadine Helmy (Y8O)

A Weekend Retreat with Wellspring Egypt



As Term Three began, the Secondary Pioneers shifted to a programme focused on developing leadership skills. I am confident that the young ladies and gentlemen of the Pioneer

Programme will become the leaders of their school and wider community. We kicked off this new motif with one of our most anticipated trips of the year, a weekend retreat with Wellspring Egypt. On 20th April Pioneer participants travelled to Beit el Wadi and engaged in a two-day programme focused on developing young leaders. Obviously, we had lots of fun on the trip. Even more valuable, though, was the new friendships and confidence I saw emerge from amongst the Secondary Pioneers. Here is what just a few of our students learned from their time with Wellspring Egypt.

“Wellspring was a great opportunity. Not just because of learning and friends but also for the skills. We learned so much there about leadership, teamwork and how to put all of our ideas together to create a flexible idea that would help us all. Speaking of leadership, I wanted to talk about two Wellspring leaders that helped me on the trip named Emmy and Nancy. They were calm, very friendly, flexible and they loved it when you interacted with them. One of the most important characteristics that they both have is that they are fair and listened to you when you needed advice.”

Lina Helal (Y7Y)

“A thermostat is a small device that can change the temperature whilst a thermometer is something that tells us the temperature. A good leader is just like the thermostat; they decide what is going to happen and why, just like saying that if it's hot the thermostat will make us cool. A thermometer though is what follows the thermostat, whatever the temperature is. Good leaders should act like thermostats so that they decide what they and their followers do but in good action.”

Razan Hassouna (G7Y)

“One of the things I enjoyed about Wellspring was that I learnt new things. I learnt about thermostats and thermometers. The difference between both are that a thermostat is the thing where it can control the temperature, however, a thermometer states what the temperature is. This is like how humans behave as to one is a leader and the others are following. You shouldn't always be a thermometer if you do not agree with what the leader is saying or doing. You could always be the leader yourself or others could be especially when the group is at a weak point. This is a good time to raise the spirit and be positive. Always be the leader and not the follower, like a sheep.”

Salah Mattar (Y7Y)

Secondary Pioneers Camp Out



Finally, we have reached the last Secondary Pioneer trip of the year. On Thursday 25 May, forty students and four brave teachers prepared to spend the night camping out on the Modern English School Campus. It was an incredibly fun evening filled with food, games, fires (controlled of course) and plenty of sleep. We also snuck in some lessons of skills that our students will need if they decide to continue past the Pioneers in the International Award Programme at MES Cairo. Everything led up to the Amazing Race and the much coveted 'Golden Compass' award. At the end of the night, 'The Victors' team outplayed, outwitted, and outlasted all others to take home the amazing accolade. I'll let a few of our students tell you more about our Camp Out event.

“While I was on the end of year camping trip for the Pioneers, I did a few things I haven't before. For example, I have figured out how to use a compass, and what all the basic things in a First Aid kit are. Overall I think I would have loved to learn even more things while on my camping trip.”

Noam Henning (G8R)

“I thought that this year's Pioneer camp out was incredible. It was great fun and taught me life skills that I didn't know how to do before (like taking a compass bearing). However, my favourite part of the camp-out was the scavenger hunt. I felt that I bonded with others in my group and that's why I enjoyed it the most. Although I loved all the other activities that we did (including making s'mores), I felt that this one was the one I liked the most.”

Sarah Sharara (Y8O)

“We were all hyped up from the moment we changed into our PE Kits to the moment we were in the car home; and the events in between were the BEST of all the times... The idea of the “make

your own dinner” kind of frightened me a little, but something inside me told me that it was worth the experience. People may think that we just played a bit and left, but actually we learnt about orienteering and so much more. First Aid was my favourite. I knew the story of the little girl and the Red Cross, but I didn’t know what the recovery position was before Thursday. We, ‘The Victors’, won the ‘Golden Compass’ for the scavenger hunt that included lots of fun, pictures, and exercise. I really enjoyed the camp fire and the s’mores with the hint of creepy stories and walking the track in PJs. It was the best experience.”

Laurina Salama (G7Y)

End of Year Ceremony



It’s always a bittersweet time when we come to the end of the Pioneers season. We have to say goodbye to those in Year/ Grade Eight who will be leaving the Programme next year, but take one last chance to savour the sweet accomplishments of our students this school year. The Pioneers End of Year Ceremony was a grand occasion that brought Primary and Secondary

Pioneers together to celebrate our achievements. For me, the theme of the night was pride. As I called my Secondary students across the stage, I could not help but reminisce about the times we have had over my two-year tenure as Coordinator. Each Pioneer I called across the stage has surprised me with their bravery, inspired me with their empathy for others, and provoked me to laughter. My heart was filled with pride each time that I called one of my Pioneers to receive their awards. A strange mix of relief, regret, pride, and peacefulness accompanied me on the Uber ride home. I cannot tell you how many of my stories for the rest of my life will begin with: “One time with the Pioneers at MES...” I will leave you now with a piece of advice from our Secondary Student Speaker, Lara Abdel Majid Karim (Y8R). In her speech at the End of Year ceremony, Lara said, “The most valuable lesson I have learned as a Pioneer is to take risks, face my fears, and live without regrets. To the younger Pioneers here today, my advice is to take risks and make the most out of the Programme.”

I, for one, will do my best to follow her advice.

High Achievers



The following students earned High Achiever honours for earning six or more badges over the course of the year.

Lara Gamaleldin (G7B)

Adam Nagy (Y8O)

Nada Karim(Y7G)

Laurina Salama (G7Y)

Lara Abdel-Majid Karim (Y8R)

Aly Ibrahim (G8R)

Razan Hassouna (G7Y)

Malak El Halafawy(Y8B)

Youssef Bakir (Y7G)

Jayhad Tawfik (Y7B)

Zeina Fawzy (Y8O)

Mr D Erbach – Secondary Pioneers Coordinator

MES CAIRO ACHIEVERS

We continue to celebrate the success of our students who excel in sports both at a national and international level. The athletic talents of MES Cairo students is outstanding and the evidence is overwhelming.

Salma Assal, Salma Kouchouk, Zeina Mostafa, Talia Al Sherif (Y6V)
Year Six Violet Ballet Stars of the Future



In March this year, four very talented students from Year Six Violet represented Egypt and their Ballet school at a prestigious, international dance competition.

Salma A, Salma K, Zeina and Talia have been attending the Tatiana Kruk Ballet School for a period of between one and

a half years and four years. They are all talented and dedicated, although they still felt understandably nervous about the big event. The girls did not want to let their school or country down and they most certainly did not. They supported each other and managed to come in the top five in all their groups which is a marvellous achievement. They also won the award for 'Best Ballet School'. Salma Assal has taken her love of dance to a new level and choreographed one of the dances for the Year One concert this year.

We are all very proud of what you have accomplished and hope that you continue to follow your passion. Well done!

Malak Altat (Y6R)



Malak is a passionate swimmer. She recently participated in the

Egypt Cup and won four Gold medals in 400m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, 100m Breaststroke and 200m Freestyle. Malak also won a Silver medal in the 50m Breaststroke and was awarded the Best

Swimmer and Best Record. Achievement at this level does not happen overnight. Malak has been training in swimming since she was three years old and currently trains with the Maadi Club team six days a week, both before and after school. She has been entering competitions since 2011 and has really come into her own over the past eighteen months.

Well done Malak. Your commitment to your sport is certainly paying off.

Yassin Tolba (Y9Y)



A competitive swimmer for his age group, Yassin starts every day at 4am to train and then finishes the day with more training at 6.30pm. He says "I train every day and do all of this just for one thing only... the taste of victory." Recently he swam six races in a competition, which had over 300 participants in his age group. He won six Gold medals, the trophy for Best Swimmer and the trophy for Best Record and he also broke two championship records, one for the 100m Butterfly and the other for the 200m Butterfly.

Yassin represented his club in the Cairo Swimming Zone competition which was to decide the members for the Egyptian National Swimming Team that will be participating in the African Junior Swimming Championships. Yassin gained first place and a new personal best in the 100m butterfly and was chosen for the National team. In the African Juniors, he won three Silver medals and one Bronze, which was a personal best and made him the fastest Egyptian swimmer in his age group.

Mostafa Samad (Y8R)



Mostafa also competed in the National Swimming cup gaining third place in the 200m Butterfly and 4th place in the 1500m Freestyle, which represented a significant improvement from his previous 10th place.

Mostafa said "The events that I participated in were the 1500, 800, 400 and the 200 Freestyle and the 200 Butterfly. The 200m Butterfly was my final event before the end of the season and I had to make my mark so it was a good time to give 110% effort. The difference between me and fourth place was only four milliseconds. I even couldn't imagine an ending this good to my season, what a finish! I always keep this quote in mind, "Winners never quit and quitters never win." Vince Lombardi

Yaseen Barakat (Y9B)



Yaseen Barakat started learning Judo four years ago, when he was ten years old. He entered different championships and then took a year off, which allowed him to focus on other things. However, this year, he came back stronger than ever, gaining 5th place in the U15 Giza Cairo Tournament and 3rd place in the U14 Cairo and Giza Judo Tournament. The real success was 1st place in the National

Tournament! Yaseen says: "In July I have an Arab Tournament when I will represent the Egyptian National team and I'm really excited about it. I am hoping to achieve something impressive!"

Omar Mazloun (Y9B)



Omar is enjoying outstanding success in Judo. He won the Cairo tournament at fourteen years old and the Egyptian National Tournament at fifteen years old. His run of 1st places led to Egyptian National television interviewing him as an exceptionally successful competitor who over a two-year period won a Gold medal in every tournament in which he participated. Omar clearly shows that he understands the basis for success when he says, "Winning is not just about the trophies, it's about the hard work behind it."

Nour El Adly (Y9G)



Squash has long been a source of MES Cairo's sporting successes and Nour El Adly is continuing the tradition. Nour started playing squash at the age of nine and his first tournament came six months later. He trains six days a week including private training, self-training and exhibition matches. He trains in fitness to enhance his performance in squash. Nour has been part of Heliopolis Squash Team for five years and has participated in many tournaments across Egypt. His first international tournaments were this February, when he participated in the French Junior Open and

Austrian Junior Open. Nour says of the tournament, "I had the heart of a lion and I was very spiritual, as I was representing Egypt. It's a big responsibility, but it gave me a boost to keep Egypt's dominance in squash worldwide. Thankfully, I won 10th place across Europe, a good achievement for my first international tournament."

We think it is an exceptional achievement. Well done Nour!

Adel Serry (Y9B)



Another strong tradition that continues to thrive at MES Cairo is Water Polo and this year is no exception as Adel Serry shows that he is also an outstanding competitor with contagious enthusiasm. He says, "What a season it was! This season I have proudly scored a total of forty seven goals and won a gold medal with Gezira sporting club for the U15 Egyptian cup and a silver medal for the U17 Egyptian cup. With hard work, determination and passion I have earned myself a place in the Water Polo U16 Egyptian national team, which is a great honour and my main goal is to participate into the 2024 Olympics. Water Polo isn't just a sport, it's a lifestyle."

To all our superstars, we are extremely proud of you and will be cheering you on the road to future success.

Ms S Clingan – Assistant Headteacher, Years Ten-Twelve, British Section and Ms M Glancy – Primary Assistant Headteacher

MESConians – Where Are They Now?

Alumni News

Ahmad Ghalwash (Class of 2005)

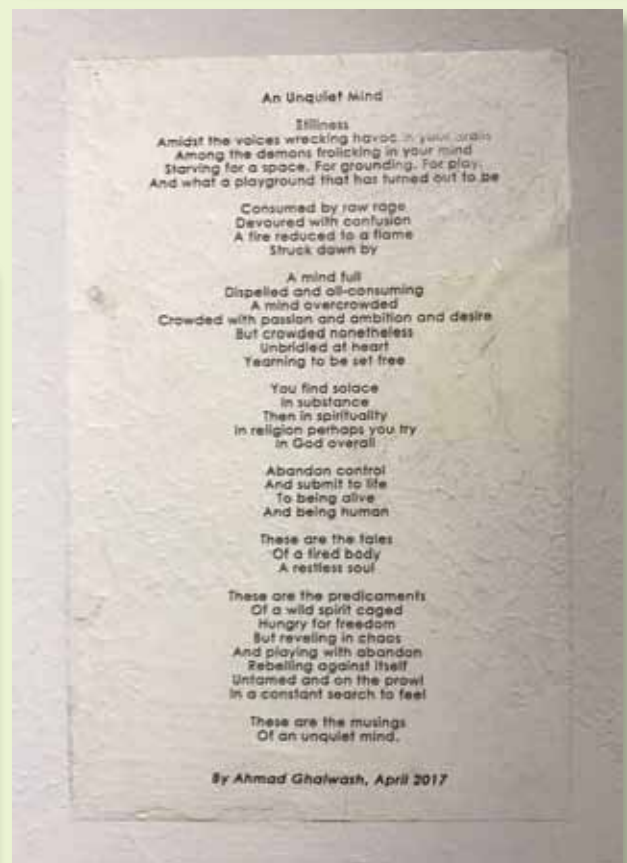
Ahmad graduated from MES in 2005 before going on to AUC where he majored in Political Science, (specialising in International Law), and minored in Economics. He was an excellent student who contributed hugely to the morale and ambition of MES Cairo. He threw himself into Drama and Art and he made Drama 'cool' to be involved in.

Ahmad has had quite a journey since graduating. He has worked in various fields including advertising, development and the oil and gas industry. Throughout this time, Ahmad has always tried to make time to pursue his hobbies and interests, particularly art and writing. Ahmad has always been very passionate about art and has always practised it, whether on his own or by taking different classes across the country.

The project in the photographs is titled "An Unquiet Mind" and through mixed media, Ahmad explored this theme as a common human condition. This work was on display as part of a group art exhibition (with many talented artists participating) at The Ubuntu Art Gallery in Zamalek until 3rd June 2017.

We look forward to seeing more of Ahmad's work in the future.

Ms C Boswell – Publications Officer



MES Cairo Alumni return for one last game of Basketball!



Alumni Team Members

Karim Ramy (Class of 2015), Fawzi Ezzeldin (Class of 2015), Abdelaziz Sarg (Class of 2016), Abdulfattah Sarg (Class of 2016) and Tarek Salhab (Class of 2016).

Mr J O'Connor
Secondary PE Department

As the University terms finish across the world, returning students love to come back to school to catch up with old friends and their favourite teachers – and what better way to spend an afternoon but by playing a game of Basketball.

What a match it was going to be, between the staff team made of three staff members and three current MES Cairo Basketball stars and the Alumni team made up of former MES Cairo Basketball stars.

Luckily for the teacher/student team, the Alumni team were out of shape with the majority of their time currently spent between classrooms and libraries! The game was competitive, but the fitness and experience of the MES Cairo staff/student team was too much for the Alumni squad! As time went on, we forget about the competition and mixed up the teams – some great shots and team sequences were shared by all players.

Staff Team Members

Mr J O'Connor, Mr A Koene and Mr S DeJohn and three current MES basketball stars - Ismail Mahdy (G11R), George Apikian (G11G) and Khaled Sadek (G10G).



MR MULLIGAN'S MARATHON AND TRIATHLON UPDATE

WHAT A GOOD YEAR FOR THE RUNNERS!

What a year it has been for the runners here at MES Cairo!



The Pharaonic race was won in incredibly dramatic style by our amazing MES Cairo team – Mr Brown, Mr Currie, Mr McCole, myself (Mr Mulligan) and friend of the school Mr Khalifa. Running in relay from Fayoum to Sakkara - a total distance of 100km. We snatched victory in a battle for the line which resulted in tears from the second-place team and mile-wide smiles from us. Our driver, Abdo, was even more excited than we were. He has been driving teams in the race for eleven years and this was his first win – he is the one wearing trousers!



Then there were the first set of Triathlons at Sahl Hasheesh in December.



MES Cairo had entrants in the Sprint and Olympic distance events. Mr Brown, Miss Walker, Mr Mackenzie, Mrs Mackenzie and Miss Dean all took part in this tough combination of swimming, cycling and running. Miss Hamilton worked as part of a split team, taking on the running duties. Triathlons are not for the faint-hearted at the best of times and here our athletes struggled against strong winds coming in from the sea which made the cycling particularly demanding. Despite the conditions, they still delivered fantastic performances across the board. (In recent news: Mr Mackenzie went back to Sahl Hasheesh for the Spring Triathlon weekend where he entered both the Sprint and the Olympic events and completed both – finishing 15th in the Sprint and 35th in the Olympic. He is now preparing for a Half Ironman in June – Good luck Mr Mackenzie!)

Next up was the International Half Marathon in El Gouna on the 10th February 2017. Our Primary and Secondary teachers were out in force again – Mr Brown coming in first amongst the teachers with a blistering time of 1hr 29 mins. Mr Brown and Miss Walker running personal best times and everybody thoroughly enjoying the event and location. Who doesn't love El Gouna?

And finally, to the Marathons! This year I was lucky enough to run the Madrid Marathon on Sunday 23rd April. This was very special for me as my Grandfather is from Madrid and he flew from England to meet me there, showing me where he grew up and went to school. He also introduced me to family members I

had never met before as it was my first time in the city. My new-found Spanish and Columbian family looked after me fantastically well and I have never eaten so well, or so much!



This was my second full marathon and I felt that I probably knew what to expect. Running 42.195km doesn't seem *too* intimidating after more than a thousand kilometres of training runs. Marathons, however, seem to have a way of adding new 'twists' to keep you on your toes. This time I ran a personal best first half of 1:34, then hit what felt like a wall of warm lead which lasted for about 20km! A sign, perhaps, that I had pushed too hard at first but as my GPS watch stopped working at 15km I was finding it tough to judge my pace. I realised I had not slowed down *too* much when I passed the 3.15 pace runner at 40km. That's when my calves seized up in what felt like a flurry of harsh electric shocks. I had to stop and stretch SIX times in the last 2km, dropping 80 places and 5 minutes. AAAAGH!

I finished at 3hrs 20 minutes. Despite the frustrating calf muscles, I had bettered my previous time by nearly 15 minutes and slipped under the qualification time for Boston 2018 by nearly 5 minutes. Time to get training again!

Just before electric shocks were fired into my calf muscles...



Maadi runners (pictured below), featuring Miss Hamilton and Miss Dean from the Year Two team, decided to run the METRO Marathon in Düsseldorf, Germany on Sunday, 30 April 2017.



Miss Dean was running her first full marathon and was delighted to finish at 4:59, breaking the daunting 5hr barrier and rounding off a year of incredibly hard training! Miss Hamilton, running her 5th full marathon came home with an awesome personal best of 3:44. Well done on the new PB Miss Hamilton!



So, all in all, an incredible year for the athletic teachers here at MES Cairo. Many personal records were broken, many goals were met and long may it continue!

**Mr D Mulligan –
Primary ICT**



MESMERISED



MESsenger 56 Team

Ms C Boswell, Ms S Sheehan, Ms G Dajani, Mrs N Singleton, Mr J Todd, Ms R Sharkawy and Ms O Mawla.

With special thanks to Elham Tadros at Glow Printing.



Modern English School Cairo is a learning community which provides a high quality education for children from Foundation Stage One to university entrance level, serving the needs of Egyptian and international families in Cairo. Our broad education is based upon the British Curriculum in Primary. In Secondary, we offer a choice between a British Curriculum, an American Curriculum and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Arabic and Religious Studies are taught throughout the school.

Our Mission

Leadership through Education: Caring, Challenging, Inspiring

We believe in:

- recognising the value of each individual and his/her relationship with others;
- promoting international understanding and responsible citizenship in a multicultural context, reflecting the best of Arab, Western and other world cultures;
- providing a supportive, inspiring environment which encourages learners to aim high and achieve their aspirations;
- creating opportunities for all to develop confidence, responsibility and integrity.

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*

IB World School

*

Accredited Member of Council of British
International Schools (COBIS)

*

Member of British Schools in the Middle
East (BSME)

*

CIE Fellowship Centre Status

*

Regular Member of Near East South Asia
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*

Member of Council of International
Schools (CIS)

*

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