MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO - MAGAZINE EDITION NO. 75 DECEMBER 2024

MESSENGER

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE IB JOINS THE IBSEA ANNUAL MEETING AT MES CAIRO!











Primary Curriculum Highlights, Secondary News, IBSEA AGM and IBIS Conference, Pink Day, “Keep Egypt Warm” Campaign
We Can’t Wait for The Wiz, Sportsdesk… and so much more!

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FOREWORD



MES Cairo: A Remarkable Start to the Year - Celebrating Success and Community Spirit

As we come to the close of Term 1, we have much to reflect on and celebrate. It's been an exciting and busy term here at MES Cairo, with numerous events, accomplishments, and milestones that showcase the energy, talent, and dedication of our entire community. From sporting victories to cultural experiences, professional development, and student recognition, this term has been filled with moments that have made us proud to be part of the MES Cairo family.



Our sports teams, the Cougars, have had a fantastic term, demonstrating skill, teamwork, and determination in every fixture. Whether on the football field, basketball court, or in the pool, our Cougars have showcased what it means to compete with pride and spirit. These victories not only highlight the athletic abilities of our students but also their commitment to excellence. A huge congratulations to all of our athletes and coaches for their hard work and achievements this term.



In a beautiful blend of education and culture, our Year 1 students had the unique opportunity to visit the Opera House, where they were treated to a special narration by our very own Miss Ghada. The experience was a fantastic way for our young learners to engage with the arts, expand their creativity, and gain an appreciation for the rich cultural heritage of Egypt. It was a proud moment for us all to see Ms Ghada share her talent with our students, making the visit truly unforgettable.

One of the most heartwarming events of the term was the "Keep Egypt Warm" campaign. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our students, families, and staff, we successfully collected warm blankets, food, and clothing for less fortunate communities in Egypt.



The school field was transformed into a beautiful sea of blankets, symbolising the warmth and compassion of our MES Cairo family. You can read more about this amazing campaign in this edition, but we want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this important cause. Your kindness has made a meaningful impact on those in need.







This term, MES Cairo had the honour of hosting the International Baccalaureate Schools in the East Asia (IBSEA) conference. The event was a huge success, bringing together educators from across the globe to share best practices, discuss innovative teaching methods, and further our collective commitment to educational excellence. Hosting this prestigious event allowed us to showcase the incredible work happening at MES Cairo and reaffirmed our commitment to continuous professional development. A special thank you to all of our staff who helped make the conference such a success.

At MES Cairo, we pride ourselves on being a learning community, and this term has been no exception. Our teachers have been engaged in a variety of professional development opportunities, from educational research and external training to in-house workshops and innovative sessions. This ongoing commitment to growth ensures that our educators are always equipped with the latest knowledge and strategies to provide the best learning experiences for our students. We are grateful to our teachers for their hard work and dedication.

In September we saw the exciting launch of our new House System, which brings together students from Primary and Secondary schools, as well as our entire staff body, in a united and spirited community. The House System aims to foster a sense of belonging, teamwork, and friendly competition throughout the school year. Staff and students alike have been competing in a variety of events and activities, eagerly racing toward the ultimate goal: winning the House Cup at the end of the year. The energy and enthusiasm around this initiative have been infectious, as students and staff work together to earn points and build house pride. We look forward to seeing how this new system will continue to grow and strengthen our sense of community in the months ahead.

In November, we had the pleasure of celebrating some of our outstanding students at the British Council, where we recognised those whose academic achievements were the highest in Egypt. This celebration was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of our students. We are immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them continue to excel in the future.

As we wrap up Term 1, we reflect on all that we've accomplished together and look forward to an exciting second term. MES Cairo continues to be a place where academic excellence, personal growth, and community spirit are at the forefront of everything we do. Thank you to our incredible students, parents, and staff for making this term a memorable one. We look forward to all the exciting opportunities that the rest of the year holds.

Melanie Midwood

Melanie Midwood - School Director



American, British, and IB Diploma Graduation Ceremony 2024







Last June, the MES Cairo family enjoyed a mesmerising ceremony to mark the graduation of the Class of 2024. Family and friends, VIPs, teachers and administration staff arrived as the sun was setting on the MES Cairo campus. The school field quickly came alive with excitement, complemented by the warm harmonious sounds of old friends being reunited. The formality and pomp of the occasion was studded by the dazzling outfits of our many elegant and stylish guests.

MES Cairo Graduation ceremonies are filled with emotionally stirring and visually striking moments that add to the thrill of the occasion. Thanks to the hard work of Ms Ghada Dajani (Managing Director) and her team, they incorporate traditional commencement exercises with entertainment and high-quality musical items that reflect the pride the MES Cairo family feels in each and every one of its Graduates.

Our guests were delighted by the entrance of the highly anticipated MES Cairo Flag Corps. After the flag routine, The ceremony began with a warm welcome from Mrs Melanie Midwood (School Director) and the Graduating Classes of the American, British and IB Sections entered in a processional march to the tune of Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man, while the younger members of the MES Cairo family remained on the field in the flag corps, heralding the Graduates' arrival in a gesture of respect for the older students' achievements. The crowd remained standing for the National Anthem of the Arab Republic of Egypt, led by the Staff and Student Choir.

This was followed by a beautiful Quran recitation given by Abdullah Ahmed (G12 Senior Student Leader); the words of the surah extended a message of peace and hope.





A heartwarming musical feature followed, with the Choirs singing an Arabic song, Eeshra Beina, to the delight of the audience.

Mrs Midwood shared inspiring words of advice with the Class of 2024 before introducing Mrs Sawsan Dajani (Chairman of the Board), expressing the universal MES Cairo family sentiment that we are so fortunate to be led by such an inspirational and caring founder, who believes in challenging us all, in order for each and every member of the MES Cairo family to reach his or her ultimate potential and to make a difference to the world around us.

Chairman of the Board

Mrs Dajani's message to the Class of 2024 was one of optimism and resilience in the face of time passing, change, and the challenges presented by change. She likened their imminent transition out of school and into the wider world of higher education and work, to the fast-paced scrolling through photographs on devices, quickly watching time pass at our fingertips: "My Graduates, time passes so quickly, you literally do not even notice it until something important, something life changing, occurs. Something like your Graduation tonight. It's like when you find yourself looking for a particular picture in your phone's photo gallery…We have all done this. It's like taking a trip down memory lane. You live and relive those moments, some more pleasant than others. It surprises you how much you have been through, lived through and how much you have actually accomplished.

> "You are one step closer to changing this world for the better. We are all counting on it."
> **Mrs Sawsan Dajani**









Walking across this stage tonight is a milestone in that photo gallery of your life. Every moment in those pictures, every lesson taught in the classrooms on this campus or on the field or on the trips you took together. Every instruction you have been given by either your teachers or your parents even the ones you rolled your eyes at has shaped you into who you are now and who you will become. You are not who you were only a year ago, certainly not five years ago. You are now wiser, stronger and I hope more resilient. You are one step closer to changing this world for the better. We are all counting on it.

Mrs Dajani reassured the students that even though they may take time to decide what they want to do in the future, they would always bring good to the world and asked them to always remember the foundational principles of the education they have received at MES Cairo.

The Founding Principles of a Founding Principal

Mrs Dajani was thrilled to welcome to the podium a very special Guest of Honour and Speaker: A man who is very close to my heart and to the hearts of many here tonight, Mr. Peter Godfrey.

I first met him in 1982. He was a young man who even at a young age, had already accomplished so much. He had already been the youngest headteacher at two very different schools in the UK. I was immediately drawn

to his approach to holistic education and to his passion for the Arts. Mr Godfrey has always been a trainer, a mentor and a natural born leader. Together, we built up one of the largest international schools in Kuwait. And indeed in the Middle East at the time.





When it came time to take a leap of faith and start a new school, in a new country, under quite difficult circumstances he and his lovely wife, Mrs Carole Godfrey, came to Cairo without hesitation, along with a handful of the most wonderful colleagues including, Mrs Linda Talbot and her husband David. They all joined me in establishing this wonderful school. Together, we have survived more than one earthquake and two revolutions and we have come out of them all thriving. Mr Godfrey's insistence on excellence, his eye for the minutest detail and his love for the arts, shaped the founding vision of MES Cairo. It is with great honour that I ask him to come to the podium and address you here tonight.
Mr Godfery (Founding Whole School Principal) spoke with great fondness of his memories of the years he spent at the helm of MES Cairo ship, steering the school from one remarkable success to another, while abiding steadfastly by the principles of holistic education which still define our wonderful school today. He took the audience on a thrilling trip down memory lane, sharing his favourite anecdotes and memories of a life enriched by MES Cairo before, during and after his days as Whole School Principal. It was a real treat for teachers, parents and students to hear his wise words and to share in recollections that emphasise the values of MES Cairo, and hear about what a positive impact they have had on teachers and learners alike, throughout the past 34 years.

Mr Godfrey's speech highlighted the great things that can be achieved when a leader has a clear vision and when this vision is adhered to, sometimes against the odds. This was further emphasised by the ensuing musical feature, *When You Believe*, performed arrestingly by the Secondary and Staff Choir.

It was with great excitement that our graduating student speakers discovered that Mr Godfrey was joining them at their Graduation Ceremony. They remembered Mr Godfrey from their Primary days. Their speech focussed on technology and the unprecedented rate of technological advancements the world is going through, while highlighting how the founding principles of MES Cairo would help to guide them in the future, as the education they have received here at MES Cairo would enable them to balance their lives and not to be consumed by technology, while also having the skills to be able to utilise technology in positive ways. Senior Student Scholars Mariam Sallam (DP12R), Tasneem Mohamed (G12Y), and Dana El Sharkawy (Y12G), thanked friends, family and teachers for shaping them into the confident and capable young adults they are today. They spoke eloquently and with conviction, earning themselves a rapturous round of applause when they concluded their speech, which they made on behalf of the whole of the Class of 2024.

The Secondary and Staff Choirs took to the stage again to perform a rendition of Walk Through Life, a song that echoes Mrs Dajani's earlier sentiments about time passing, and how best to handle change.

This was followed by the Presentation of High School Diploma and Leaving Certificates by Mrs Dajani, Mr Godfrey, Mrs Midwood, Mrs Talbot, Mrs Pfeil and Ms Sheehan, led by Presentation Reader, Ms Ghada Dajani.

Mrs Midwood took to the Podium once more to close the ceremony and to Present the Class of 2024. The excitement was palpable as the graduating students threw their caps up, up high into the night sky, each one strengthened by messages of wisdom and hope, and filled to the brim with the great founding principles of Modern English School Cairo.

May you always be true to your founding principles, Class of 2024.

MS S Sheehan - Headteacher of IB Section, Whole School Deputy Headteacher

UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE International Examinations

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO CELEBRATES EXCEPTIONAL 2024 BRITISH EXAMINATION RESULTS

Modern English School Cairo is proud to announce the outstanding academic achievements of our students in the 2024 examinations. This year's results reflect not only the hard work and dedication of our students but also the commitment of our exceptional teaching staff, and the supportive environment created by our school community.

We are particularly proud of our students' holistic growth, as these results are a testament not only to their academic ability but also to their personal development. Many of our students have balanced their rigorous academic schedule with leadership roles, extracurricular involvement, and community service, which has enriched their overall learning experience. The tables below show the exceptional performance of our students compared to the UK averages for example: A*-A 41% against 21.8% of the IGCSE cohort and A*-A 40.1% against 18.8% of the cohort.



Congratulations to our Top Performers at IGCSE:

Waad Hamid, Mariam El Saad	6 A*, 1 A, 1 B
Jameela Hamouda, Malak Nossier	5 A*, 3 A
Kenzy Ammar, Zeina Mazloum-Motawei	5 A*, 2 A

Congratulations to our Top Performers at A-level

Dana El-Sharkawy, Omar Haikal	3 A*, 1 A
Habiba Tag-El-Din, Seif El-Gazzar, Zain El Sayed	3 A*
Malika Naser, Khadija Awad, Nour Ali	2 A*, 1 A

Looking Ahead

As we celebrate the success of the 2024 examination results, we also look ahead to the future. Our school is committed to continuously improving our curriculum, teaching practices, and support systems to ensure that each student reaches their full potential. MES Cairo's focus on academic excellence, alongside our strong emphasis on character building and global citizenship, will continue to guide our students toward success.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers, staff, parents, and students for their hard work, perseverance, and support throughout the year. We are confident that the achievements of 2024 will serve as a foundation for even greater success in the years to come.

Congratulations once again to all our students on their remarkable achievements!

Mr D Bridges - Deputy Headteacher, British Section

CELEBRATING AP ACHIEVEMENTS AT MES CAIRO: A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE

The 2023-24 academic year marked a period of significant achievement for students at Modern English School Cairo, as they rose to the challenge of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. AP courses provide students with the opportunity to engage in rigorous, college-level coursework, preparing them for higher education and beyond. This year, **104 MES students took 229 AP exams across 18 different subjects,** showcasing their dedication to academic excellence. Remarkably, 67% of all exams scored a 3 or higher, a testament to both student effort and the school's supportive learning environment.

Highlights from the AP Results

- Exceptional Courses: MES Cairo outperformed the global average in five courses, including Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Comparative Government, and Art History.
- Improvement: Seven courses saw year-over-year score increases, reflecting the school's commitment to continual improvement in teaching and learning.
- Recognition for Excellence:
- 35 MES Cairo students were internationally recognised as AP Scholars.
- 19 students earned the AP Scholar title for scoring 3 or higher on three or more exams.
- 7 students achieved the AP Scholar with Honour designation for averaging 3.25 across four or more exams.
- 9 students were named AP Scholars with Distinction for averaging 3.5 on five or more exams.

Supporting Students' Futures

The AP experience at MES Cairo does more than boost academic achievement; it paves the way for higher education success. Graduates are securing placements at prestigious institutions worldwide, from the University of Pennsylvania to King's College London and the American University in Cairo.

A Look Ahead

MES Cairo remains committed to innovation and accessibility. As the College Board expands fully online AP exams in 2025, MES Cairo will offer all of these courses online. Congratulations to all our students and educators for their hard work and dedication. Together, they are not just meeting global standards but setting new ones.

Keep striving, MES Cairo scholars—we are proud of you!

Mr A Labib - Dean of Students G11-12, American Section


Zeina Fouda


Youssef Sallam


Tasneem Mohamed


Hassan El Nemr


Sama Arafa


Nour Tamer


Talia El Husseiny


Noor Amin


Sherifa Badra


Maya EL Zuhairy


Gamila Hammouda


Amina El Mallah


Aly Gaber


Alia Saba


Adam Mansour


Abdullah Ahmed

International Baccalaureate
Diploma Programme

World Class Results for our IBDP Class of 2024

IBDP students at MES Cairo celebrated their success this summer, with graduates heading to UK universities such as King's College London, the University of Manchester and Cardiff University, IE University in Spain and several top universities in the USA and Canada.
Our three top scoring students, Mariam Salaam, Aya El Digair and Lina El Hilaly, were awarded over 225 UCAS points each equating to a handful of A Level A*s and A grades for all.



Mariam Salam
40 points
IE University in Madrid
Equivalent to A* A* A* A*



Aya El Digair
37 points
University of Manchester
Equivalent to A* A* A*A



Lina Hilaly
36 points
Cardiff University
Equivalent to A* A A

MES Cairo has been offering the International Baccalaureate's IB Diploma Programme since 2006. Our IB students, through their experiences in the programme, develop critical thinking skills, communication skills, study skills and an enhanced ability to adapt and contribute to university life and beyond. They join thousands of others around the world who took the IB Diploma Programme this year, and over 1 million others educated by the IB since it was founded over 55 years ago.

"The Diploma Programme (DP) gives the student a world-class preparation for university and a lifetime of opportunity. It is a comprehensive inquiry-based education that develops superior academic ability, confidence, critical-thinking and language skills. This challenging framework is recognized and respected by the world's leading universities and aims to develop the whole student, and flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically." (ibo.org)

Olli-Pekka Heinonen, Director General of the International Baccalaureate, said: "It is always an honour to congratulate IB graduates on all their achievements, and this year their results are nothing short of praiseworthy. From the beginning, the IB has been providing an international, holistic education to inspire future leaders and peace builders. This cohort has demonstrated this commitment, and I am delighted to see so many of them moving confidently on to the next chapter of their lives equipped with the future-ready skills and compassion that define IB learners."

By developing the attributes and skills needed for success, in addition to a breadth of experience and knowledge, the IB Diploma Programme ideally prepares students for their studies at university, developing their careers and managing the challenges of an international and connected world. Those who have achieved their IB Diploma should feel confident that they are already a step ahead. We wish our students the very best and look forward to hearing about their accomplishments in the years ahead.

Ms S Sheehan - Headteacher of IB, Whole School Deputy Headteacher



University News The Class of 2025 Prepares to Launch!



Our Seniors have successfully completed, or are currently navigating, several major application deadlines. Firstly, we had Oxbridge and US Early Applications, followed by the University of California applications, European universities, and the American University in Cairo (AUC), which opened applications for the 2025 intake early in the Autumn of 2024.



As we support our students in pursuing their post-secondary goals, we are dedicated to ensuring that their applications are strong, requirements are met, and they remain on track to complete their secondary education to the highest standards. To provide the best possible guidance, students have the opportunity to schedule one-on-one meetings, participate in workshops, and engage in presentations during Prime Time and after school. Our University and Careers platform, Unifrog, continues to be an invaluable resource for students and families, offering tools for career exploration, university list-building, and seamless connections with teacher recommenders. This platform enables students to make meaningful progress toward their educational and career goals.

Our ongoing commitment is to help our students achieve their aspirations, whether they are aiming for institutions in the UK, US, Canada, Europe, Australia/New Zealand, or Cairo.

In addition to submitting applications, many of our students are also actively seeking and applying for scholarships both at home and abroad to support their post-secondary education. To help them make informed decisions, MES Cairo hosts university presentations, allowing students to connect directly with admissions representatives, learn about various programmes, and explore potential opportunities worldwide. Through these presentations and the personalized guidance provided, our students are gaining valuable insights into the application process and identifying the best paths toward achieving their academic and professional goals.

Our students are doing exceptional work as they build their UK applications on UCAS. This process involves deep reflection on their personal growth as students and global citizens, allowing them to express their unique characteristics and the broad range of skills and strengths they have developed during their time at MES Cairo. In their personal statements and essays, students are thoughtfully articulating how they will contribute to a university environment, showcasing not only their academic achievements but also their resilience, creativity and commitment to their communities. This process has proven immensely beneficial, helping our students grow in confidence as they learn to communicate the many ways they can enrich their chosen institutions.

Already this year students have submitted applications to universities including, but not limited to the following:

- Baylor University
- Birmingham City University
- Bocconi University
- Drexel University
- Duquesne University
- IE University Barcelona
- IED Barcelona
- Illinois Wesleyan University
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Purdue University
- Queen's Belfast
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Stetson University
- University of Chicago
- University of Durham
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Florida
- University of Glasgow
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Minnesota: Twin Cities
- University of Newcastle
- University of North Florida
- University of Oxford
- University of Plymouth
- University of Sheffield
- University of Virginia
- Yale University

Ms A Levin - Assistant Headteacher, Secondary University and Careers Guidance

Director General of the IB attends the International Baccalaureate Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) Annual General Meeting, held at MES Cairo on 3 November 2024







In addition to her other responsibilities, Ms Ghada Dajani is also the President of the IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA). Since its inception in 2021, the IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) has held an AGM every year, where IB member schools from all over Egypt have the opportunity to come together in the spirit of unity and progress. This year the IBSEA Executive Committee were honoured to be joined by Olli-Pekka Heinonen (Director General of the IB), Adrian Kearney (Director of IB World Schools) and Dr Kawther Saa'd Aldin (IB Development & Recognition Manager) who were keen to join the IBSEA meeting during their Egypt visit, to hear all about the status of IB Schools in Egypt from the collective perspective of the leaders representing each school. Ms Ghada Dajani, President of IBSEA, summarised and presented the key points submitted by IBSEA schools in advance of the meeting and then opened the floor to all, so that further points could be discussed.







Olli-Pekka Heinonen, Adrian Kearny and Dr Kawther Saa'd AlDin listened with great interest throughout. They heard all about the opportunities presented in Egypt along with the challenges faced by IB Schools. It was a great privilege for all present to be able to receive immediate, supportive responses from IB leadership at this top level.

The challenges faced in Egypt will not come as a surprise to most, but the opportunities in the Egyptian context and the recent growth of IB Schools in Egypt may not be known by those outside of the IBSEA community.





The first IB school opened in Egypt over 35 years ago in 1989, starting what has become an unquenchable thirst for the IB brand of education in the country. It is a remarkable statistic that Egypt hosts more IB schools than the rest of North Africa. The IB has become firmly embedded in the educational tapestry of Egypt; there are now over 50 IB world schools here with a total of 85 programmes being offered. The DP has always been the most heavily subscribed, but we are now seeing exponential growth in the MYP and PYP.

This passion and belief in the IB mission is one reason that the IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) has grown so rapidly. IBSEA member schools have worked together, engaging in mutual support and development, united and dedicated to the IB cause since the birth of the association.

The success of the Association has relied upon the dedication of IBSEA's Executive Committee. The Committee has organised an array of initiatives; from website development, news sharing and facilitating teacher and student connections, to an annual large-scale conference-style networking event, magnanimously spearheaded and supported by visionary leader Ms Ghada Dajani, President of IBSEA and Managing Director of Modern English School in Cairo. Ms Dajani is a truly passionate advocate for the IB, and her committed leadership is reflected in the strength of the Association today.

The local and global educational landscape continues to change and grow at an exponential rate. Here in Egypt, it seems the passion for IB is a constant force amid the change. IBSEA member schools are confident that the IB organisation will continue to pre-empt global change for the young people it serves, ensuring that IB students everywhere are well prepared to thrive, as they lead the world of the future.

So where next for IBSEA and for our growing family of IB schools in Egypt? Whether we will see a continued rising trend in school and student numbers, or perhaps a broader programme and subject offer, we cannot predict, but we do know that the impact that IB schools are having on education in Egypt is unprecedented. We may not be sure about exactly what lies ahead, but we are united by the association and ready for an exciting future forged by phenomenal growth.

IB Global Conference 2024 - Budapest







Ms Ghada Dajani (Managing Director) and Ms Suzanne Sheehan (Head of IB), travelled to Budapest, Hungary to attend the IB Global Conference 2024. It was a fantastic opportunity to attend workshops based on the theme of "Inspiring Learners, Realising Potential". They met with other IBSEA schools and shared plans for progress in Egypt that will be driven by the dedicated and engaged IBSEA Executive Committee.

Ms S Sheehan - Headteacher of IB Section, Whole School Deputy Headteacher



IBSEA IBIS CONFERENCE 2024







This term, the International Baccalaureate Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) annual networking event grew from a networking 'Jobalike' meeting to a full scale 'Conference' spanning over three days filled with professional development and networking opportunities - the only conference of its kind in the whole region. This wonderful event brought together over 1000 IB educators from over 50 IB World Schools and IB Candidate Schools across Egypt. We are proud that the conference was hosted at MES Cairo by our Managing Director, Ms Ghada Dajani, who is the elected President of IBSEA. The event has grown so much in popularity that the number of participants has outgrown our auditorium capacity in the school theatre. Not one to let obstacles stand in her way, Ms Ghada Dajani decided to erect a purpose-built marquee on the school field in order to accommodate what has become a much-anticipated, whole scale educational conference.

The Conference was given a special theme that linked the educational tenets of wisdom, learning and intellect to Ancient Egypt - proudly claiming the mythical IBIS bird as its motif and acronym, represented by the theme headlines:







IMAGINE BUILD INSPIRE SUSTAIN



The first day of the Conference opened with a welcome address presented by Haif Bannayan (Global Director Business Development at The International Baccalaureate), Dr Kawther Saa'd AlDin (IB Development & Recognition Manager) and Ghada Dajani (President of IBSEA).

The opening Keynote Presentation was given by Haif Bannayan, followed by Expert Panel Discussion moderated by Dr Kawther Saa'd AlDin. Panel Members were Haif Bannayan, Peter Vaughan (Principal, Hayah Academy), May Waly (Principal of Middle School, Green Land Pré Vert International Schools) and Suzie Sheehan (Head of IB, MES Cairo).

Ms Ghada Dajani, MES Cairo's Managing Director and President of IBSEA said: "I would like to thank Haif Bannayan and Dr Kawther Saa'd Eddin for making the journey to Egypt to join us, for their unstinting support of the Conference and their belief in the vision of the IBSEA Executive Committee. They have inspired us with their engaging presentations. We are incredibly grateful for the outstanding work that IB colleagues do in support of the IB here in Egypt. On behalf of the IBSEA Executive Committee, I would also like to thank each and every one of our visitors for joining us here at MES Cairo, and especially to those who made the journey from as far away as Alexandria. We were very pleased to be able to welcome those of you that are already with us as part of the International Baccalaureate Schools in Egypt Association since its inception in 2020, along with those who are new to the Association. It is your commitment to the IB Mission that is enabling the Association to thrive, develop and continue its good work."

The Keynotes were followed by a myriad of Continuum, Programme Specific, Core and Subject workshops on each day. Passionate and dedicated IB educators from all over Egypt volunteered to present and lead workshops.

The third day of the Conference was dedicated wholly to the Arabic language, providing a superb opportunity for teachers of Arabic language and literature to engage in training workshops and to share outstanding practice.

The IBIS Conference was, in the spirit of the IB Mission, an opportunity for us to share and to collaborate. Collective efficacy is truly rewarding when educators are given the opportunity to share good practice and to do so with passion. The Conference was a real success due to each participant's passion and belief in the benefits of an IB Education.

This year the Conference hosted Exhibitors who were able to connect with Egypt's IB schools, in the first event of its kind.

It was wonderful to witness the enthusiasm that our IB colleagues have for sharing their talents, expertise and knowledge. The energy we created together enabled us to make the event highly beneficial for all participants. We could not have done it without the wonderful enthusiasm and support of outstanding IB teachers from all over Egypt!

Ms S Sheehan - Headteacher of IB Section and Whole School Deputy Headteacher

Pink Day 2024









Around the world, the month of October is regarded as Breast Cancer Awareness month. Different days during the month are adopted as Pink Days in different countries with pink ribbons being the symbol associated with this form of cancer. If caught early, this type of cancer can be treated successfully. In order to raise awareness of the importance of regular screening and early detection, MES Cairo declared Thursday 24 October as our 'PINK DAY' 2024, and our special theme for this year was, 'Be Kind'.



As a result of our community coming together, MES Cairo were proud to fundraise an incredible 400,000LE for our chosen charity, The Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt (BCFE). The money will be used to support their hard work in the areas of research, prevention/early detection education and support of breast cancer patients here in Egypt.







Raising Funds

To raise funds, we sold an especially designed MES Cairo Pink Day 'Be Kind' T-Shirt across the whole school. As well as T-Shirt sales, fundraising was significantly boosted by the efforts of our Senior Class of 2025, along with the Primary and Secondary Pioneers.This started with the Seniors and the Pioneers hosting popular Bake Sales during the days running up to Pink Day.

As is now MES Cairo tradition, strict rules about hair, make-up and jewellery are disregarded on Pink Day! On Pink Day itself, Seniors and Pioneers added to the fun atmosphere and contagious excitement by organising bracelet kiosks and manning mobile stations for hair spraying, face painting and even nail painting!



Raising Awareness

Whilst raising funds for BCFE was a significant aim for the day, we also wanted to raise awareness about healthy living with all our children in age-appropriate ways. With younger students in Primary, our focus was on health, fitness and wellbeing.



Primary staff across the year groups brought attention to the pink theme in creative ways by dressing up in phenomenal outfits - you can see some of these in the photographs shared on this page. Our Primary students really did have a great time being taught by all sorts of creative (and very pink!) characters.

Secondary students learnt about the science of cancer, the importance of early detection, and where possible, prevention. Year/Grade 10 attended an assembly on cancer awareness and resources were shared each morning of Pink Day week in homerooms.



Across our whole school community was a visual symbol of collective spirit as students and staff, regardless of year group or section, proudly wore their Pink Day t-shirt. Even our school buildings got 'dressed' for the occasion with large pink fabric banners suspended at various points around the school. At night the school was lit up in spectacular pink lighting, reminding all passersby of the importance of regular screening and early detection in the global fight against breast cancer.

We thank all members of our MES Cairo community who joined us in celebrating the invaluable gift of good health and awareness raising in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and of course for their generosity in supporting the fabulous and worthwhile work of the Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt. Together as a community we make a real difference.

Ms S Sheehan - Headteacher of IB Section,
Whole School Deputy Headteacher







A BLANKET OF UNITY: MES CAIRO'S SPECTACULAR DISPLAY OF SUPPORT









As the cold weather settles over Egypt, the need for warm clothing becomes ever more pressing, especially for those who are less fortunate. This year, the 'Keep Egypt Warm' Campaign has been a shining example of community spirit, generosity, and compassion, with MES Cairo and the Tawasol Organisation working hand in hand to make a difference.

Thanks to the tireless support from MES Cairo students, staff, and families, over 7,000 items of clothing have been collected and distributed to those in need. The response has been overwhelming, with individuals of all ages contributing their time and love to help others stay warm this winter. These efforts have truly shown the power of coming together for a common cause.

The Tawasol Organisation, known for providing a sanctuary and education for impoverished communities, has been an essential partner in this initiative. Tawasol's work is centred on supporting a proud but struggling community, offering not only a place of refuge but also access to educational resources that uplift families out of poverty.

MES Cairo's creation and continuation of the 'Keep Egypt Warm' Campaign highlights the importance of empathy and service. Students and families have worked together to collect clothing donations, creating a ripple effect of goodwill that has extended far beyond our school. The success of this campaign is a testament to the kindness of the MES Cairo community and the partnership with Tawasol.

This year's campaign reached new heights of collaboration, as students from all years and grades came together in a truly remarkable display of support. To show their solidarity with the cause, most students contributed by bringing in blankets, creating a vibrant, heartwarming spectacle across our school's sports field.

The sight of hundreds of colourful blankets spread across the field was not only a visual testament to the generosity and kindness of the MES Cairo community, but also a powerful symbol of our collective effort to make a difference. The blankets represented more than just warmth; they embodied the spirit of our school, and presented hope for those in need during the harsh winter months.

This spectacular display of colour and kindness was a moment of reflection for all involved, highlighting how small acts of giving can come together to create a larger movement of change. It was a reminder that, no matter how big or small, each contribution has the power to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Through this incredible show of support, MES Cairo students demonstrated that when we unite for a cause, we create something far greater than just a collection of items, we create a community filled with love, care, and a shared commitment to helping those who are less fortunate. The Keep Egypt Warm Campaign will undoubtedly be remembered as a moment where MES Cairo truly came together to warm hearts, bodies, and spirits within and beyond our school .

Mrs M Midwood - School Director

PRIMELIGHT CELEBRATION





















What a fantastic way to kick off a tradition of celebrating excellence! The inaugural PRIMElight Celebration highlighted the outstanding achievements of students who embodied the PRIME elements: Preparedness, Reliability, Integrity, Mindfulness, and Effort. These students were acknowledged through Positive Behaviour Referrals by their teachers, showcasing their consistent commitment to these core principles. Finalists were carefully chosen by their Assistant Head/Dean of Students, and their recognition at the ceremony was a testament to their hard work and exemplary behaviour. A heartfelt congratulations to all who were honoured—your efforts shone brightly!



Mr J Harper - Assistant Principal, Secondary Section









In Celebration of British Section All Stars

Our MES Cairo All Stars for Term 1A have upheld the values and ethos of the school. The students embody our Modern English School Cairo Graduate Profile and are incredible ambassadors for our school. The students have embodied the Elements of Dependability, Effort, Integrity, Readiness and Respect both in and around the school campus. At MES Cairo, we pride ourselves on a holistic approach to education and encourage students to participate in more than the subject classes they attend. Many students this term have been heavily involved in raising the profile of our charity days to benefit not just our school community but our wider community too but have been active in our Cougar programme and in sporting events outside school.

October All Stars



Ahmed El Tahir (Y7B), embodies all of the Elements and will be a key contender for the Graduate Profile Award at the end of the year, a tremendous start to (Y7), well done! Marina Bskhroun, (Y8R) is also a credit to the school and is a wonderful role model to our student body. Each year new students join the MES Cairo family, Biaoye Li in (Y9R) has smoothly transitioned into the school and his effort in all his subjects is exemplary, highly able in Maths, and we wish him every success as competes in the American Competition. We wish him every success! The following students display the Elements every day, they are wonderful ambassadors for the school: Halla Shreif (Y10Y) who put on a wonderful performance in a recent Drama assessment, Sam Haque (Y11Y) who is dedicated and a conscientious student in every subject that he has chosen and will go far. Finally, our scholarship winner Mariam Sharhara (Y12B) not only achieved academically but also gave an inspiring speech to the incumbent NJHS/NHS members at the induction ceremony.

November All Stars



Talia Behairy, (Y7R) has impressed us with her fabulous acrylic piece of work that was created especially for the Council of British International Schools competition, she is totally reliable and respectful at all times. I look forward to seeing her progress as an artist. Ahmed Rafaat, (Y8R) continues to display the characteristics of the MES Cairo Graduate Profile on a daily basis and places 100% effort into all he does both in and out of the classroom, he is an inspiration. Phoebe Williams (Y9Y) has displayed dependability, moving schools is not an easy task but she has transitioned well into (Y9) and is an awesome goalkeeper for our Cougar team. In addition, in spite of preparing coursework for her Art portfolio she has found the time to produce stunning pieces of photography for the COBIS Art Competition. Yehia Labib (Y10R), is having an impact in the Junior Varsity Cougar team and was prepared for his Drama performance, he is thoroughly dependable which is a key skill when collaborating with others. Zarah Haque, (Y11Y) achieved a significant number of A* at IGCSE, admirable given the fact that she had to change examination syllabi halfway through her course. She is a positive role model to all. Our Year (Y12Y) student leader, Sherif Nagy has been integral to the success of the varsity Cougar Football team, scoring the final penalty in a recent CISSA tournament and is an excellent ambassador for the school both in and out of the classroom.

Mrs L Talbot - Secondary Headteacher, British Section

Celebrating Secondary Achievement

IB SECTION Learner Profile Awards

The International Baccalaureate Learner Profile encompasses a wide range of human attributes and responsibilities, extending beyond academic achievement.

It reflects a dedication to fostering respect for oneself, others, and the world within the entire school community.

We are very proud of students who have received Learner Profile Award nominations from their teachers.

In September we focussed on Thinker


Adam El Hady (DP12Y)


Adam Heteba (DP11Y)


Karma Kirollos (DP11Y)


Layla Sabry (DP11R)


Louay El Habibi (DP12Y)


Maren Breitnger (DP12Y)


Maya Gado (DP11R)


Mennatallah Ibrahim (DP11R)


Ramy Wahib (DP12Y)

In October we focussed on Communicator


Adam Nasr (DP12R)


Bashier Osman (DP12R)


Habiba El Ayouti (DP12R)


Lilly Selim (DP11R)


Malak Abou Laban (DP12Y)


Miriam Faragalla (DP11R)


Mohamed Abualabbas (DP11R)


Nematalla Hindam (DP12Y)


Sarah Samy (DP12Y)

In November we focussed on Caring


Abdallah Shallaby (DP11R)


Adam El Hady (DP12 Y)


Mennatallah Ibrahim (DP11R)


Jannah El Bialy (DP11R)


Sarah Samy (DP12Y)

Celebrating Secondary Achievement

American Section

Students of the Month

Celebrating Honor Through Our Student of the Month Program

At our school, we have long celebrated our students' achievements and character through the Student of the Month programme. Remember the thrill of "Star Student" days? That feeling of recognition for something uniquely you—whether your academic accomplishments, infectious enthusiasm, or acts of kindness? We believe that every student deserves recognition, not just for grades, but for the well-rounded individuals they are becoming and the ways they embody the value of honor.

What makes a Student of the Month? Our teachers and Deans of Students are continually inspired by the diverse ways our students shine, particularly in how they demonstrate honor in their lives and learning. They're looking for students who:

Own their academic journey: Demonstrating a strong work ethic, consistent effort, and a genuine desire to learn.

Embrace empathy and compassion: Fostering a supportive and positive environment, lifting others up and treating everyone with respect.

Take risks and explore: Stepping outside comfort zones, embracing new challenges, and showing creativity.

Living With Honor: In our opening assembly this year, we reflected on the importance of honour—a value that means far more than recognition. Rooted in ancient wisdom, honor is about how we choose to engage with others. It is how we lift someone up, make them feel valued, and, in doing so, set a standard for kindness and respect in our community.

Honor, as we discussed, is not just about individual success; it is about how we make others feel important. Simple acts like letting someone go first, sharing a word of encouragement, or taking the time to recognize the strengths in others all build a culture of honor. Our goal for each Student of the Month is not only to acknowledge achievements but to spotlight the character and heart they bring to our school community.

Stepping Outside Ourselves: One challenge we often face is the tendency to focus inward—to see how situations affect us personally. Yet, honor asks us to look outward, to see and appreciate others actively. Many times, we admire traits in people from a distance, thinking, "I love how they write thoughtful notes of encouragement" or "I love how they make everyone feel part of the group." True honor means moving from silent admiration to active appreciation—through a kind word, a quick note, or even a smile that says, "I see you, and I value you."

It also takes courage and humility to recognise qualities in others that may mirror our own strengths. Acknowledging these talents in others is not always easy, but it is a powerful way to build connections and show authentic honor.

Looking Ahead: Being nominated as Student of the Month is a testament to a student's hard work, positive attitude, and growth as a young adult. It is also a recognition of their role in making our school a place where everyone feels valued and supported.

So keep striving, keep growing, and continue showing honor in all that you do. We cannot wait to celebrate each of your unique contributions and watch you inspire others in the journey ahead!

September



October



November



Ms D Pfeil - American Section Principal

MES CAIRO Secondary STUDENT COUNCIL 2024-25

The MES Cairo Secondary School Student Council elections for the 2024-2025 academic year have wrapped up, and we're thrilled to introduce our new student representatives! This year's election saw an impressive turnout of dedicated students eager to make a difference in our school community. Each candidate brought fresh perspectives and inspiring ideas to the campaign, demonstrating their commitment to giving students a voice on the issues that matter to them.

The selection process was challenging, as each candidate worked hard to communicate their vision and engage their peers. Their enthusiasm and dedication truly set the tone for a spirited and democratic election, showcasing the strong sense of community we share at MES Cairo. Each campaign was marked by creative approaches and heartfelt messages, making the final decision difficult for voters.

Congratulations to the successful candidates who will now represent their peers in the Student Council! These representatives will work closely with each other and the senior student leaders to bring forward ideas, plan events, and address student concerns. With this talented team of representatives, we are excited to see the positive changes and new initiatives they will bring to our school this year. We commend all candidates for their hard work and dedication to our community and look forward to an inspiring year ahead with our new MES Cairo Student Council.

The Student Council consists of students who have been elected by their peers who play a pivotal role in representing their peers and working alongside staff on issues that are important to our student community. The aims of the Student Council are to;

a) Strengthen connections between students and staff at MES Cairo
b) Encourage collaboration among Year/Grade/IBDP students.
c) Foster inclusion of the student voice on school matters.

Student Council 2024;


Jayden Ibrahim (Y7Y)


Katrina Roushdy (G7Y)


Amina Elmissiri (Y8R)


Hussein Zakaria (G8O)


Youssef Sultan (Y9Y)


Ali Mansour (G9G)


Danny Zaher (Y10Y)


Leilah Seeada (G10Y)


Zeina Mazloum (Y11B)


Ali Soliman (G11Y)


Layla Sabry (DP11R)


Amina EL Mallah (G12R)


Laila EL moallem (G12R)


Louay El Habibi (DP12)


Mariam Sharara (Y12)


Sherif Nagy (Y12)

Mr T Kasmani - British and IB Mathematics Teacher and House Coordinator
Mr B Rainford - Assistant Headteacher, IBDP Coordinator







A Celebration of Success at the British and IB Diploma Programme Awards Ceremony







The most rewarding part of the end of any academic year is the acknowledgement that a great deal of success has been achieved educationally. This success can be measured by excellent grades, a student's attitude to learning and embodying the attributes of our Prime Elements.

The British Section and IB Diploma Programme Award Ceremony, held in the Theatre at the end of Term 3, provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students. This auspicious occasion was attended by students involved in these academic programmes along with their parents and teachers.

Following a welcome address by Mrs Melanie Midwood and remarks by Mrs Linda Talbot, award winners collected their certificates from Mrs Midwood and enjoyed the applause offered in acknowledgement of their success. Mrs Sally El Saadany, Assistant Head introduced the prizewinners for our Year 7-9 students who have excelled over the year. Mr Macaulay, Assistant Head introduced the students in Year 10-12, many of whom have excelled not only throughout the year but also in external examinations. The IBDP Awards were







announced by Mr Brendan Rainford, Assistant Head and IB Coordinator, highlighting those students who have excelled in academic subjects across the Diploma Programme as well as the Core areas. Mr Rainford then announced the Chris O'Connell Learner Profile Award for the student who has demonstrated all ten of the attributes consistently throughout the IBDP course. Congratulations to Lina El Hilaly (DP12R) for winning this prestigious award.

Scholarship Awards for the highest academic achievement in Year 11 were awarded to Mariam Sharara in Year (Y11Y) and Louay ElHabibi (DP12Y) by Ms Ghada Dajani. Mariam and Louay are our Scholarship winners but also lead the Senior students in conjunction with their American Scholarship winner and the Student Leader from each Section. Ms Dajani also announced or Senior Student Leaders for the Academic Year 2024-25: Ali Fahmy (DP11Y) and Mariam Sharara (Y11Y). Congratulations to all four students for this outstanding achievement. Awards were also presented by Mr Doug Bridges, Deputy Headteacher, for attaining the highest achievement in a year group in addition to Prime Awards for demonstrating the Elements of Learning exemplifying the following key traits; Prepared, Reliable, Integrity, Mindful and Effort.

Students who had gained their International Awards over the year were awarded their certificates and badges by Ms Melanie Midwood.

Musical interludes provided enjoyable entertainment during the ceremony. These were performed by George El Masry (Y8B) and Malak Noseir (Y10Y) playing on the piano and a duet on the piano and violin of Pachelbel's *Canon in D* by Adam El Hady (DP11Y) and Louay El Habibi (DP11Y).

The Award ceremony was closed with some very wise words by Ms Suzanne Sheehan, Head of the IB Section. Judy Ahmed (Y11R) played the piano as the audience departed.

Mrs L Talbot - Headteacher, Secondary British Section





American Section Awards Ceremony



The Annual Awards Ceremony for the American Section, held on Sunday, June 9, 2024, is the culmination of a year-long celebration of our students' diverse talents and accomplishments. This event categorizes our recognition of student achievements into areas such as academic excellence, personal growth, and holistic development. Through these awards, we celebrate the academic mastery of subjects, the pursuit of personal improvement, and the demonstration of key learning traits and global citizenship. This event highlights the multitude of ways we recognize and honor student successes, such as Student of the Month accolades, Athletic Awards Ceremonies, positive notes and emails from teachers, and encouragement from our Heads of Faculty. Together, these celebrations reinforce our commitment to nurturing the whole child and fostering an environment where students thrive academically, socially, and personally.

Faculty Plaque: The Highest Honor

The Faculty Plaque represents the pinnacle of achievement and is the highest honor our school bestows upon a senior student. This award recognizes an individual who embodies the richness and diversity of our school community while striving for excellence in all aspects of life. The recipient of this esteemed award is not only deeply committed to academic success but also to personal growth and development as a global citizen. This year, we had the distinct honor of having Mr Tom Roodvoets, the longest-serving member of our teaching staff, present this award. His dedication to the school community underscores the significance of this recognition, which celebrates the best of what it means to be an MES Cairo graduate.

Principal's Scholar Awards

Students who have achieved an A-grade in all their classes for every term of the academic year receive the Principal's Scholar Award. These individuals exemplify consistency, perseverance, and a remarkable dedication to academic excellence.

Academic Excellence Awards

The Academic Excellence Awards are bestowed upon the highest-achieving students in their respective disciplines. This year's recipients represent exceptional performance in:

- **Social Studies**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Technology**

- **Health and Physical Education**
- **Expressive Arts** (including visual and performing arts)
- **Arabic Studies**
- **Arabic Language**



Pursuit of Academic Excellence Awards
These awards honor students who have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to learning and continuous improvement. They embody a growth mindset, displaying resilience and determination in the pursuit of their academic goals.

Most Improved Student Awards
Recipients of the Most Improved Student Award consistently demonstrate positive attitudes toward learning and actively engage in the classroom. Their dedication and effort inspire both peers and teachers alike.
Elements of Learning Awards (Grades 7 & 8) Students recognized in this category embody the core traits of the Elements of Learning:

- **Prepared**
- **Reliable**
- **Integrity**
- **Mindful**
- **Effort**



These characteristics define their approach to learning and their contributions to the school community.

Versatile Learner Award
The Versatile Learner Award acknowledges students who have eagerly embraced diverse challenges and learning opportunities. Their enthusiasm and determination serve as a model for their peers.

International Award
This prestigious recognition honors students who have completed the International Award's transformative global framework. Their achievements reflect a commitment to international-mindedness and personal growth.

Student Leadership and Key Contributors
This year's student speaker, Abdullah Sherif Ahmed, delivered an inspiring message that resonated with peers and faculty alike. Heads of Faculty presented the Academic Excellence Awards, while Mr. Tom Roodvoets presented the Faculty Plaque in recognition of the recipient's outstanding contributions.

Educating the Whole Child: A Commitment to Holistic Development
Our American Section's commitment to educating the whole child extends far beyond academics. By fostering social-emotional learning, physical well-being, character development, and learner agency, we aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to succeed in all facets of life. Not every student may receive an award during this ceremony, but each has their own unique successes and talents to celebrate. It is important to remember that true success is deeply personal, reflecting the individual journey of growth and accomplishment. Families can encourage this by recognizing and honoring even the smallest victories in their children's lives. The Annual Awards Ceremony serves as a testament to our dedication to honoring student achievements in every dimension, celebrating the richness and potential of each individual. At its core, honor is about lifting someone up, about treating others as special, valuable, and worthy of respect. It manifests in simple, often overlooked moments—like allowing someone else to go first, offering encouragement, or recognizing someone's contribution to a group. For our students, this concept is particularly powerful. Adolescence is a period where self-reflection and peer influence are at their peak. Honor calls for a shift—a look outward to recognize the value in others as much as within oneself. Families can celebrate acts of honor by encouraging kind gestures, celebrating peer support, and modeling respect and character in everyday life.

Ms D Pfeil - American Section Principal

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL OUTSTANDING LEARNER'S AWARD CEREMONY



On Saturday 30 November the Cambridge Outstanding Learner Awards for June 2024 examination series awarded their certificates and plaques in the stunning ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in Zamalek. Cambridge is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. Over the years, Modern English School Cairo students have earned public recognition for their outstanding performance in IGCSE and A Levels and this year was no exception with MES Cairo students scooping up many of Cambridge International's prestigious awards.

The Award ceremony was hosted by Cambridge International with congratulatory speeches given by Rod Smith, the Managing Director at Cambridge, and other dignitaries. However, the highlight of the evening was a speech given on behalf of the Cambridge Students, that of our very own Student Leader, Mariam Sharara. Mariam's speech focused on the transformative power of the Cambridge International Examinations programme and described her journey as a remarkable odyssey of intellectual growth and personal development. Mariam also congratulated the Award winners on their achievements.

Malika Naser	Top in Egypt Cambridge International, A Level, Business
Seif Elgazzar	Top in Egypt Cambridge International A Level, Chemistry
Habiba Tageldin	Top in Egypt Cambridge International A Level, Economics Top in Egypt Cambridge International A Level, Psychology
Karim Aboelsaad	Best across four Cambridge International AS Level Second place in Egypt and second place in Cairo
Seif Elgazzar	Best across three Cambridge International A Level First place in Egypt and Cairo
Zainelden Mahmoud	Best across three Cambridge International A Level, Third place in Cairo
Nor Aly	High Achievement Cambridge International AS Level Arabic Language
Omar Mostafa	High Achievement Cambridge International AS Level, Further Mathematics
Mariam Sharara	Top in Cairo, Egypt Cambridge, International AS Level Psychology





Some of our students were unable to attend the Award Ceremony in Cairo as they are currently studying abroad but proud parents were on hand to pick up the Award on their behalf. Congratulations to all our Award winners, we are very proud of you all.

Mrs L Talbot - Secondary Headteacher, British Section

NHS/NJHS
INDUCTION CEREMONY









"Inductees, not so long ago, we were sitting in your place, excited about what is to come. But now, it is our turn to pass on to you what was once passed on to us."

On the evening of 2 October, our school's Chapter of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony. The organisation recognises students who excel in four qualities – service, scholarship, character, and leadership.

Our keynote speaker, Mr Hashem Gad, was introduced by Hazem Abou El Fadl (G12Y) as a teacher who has "shaped so many of our experiences - on and off the field, in and out of the classroom - with his dedication, optimism, and passion for teaching." Mr Gad's speech about the importance of doing what is right, especially when no one is watching, resonated with our students.

Graduating seniors offered reflections on their experiences in the National Honor Society. The following are excerpts from some of the speeches:

"Character cannot be defined by a single moment or action. Rather, it is the consistent choice we make of being morally courageous in our everyday lives. It's those few extra minutes where we stand in line instead of skipping to the front, that extra effort we put in our homework instead of asking AI to do it for us. It's every penny we choose to donate instead of spending on ourselves and every time we choose to admit our mistakes instead of covering them up."
Amina El Mallah (G12R)

"To all of our younger students, the point of this anecdote is that service is something where you cannot do the bare minimum. Service is the act of putting effort to help others, so you must give it your all. The more time, effort, and dedication you put into service, the more you, and the served will get out of it."
Ramy Wahib (IBDP12)

"I encourage you to embrace opportunities for intellectual exploration, question the world around you, and delve into subjects that truly interest you. Remember, scholarship is not just about getting good grades; it's about developing an appreciation for your education and a passion for making a positive impact on the world."
Mariam Sharara (Y12Y)

Mr T Roodvoets - HOD Social Studies, American Section



DP12 EXTENDED ESSAY RESEARCH IN THE AUC LIBRARY

DP12 students visited The American University in Cairo to support their Extended Essay writing. The Extended Essay is a crucial component of the IB programme in which students explore topics of their choice and write 4000 words to reflect on their research journeys and their specific findings. They were accompanied by Mr Hawkins (Head of Humanities) and Ms Nguyen (Secondary Librarian).

“As a new staff member, I spent time going through the Academic Honesty in the IBDP Section or MES Cairo to ensure my clear understanding of the Policy.

I realise how intelligent and academically articulate our students are with their specific topics close to their hearts. Some topics are current with multifaceted thinking from these young adults.

In this academic environment of the university library, I had the pleasure of working with each student to support them in using the available databases. Seeing how committed our students are during their four hours there strengthens my passion to support our MES Cairo students even more.

Some reflection from the students includes: “amazing, resourceful, specific support, appreciation and inspiring”.

On the bus journey back to MES, I kept on thinking about what Mr. Hawkins shared with me: “Actually, we are the only school that has brought our DP 12 students to this prestigious environment to research!”

It is a privilege for me to be a member of the MES Cairo family.

Mrs M D Nguyen - Secondary Library Coordinator







The British Mathematics and Computing Faculty

MES Cairo Y/DP11 Key Stage 5 British and and International Baccalaureate Mathematics students have participated in the annual Senior Mathematical Challenge competition that is organised worldwide by UKMT on 1st October 2024. The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most questions are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

The following students made all of us proud with their achievements:

Gold and Best in Year



Karim Aboelsaad
(Y12B)

Silver



Mostafa Abbas
(IBDP12)

Bronze



Ramy Wahib
(IBDP12)



Omar Mostafa
(Y12B)

Mr M Mahmoud - Head of Mathematics, British Section

MES Cairo Year 12 Students Shine in Tuesday Enrichment Programme



This term, MES Cairo's Year 12 Senior students have brought remarkable positivity, enthusiasm, and dedication to their Tuesday enrichment programme, designed to empower them in their journeys towards world-class global universities. With a thoughtfully curated series of themed workshops, this programme has guided students through every stage of the application process, combining practical insight with personalised support to ensure every student is prepared for success.

The enrichment series kicked off with the Early Application Workshop, where students explored the nuances of meeting early deadlines, from selecting the right universities to strategising their applications. Following this, the Application Essay Workshop gave students a dedicated space to refine their narratives and bring their authentic voices to life—a crucial element in competitive applications.

As the pivotal 1st November deadline approached, the "November 1st Deadline" Workshop and "Emergency Application Drop-In" provided targeted support to address any last-minute queries or concerns, helping students submit their best possible work with confidence. This personalised approach helped each student stay on track and feel supported, even amidst the pressure of high-stakes deadlines. For those eyeing European universities, the European Application Workshop offered unique insights into the specific requirements and timelines of various EU institutions, ensuring students understood the key distinctions in the process.

Through these varied workshops, our Tuesday enrichment programme has championed a creative and student-centred approach, meeting the diverse needs of our Year 12 cohort. Their commitment and enthusiasm to make the most of these opportunities has been truly inspiring, embodying MES Cairo's spirit of excellence and preparation. With these experiences, our students are well-prepared for the next steps in their academic journeys, ready to make their mark on the world stage.

Mr E MacAulay - Assistant Head Y10-12, British Section

YEAR 8 ENTERPRISE
PRIME TIME SESSIONS







In November, all Year 8 students participated in Prime Time sessions introducing them to the subjects offered in the British Section Commercial Studies Department; Travel and Tourism, Business, and Economics. The aim of the day was to kickstart the 'Plan4Grad' scheme and to help them in making informed decisions about their future studies and IGCSE options.



The students worked in teams within their Homerooms to launch a new Travel Agency business, offering a new tour itinerary in a country of their choice. Commercial Studies teachers led the teams through the project design with different activities covering a variety of Travel and Tourism, Business and Economics topics, including; target audience, travel options, budgets, marketing, exchange rate influences and staffing.



There was some fantastic creativity and teamwork demonstrated by the students, with excellent discussions and critical thinking displayed. These skills will be crucial to the study of Travel and Tourism, Business and Economics if chosen for IGCSE options. We are very confident that Year 8 has some entrepreneurs of the future!

Mr S Hawkins – Head of Humanities and Commercial Studies, British and IB Sections

American Section Grades Grades 7-12

Welcome Back Assembly



Honor: A Value Rooted in Time
"Honor is the foundation of all human relationships and the essence of integrity." John Quincy Adams

This year, as we embark on a journey to explore the theme of Honor, it is important to reflect on the depth and significance of this timeless value. Derived from the Greek word meaning "time," honor symbolizes something invaluable—something that cannot be borrowed, taken, or replaced. Honor is woven into how we live and interact with others—it shapes who we are, how we connect with others, and how we build our communities.

What Does Honor Mean?

At its core, honor is about lifting someone up, about treating others as special, valuable, and worthy of respect. It manifests in simple, often overlooked moments—like allowing someone else to go first, offering encouragement, or recognizing someone's contribution to a group. It allows a person to know that you see them for who they are.

For our students, this concept is particularly powerful. We know that adolescence is a period where self-reflection and peer influence are at their peak. Often, it is easy to focus inward, to ask, "How does this affect me?" However, honor calls for a shift—a look OUT more than we look IN, a recognition of the value in others.

Why is This Important for Our Students?

In Grades 7-12, students are shaping their identities, building friendships, and discovering their place in the world. The way they learn to treat others now will echo into their future relationships and careers. If we can help them understand that honoring others is not about diminishing their own value but rather enhancing the collective strength of their community, we will have given them a gift far greater than academic success. Honor is the foundation of healthy relationships, thriving communities, and strong leaders. In moments of selflessness, students build their character by uplifting those around them.

Challenge for Parents

As parents, your influence is profound. You model behavior for your children daily, and your support in fostering a culture of honor will be invaluable. Here are three ways you can help reinforce this value at home:

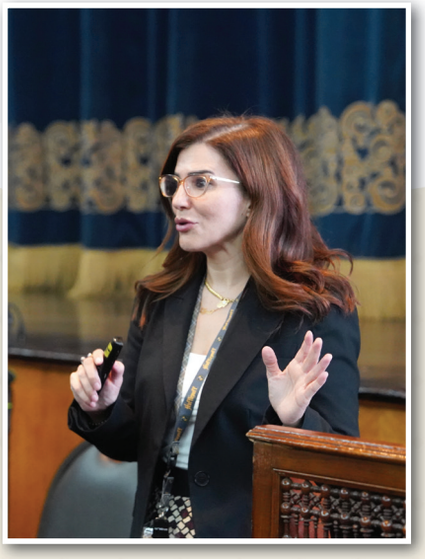
1. **Encourage Reflection:** Ask your children to think about how they can look outward and lift others up. What simple actions can they take today to show someone that they are seen, valued, and respected?
2. **Model Honor in Conversations:** Recognize when your child mirrors a talent or skill you admire, and acknowledge it. Show them that it's okay to give credit to others, even when it's something they, too, excel at.
3. **Celebrate Acts of Honor:** Whether it's holding the door for someone, offering a kind word, or standing up for a peer, celebrate these moments. Help your child see that acts of honor, no matter how small, build a foundation of respect and character.

Together, we can help our students understand that honor is more than a concept—it's a way of living. Honor takes time, courage, and humility, but when we practice it, it becomes timeless. Honor is woven into how we live and interact with others—it shapes who we are, how we connect with others, and how we build our communities. We hope that by working together as a team we can foster this ideal in your children's daily practice, in assemblies, meetings, phone conversations, and during our HRCF class time.

Ms D Pfeil - American Section Principal
Ms R Edmond - American Section Vice Principal

Grade 9 and 10 Updates







As we come to the end of a busy and productive Term 1, there's much to celebrate. Our Grade 9 students have made an impressive transition into high school. Moving from middle school to high school is never easy, but they have tackled the challenges head-on! They've quickly learned that hard work pays off and that every grade counts toward their GPA. It's been inspiring to watch them adapt, face challenges, and rise to the occasion with determination and resilience.

Our Grade 10 students have also had a successful term, adjusting well to new courses and building positive relationships with their teachers. It's clear that they now understand the importance of this year. The "lightbulb" moment has come for many of them as they dive into their assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects. I'm continually impressed by their maturity, strong work ethic, and the kindness they demonstrate to their peers and teachers.

Grade 9 Back to School Night

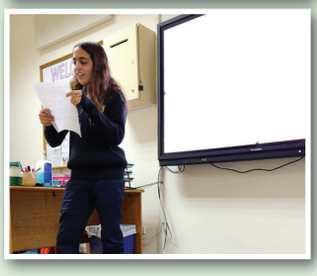
We had a fantastic turnout for the Grade 9 Back to School Night, where our dedicated parents came to learn more about what this year entails for their students. The evening began with an informative session in the theatre explaining the expectations from students this year and how parents can support their child at home. Parents got a look into the Grade 9 experience and met their child's Homeroom teacher. Parents then had the chance to sit in on classes taught by our wonderful Grade 9 teachers, getting insight into the subjects their children are taking and how assessments are handled. The event ended with a Q&A session, where parents could ask questions to the Heads of Faculty and the American Section Leadership Team. It was an informative and successful evening that fostered great communication between school and home!
Keep up the fantastic work, Grade 9 and 10!

Ms S Taha - Dean of Students Grade 9 & 10, American Section

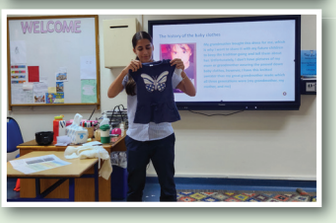
Grade 10 English











Students in Ms Sharpless' Grade 10 Honors class are delving into the world of rhetoric through a close analysis of Ken Liu's short story, "The Paper Menagerie." To solidify their understanding of rhetorical appeals and devices, students were tasked with a unique project: presenting a culturally significant object to the class and using rhetorical strategies to explain how it represents a part of their identity.

The objects chosen by the students varied widely, from traditional artifacts to everyday items with personal meaning. Through their presentations, students explored the ways in which culture shapes our values, beliefs, and sense of self. They used rhetorical appeals such as ethos, pathos, and logos to connect with their audience on a personal level and effectively convey the significance of their chosen objects. Well done,Grade 10!

Ms B Sharpless - English Teacher, American Section

Social Studies

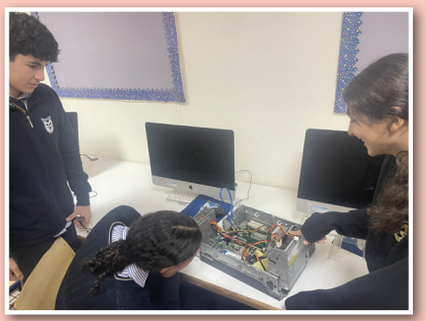
In Global Studies II Honors, students have been exploring the ideas of Enlightenment philosophers, and analysing their impact on political revolutions in the 19th century. At the end of their unit, students analyzed primary sources to answer our central historical question: Was Napoleon an enlightened leader? Students worked in groups to structure arguments for and against the claim. Their arguments had to be supported by concrete evidence and historical context. The affirmative and negative teams came up with convincing arguments, citing Napoleon's invasion of Austria, the Napoleonic Code and gender norms in post-revolutionary France. In addition to structuring their arguments, students had to think on their feet and come up with strong rebuttals to the opposing team's arguments. This debate allowed students to work on their public speaking, argumentation and collaboration skills."

Ms M Arafa - Social Studies, American Section

AP Computer Science Principles

In AP Computer Science Principles, students have been learning about the inner workings of a computer in a hands-on, engaging way. They had the chance to take apart a computer and identify the various components, gaining a practical understanding of what makes a computer tick. By breaking down the computer, students learned how each part plays a critical role in making the whole system function. It was a fun and eye-opening experience for everyone involved!

Ms L Mahmoud - Computer Technologies Teacher, American Section





Grade 7 Parents
Go Back to School









The American Section G7 teachers and staff welcomed the parents of our new cohort G7 students on the evening of Monday 16 September. The Back-to-School event began in the theatre with a welcome message from the G7-8 Dean of Students, Ms A Smith, as well as introductions to the rest of the Middle School team and this year's Homeroom teachers.

After that, the parents were escorted to the N Building, which has changed this year to become the main hub for the American Section Middle School classes. Aside from their Arts, PE, and Science classes, the middle school classes have all been consolidated to the N Building, providing them with something very close to a typical American middle school experience. Their lockers are also contained in the N building, and the middle school students have their own break time this year. All of this has allowed the Grade 7 students to adjust to secondary school on a slightly smaller and more manageable basis, making movement throughout the buildings minimised so that classes are easier to find and take less time to reach. It has been a great help for our students as they take the leap from Primary to Secondary.

Parents then got to spend a couple of pleasant hours visiting various rooms in the N building and meeting the G7 teachers who will be working with their children this year. Each teacher gave a presentation to introduce parents to introduce themselves to parents in order to help them feel more comfortable and prepared for the year that lies ahead for their Middle Schoolers.

The teachers very much enjoyed meeting the parents and assuring them that we are all a part of the same team that will help this year's MES Cairo G7 students have a successful and enjoyable school year.

Ms A Smith - G7 and 8 Dean of Students, American Section

ARTBEAT

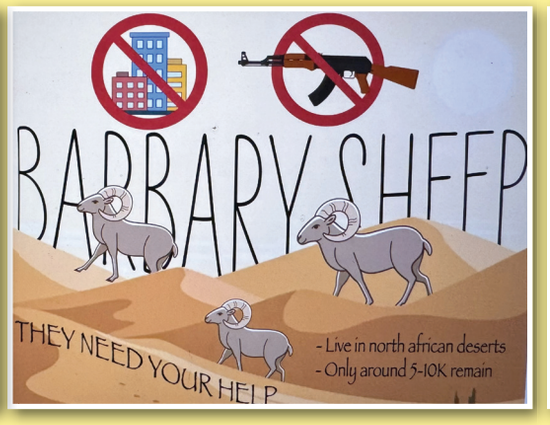
GRADE 9

This year Modern English School Cairo is participating in the 11th year running of the Hayah Art Competition. Our students' artworks will be reviewed by a panel along with over 50 different schools competing to be selected for the different grade and medium categories. This year we are sending a selected few 9-12th grade artworks in the categories of sculptures, 2D Art, collage, and digital art. The subject is in regards to Endangered Species. MES Cairo students are taking a stand and making art that can change the world and bring awareness to saving our planet and species on earth.

Jolie Amin (G9R) has created a stunning digital art collage and has been chosen to represent Grade 9 in the collage section. Yehia Mostafa (G9G) and Lamar Abdeldaim (G9G) were also selected from Grade 9. Congratulations to all 3 students, and we wish them the best of luck in the competition!



Teymour Mohamed
(G11Y)



Yehia Mostafa
(G9G)



Lamar Abdeldaim
(G9G)



Janna Elbleidy
(G12O)



Aamena El Shaway
(G11B)



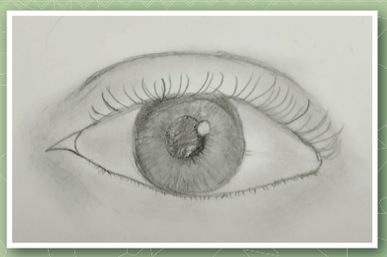
Jolie Amin
(G9R)

Ms S Rausch - Art Teacher, American Section

ARTBEAT

YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8

This term Year 7 and 8 students have been focusing on skills.
Year 7 students will apply their new skills to a self portrait project that will form part of the Me and My Community project.
Year 8 students will apply their improved skills and understanding in an exploration of the Surrealist movement in art.



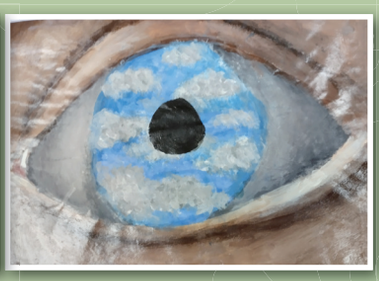
HANA ATEF
(Y7Y)



KHADIJA TAWFIK
(Y8R)



TALIA EL-SHARKAWY
(Y8R)





ALY ELBANNA
(Y8R)



AHMED FAHMI
(Y8B)

YEAR 9

Year 9 began this first year of their art IGCSE course by exploring the topic of still life.
This also included research into famous artists.



HANIA MOSTAFA
(Y9Y)

YEAR 10 - AND YEAR 11

Y10 and Y11 students are busy working through their coursework portfolios, which are due to be completed in January 2025.

Here are a few examples of the work produced so far this term.







HALLA SHREIF (Y10Y)



ALIA ZAHRAN (Y10Y)

Ms L Lee - Expressive Arts Teacher, British Section

ARTBEAT

IBDP12 VISUAL ARTS

DP12 Visual Arts students are working towards the completion of coursework which involves the analysis of artists' work and style, as well as a journal and portfolio of their own artistic journey.

In addition, they are preparing pieces for their Exhibition which will take place early in April. The exhibition will enable each student to curate their work and to share their experiences with the school community.

As a student who has always loved art, the IB Visual Arts course has allowed me to improve my art skills by pushing me out of my comfort zone and by encouraging me to try new mediums and methods. It helped me find what best suited me and helped me grow in confidence.

The IB course also taught me to analyse art in depth and find different meanings behind artists pieces, making me see art through new and different lenses.

My favourite medium is pastels, which supports my theme "illumination". I am excited to explore more mediums that will contribute to my final exhibition this April.
Layla Qasem (DP11R)

IB Visual Arts has given me opportunities to try new mediums and techniques, in ways that are new to me. I love that the course encourages experimentation and reflection, from digital art, to 3D sculpturing, Visual Arts enables tudents the to express ideas and to explore new possibilities.
Malak El Sadaani (DP11R)

Art has always been a form of self expression and something I enjoy, and studying IB Visual Arts has helped me grow and expand my knowledge and skills. It has given me the chance to experiment with new mediums. I am learning how to analyze art and connect different pieces to a theme. For my IB Art Exhibition and Comparative Study, I focused on the theme of floral imagery and the transience of time. While I have explored various mediums, my favorite is oil paint on canvas as it allows me to experiment with new effects and to create very detailed works.
Habiba El Ayouti (DP11R)

Ms M Parr - Art Teacher, British and IB Sections



HABIBA EL AYOUTI (DP12R)



LAYLA QASEM (DP12R)

MALAK EL SADAANI (DP12R)



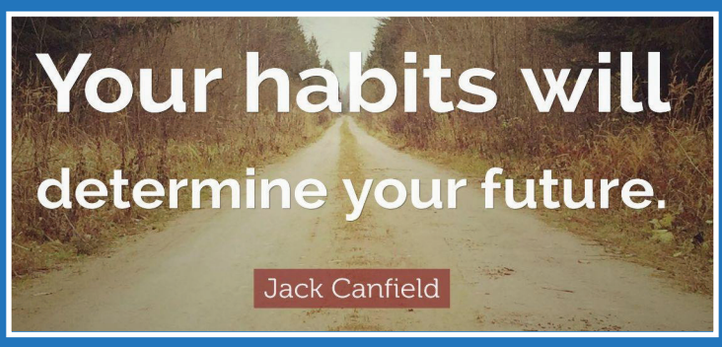








Partnership between home and school





‘In a partnership, it takes two hands to clap’. The school is one of the hands and you are the other.

Research has shown

- Parents and families play a major role in the success of their child’s education
- Home-school partnership improves student academic, and emotional achievements and progress
- It improves students’ self-regulation, social skills, behaviour and discipline
- There are better rates of school attendance
- Students’ feelings of competence or capability, positive engagement and motivation to learn and resilience in which students seek challenging tasks and persist with academic challenges is higher when home and school work in partnership

So how can we work in partnership to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students at MES Cairo?

Good habits

During the school day, our curriculum allows all students to engage in a variety of teaching and learning experiences which focus not only on academic excellence but also on developing the social, emotional and physical skills of the students from FS1 through to Year 6 and then into Secondary.

How can you support this at home

Every family is unique, however, parents should create the best possible environment at home for their children and their education.

- Routines are essential - before/after school, bedtime routines, sleep and diet
- Attendance, including arriving at school on time, is also important and helps your child settle quickly into the school day as well as setting good habits for the future
- Good habits will ensure your child is ready for school and ready to learn

Uniform



Our uniform policy clearly outlines our expectations of what students are required to wear when at school or when representing MES Cairo outside of school.
Our students should be proud to be an MES Cairo student and wear their uniform with pride.

How you can support with this at home:

- It is my belief that when students wear the correct uniform it sets the tone for how they feel about themselves, how they treat others and property/resources
- Ensuring your child/children come to school in the correct school uniform shows they are ready for learning.

Behaviour

We set very clear expectations of behaviour at MES Cairo. We use the restorative approach in dealing with behaviour and focus on positive behaviour; however, students also need to understand there are consequences should they not be meeting our expectations.

How you can support with this at home:

- Help children manage their behaviour
- Allow your child/children to talk about their feelings, owning their feelings and knowing how to act when these feelings occur
- Set clear expectations of behaviour and explain why we have to make good choices
- Talk about what good choices look like and sound like
- Children need to know there are consequences if their behaviour is not meeting the expectations
- Praise positive behaviour
- Be consistent - it may be hard work; however, the time and effort you put into being consistent will pay off
- As parents/caregivers you are the role models







Nurture Emotional and Social Skills
Through supportive partnerships between home and school, children learn how to think, understand, communicate, behave, express emotions and develop social skills - these help to shape your child's world view and will determine how they express themselves.

How you can support with this at home

- Understanding and managing emotions are key
- factors for your child/children's success in school and in life
- Encourage open discussion about feelings and emotions
- Promote respectful communication
- Promote active listening skills
- Provide opportunities for social interaction with peers; this is one of the best ways to develop and nurture social skills such as communication, taking turns, sharing etc

By working together, we are preparing every child for success and a bright future.

We look forward to working with you in partnership.

Mrs C Readman - Headteacher of Key Stage One

PARENTS AS PARTNERS
THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY
SETTLING IN AT MES CAIRO











FS1

It has been a hive of activity in FS1 this September, as all of our youngest children have been adapting to their new learning environment. We started off with our Orientation Experience where parents were invited into the classroom with their child. It is lovely for the parents to share their child's first experience in their new class. Our parents had a great time interacting with the class teachers and playing with their children in the classrooms in preparation for when they would start the following week.

It has been wonderful to see so many children settling in so quickly, making new friends and showing such resilience and adaptability. We have seen a great deal of progress in their confidence with the new surroundings and routines in such a short space of time. We are all excited to see what the future holds for this cohort of FS1 students, we have such a lovely and vibrant bunch of children and we are sure to have a successful year together. What a pleasure to be a part of the foundations of their learning journey here at MES Cairo!

Ms G Harrison - FS1 Violet Teacher and YTL












Writing Area



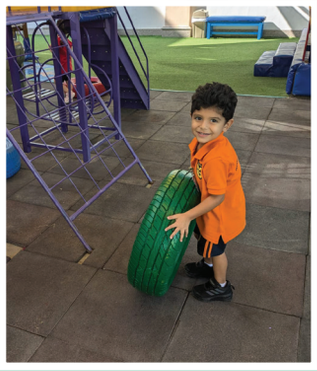





FS1Y



















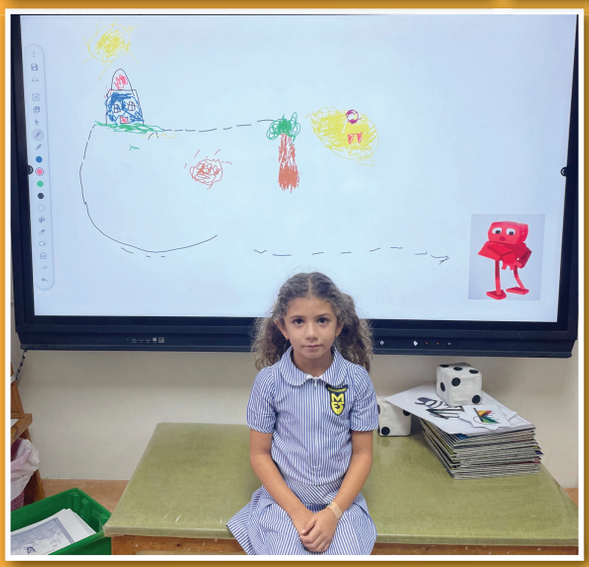




















Robots in FS2!

In Term 1A in FS2 we were wondering: 'Can a robot do what I can do?'

What a shock we had when we arrived at school to find we had been visited by some robots in the night! We were so excited to see the CCTV footage and were eager to ask questions about the visit. What do robots eat? How did they travel here? Can they swim?

Through the term we explored answers to our questions through many activities: including experiments with mixing materials, using robots in everyday life and creating our own robots.

Some of us were eager for the robots to visit again, but sadly they did not. Maybe they will pay us a visit again next year?

Ms M Barnes-Roberts - FS2 Primary Teacher

FS2 Getting to Know You

We welcomed our new FS2 students into our classrooms in September. They were excited to explore their new environment and to get to know their new teachers. They learned their new routines and expectations, making their first steps towards increased independence. Through turn taking games they found ways to share and develop their relationships with one another and created new ways to work as a team. A variety of continuous provision activities provided opportunities for them to develop their current skills and to explore new skills, materials and challenges.

The students were eager to move up the Champions Board and receive certificates for good behaviour. It has been a pleasure for the teachers to watch the children settle well into their new classes and we are already thinking they seem so much more grown up than when they arrived. We are excited to see what the rest of the year will bring with our fabulous FS2 students!

Ms M Barnes-Roberts - FS2 Year Team Leader







Laying Strong Foundations In Year One






Year 1 marks a year of exciting changes for some of our youngest students. It is their first step into the National Curriculum of England, laying the essential foundations for their future academic success. From day one, the Year 1 teachers have worked hard to create a classroom environment that felt ready, safe and respectful for each child. For young students, feeling "ready" often means feeling a sense of comfort and routine, knowing what to expect in their new classroom. Our focus in Term 1 is on friendships. is friendships and ensuring that the transition from FS2 to Year 1 is as smooth as possible.
We have a robust transition plan in place to help students make this change and the students had previously visited Year 1 so had some awareness of the similarities and differences they would encounter. Settling into this new space also meant navigating new friendships—a task that Year 1 reshuffle students approached with resilience. Through play-based learning, the students had plenty of opportunities to explore different topics in ways that sparked natural conversation and encouraged teamwork. Activities were often designed to be group-oriented. Before long, shy smiles turned into laughter, and new friendships began to form. While the students have been busy making new friends, parents, too, have embraced this transition. Many parents were initially hesitant about the class , worried about how their children would adjust, but also wondering how they themselves would find new connections among fellow parents. Just as the students have found new friends in their Year 1 classroom, many parents have found a new circle of support in the school community.






At MES Cairo our school motto is 'Leadership through Education: Care, Challenge and Inspire' and the Year 1 teachers introduce this to the students from the beginning of the year. Students are encouraged to Care for each other and the classroom, Challenge themselves through play and learning, and Inspire one another to explore and grow. The heart of Year 1 curriculum is play-based learning, and it has been instrumental in helping the children adjust to their new environment. This style of learning naturally encourages children to work together, communicate, and learn from one another. Teachers have encouraged the students to lead their own learning journeys by asking "why" and "how" questions as they work through problems together. By following their interests and collaborating with classmates, Year 1 students develop skills that go beyond the academic—communication, collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking and building resilience through a growth mindset.
Parents and teachers alike have already seen a remarkable shift in the children's confidence. They now feel excited to walk into their new classroom ready for whatever the day will bring and proud of the friendships they're building. It's clear that the class reshuffle, once a source of worry, has turned into an opportunity for growth, connection, and joy.

Ms S Macdonald - Year 1 Yellow Primary Teacher



Year 2 Students Navigate A Busy Term

In Year 2, we embrace Enquiry-Based Learning, where students investigate and discover through their own research and curiosity. This term, we embarked on an exciting journey with the question, “Can meerkats live in every habitat?” From this question, our students learned to ask questions, seek out answers, and think critically about the world around them.

Our journey took us through different habitats, where we explored what makes each one unique. The children learned about weather, food sources, and the types of animals each habitat can support. They also worked in groups to design habitats of their own, developing teamwork and creativity. Through the story “Meerkat Mail,” they enjoyed discovering the features of postcards, even writing their own postcards as if they were adventurous meerkats!

Our journey ended with an exciting visit to Fagnoon Farm, a real-life habitat where the children observed animals in their natural surroundings. They came back inspired and eager to write a recount of the trip, showcasing the writing skills they have been honing this term.

We also celebrated Pink Day, a day of kindness, generosity, and school spirit. Thanks to the wonderful support from our families, children enjoyed the experience of giving and participated in the morning “Wake and Shake” and special yard activities.

In Pod Time, students have the chance to explore practical activities that bring their classroom learning to life. Additionally, we held weekly assemblies with Ms Maureen, celebrating our “Stars of the Week,” “Team of the Week,” and tallying house points. The children’s excitement about the house points has been contagious—they’re enjoying the friendly competition while learning the importance of teamwork.

With three classes already presenting their assemblies and three more to go, it has certainly been a bustling and rewarding start to the year!

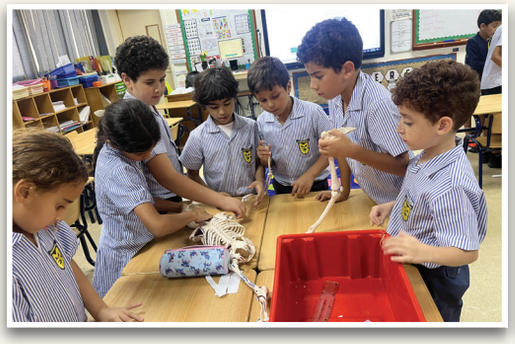
Thank you for your continued support as we explore, learn, and grow together in Year 2.

Ms M Salama - Year 2 Year Team Leader



Year 3 Students Shine In Their First Term As KS2 Learners

In their first term as Key Stage 2 students, the Year 3 students have truly impressed their teachers with their resilience and adaptability to new expectations. These young learners have embraced the challenges of KS2 with enthusiasm and a positive attitude, making a smooth transition into this new phase of their life at MES Cairo.













Year 3 students have truly excelled with behaviour, effortlessly grasping and adhering to the expectations set for their new year group. Their ability to understand and follow Year 3 guidelines showcases their maturity and readiness to embrace responsibility. By consistently demonstrating respect, cooperation, and a positive attitude, these students have not only contributed to a harmonious learning environment but have also set a wonderful example for their peers. Their behaviour reflects a deep understanding of the values and principles upheld within our school community. They have shown resilience in adapting to changes, displaying a willingness to take risks in challenging situations, and reflecting thoughtfully on the choices they make.

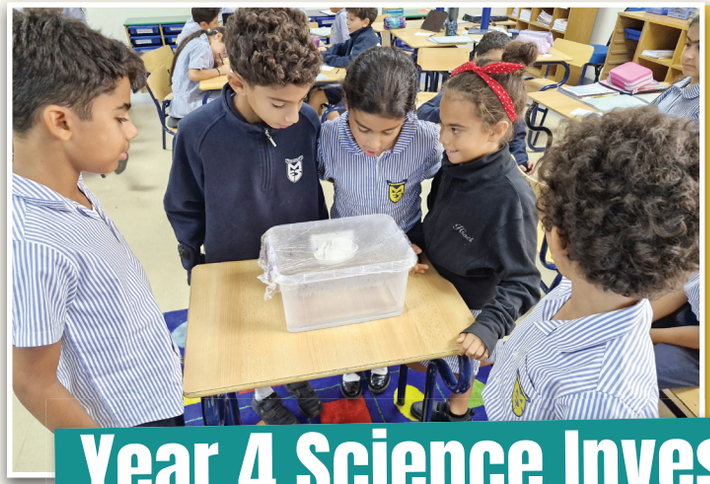
Within their first Topic, our young scientists have delved into fascinating topics such as self-care, well-being, and the intricate workings of the muscular and skeletal systems. Engaging in hands-on experiments and immersive activities, they have not only expanded their knowledge of the human body but have also gained a profound appreciation for the importance of maintaining one's health and wellness. Their exploration of these scientific concepts enriched their understanding of the natural world and empowered them to make informed choices regarding their own well-being. Their student-led enquiries have sparked amazing topic projects, resulting in brilliant presentations that showcased their creativity and dedication to scientific exploration.

In English, Year 3 students have also embarked on a writing journey, immersing themselves in various types of poems and instructional texts. They have read and analysed different forms of poetry and have also worked on writing their own poems, exploring themes and experimenting with different poetic devices. In addition, they have engaged in writing instructional texts, carefully outlining steps and procedures to guide their readers effectively.

To celebrate their achievements and progress, the Year 3 students have participated in weekly celebrations assemblies and class assemblies that highlighted their diverse talents. From music performances to storytelling, and poetry reading, these young learners have had the opportunity to showcase their skills and build confidence in their abilities.

As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate more opportunities for learning and fun in all aspects of their educational journey. Stay tuned for more exciting updates as our young learners continue to thrive and excel!

Ms M Kaddoura - Year 3 Yellow Teacher





Year 4 Science Investigations and Incredible Performances

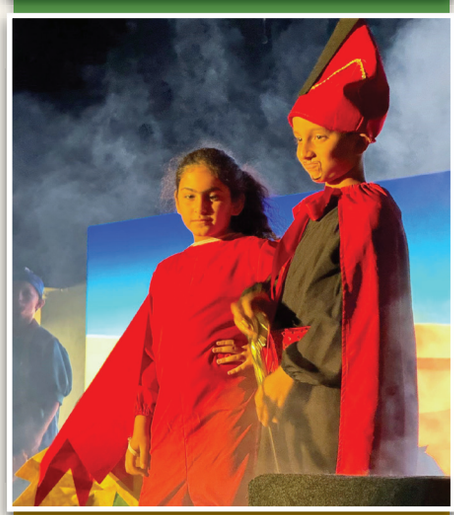


The Year 4 Pod is blooming with showcases of our fantastic work, from our competitions, Bug Club reading tasks and our competitive teams' points system. Year 4 students have been thriving in their learning this year so far. Why not pop along and see the pictures of students who have been chosen as Stars of the Week and had Assistant Headteacher awards so far?

We have had an enriching start to the academic year and all year 4 teachers and TLAS are pleased to have such eager and hardworking students.

What's the Matter?

Our Topic tittle this half term was 'What's the Matter?' We wasted no time and got straight into learning about the three states of matter which are solids, liquids and gases. Our Topic lessons were mainly practical where we completed a number of experiments to explore the different properties of matter. For example we observed the reaction between gases and liquids with the combination of mentos and coke. We also created our own replica of the water cycle to observe how water travels through the different features of the water cycle. In addition to this we completed a number of scientific prediction and conclusion tasks to assess our learning. Our work was compiled in our fabulous floorbooks which are showcased in the classrooms. Students also completed an independent home learning projected and presented to the rest of the class. These were extremely impressive and showed us just how much time and effort the students have put into their work.



Aladdin!

Wow, what a performance! In as little as six weeks, Year 4 delivered an exceptional performance of Aladdin. They worked on their acting, vocal skills, choreography, singing and organisational skills to deliver the performance in an impeccable manner. Each class performed a scene and song followed by a collective song at the end. Teaching staff, parents and the school community are very proud of Year 4. Well done!





Mr S Mohamed – Year 4 Class Teacher

Space Explorers in the Year 5 Classroom: Young Astronomers Reach for the Stars!







Exploring the Wonders of Outer Space

This term, our Year 5 space explorers have embarked on an exciting journey through the cosmos! From our own backyard in the solar system to galaxies far, far away, students across all year groups have been learning about the mysteries of outer space—right here at school. With lessons, activities, and even creative projects, They have dived into the wonders of planets, stars, moons, and beyond.

In the past few weeks, students have explored our solar system with hands-on projects, building models of the planets, learning about the phases of the moon, and discovering the secrets of gravity. One of the highlights was the “Mission to Mars” activity, where students imagined they were real-life astronauts planning a trip to the Red Planet. Working in teams, they designed spacesuits, created Mars habitat blueprints, and even calculated how much food and water a crew would need for their journey!

But Mars was not the only stop on their space tour. Students also learned about giant gas planets like Jupiter, which has an astonishing 92 moons, and Saturn, famous for its beautiful, icy rings. During a “star gazing” project, students were thrilled to create their own star maps, learning to identify constellations like Orion, Ursa Major, and the Southern Cross. Many were surprised to learn that the stars in the night sky are actually enormous suns, some much bigger and brighter than our own!

There is more to the universe than planets and stars, too. Students have been captivated by black holes, those mysterious space objects with gravity so strong that not even light can escape! In fact, the idea of “getting lost” in a black hole sparked lots of fun class discussions and theories about time travel and alternate dimensions.

Through each of these projects and discoveries, students have been encouraged to dream big. Whether they hope to be future astronauts, scientists, or inventors, each young learner has brought their unique creativity to the lessons, sparking new questions about space. Who knows—maybe one of them will be the next person to walk on the Moon or even Mars!

With imaginations running wild and knowledge expanding, this space unit has been an incredible journey for all. Our young astronomers have truly reached for the stars, and as they continue to learn, who knows

where their curiosity will take them next? So, stay tuned for more adventures in the galaxy and beyond, because our students are ready to explore every corner of the universe throughout Year 5!

Words That Wow! Exploring Poetry and Fun Facts in Class
Our budding writers have been diving into the world of words this term, creating beautiful poetry and mastering the art of non-chronological reports. In poetry sessions, students have unleashed their imaginations, crafting haikus, acrostics, and rhyming verses. From descriptive nature poems to funny limericks and poems for food lovers, each young poet has found their own voice, using rhythm and rhyme to paint vivid pictures with words. Some even performed their poems aloud, turning the classroom into a stage for heartfelt and humorous performances as we had our very own Poetry Slam in Year 5 and shared these with our Year 1 buddies!

Meanwhile, in non-chronological reports, students have become mini-experts on a range of exciting topics. They researched everything from the planets in our solar system to the first-ever moon landing. Organising their findings into fact-filled reports, students practised presenting information clearly and creatively, using headings, bullet points, and fun diagrams to make each report pop. The poetry and non-chronological report projects have not only brought out creativity but also built key writing skills that students will use for years to come. With pen in hand, our young writers are finding new ways to express themselves, explore their interests, and share what they've learned with the world. Who knows? We may even have a few future authors and poets in the making!







Math Masters at Work: Cracking Place Value, Negatives, and More!
The start of Year 5 has seen how our young maths whizzes have been tackling all sorts of number challenges. They've dived into place value, learning to read numbers up to 10s of millions and beyond and spot each digit's role. We then moved on to addition and subtraction, where students mastered quick mental tricks and cool calculations. They even braved the world of negative numbers, discovering what happens below zero—a whole new number adventure!

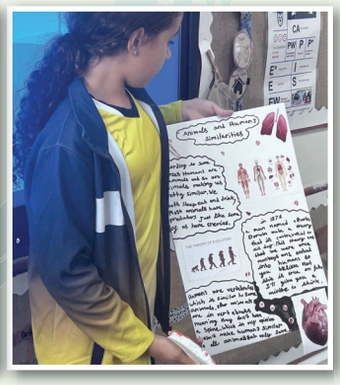
Multiples and factors rounded off the term, with students exploring number patterns and finding hidden connections. With so many new skills under their belts, our mathletes are ready for anything. Keep it up, maths masters!

Hard Work and Big Achievements!
This term, Year 5 students have truly wowed us all with their hard work and dedication. From impressive projects to thoughtful discussions, they have shown just how much they are capable of. Whether tackling tricky maths problems, diving into science experiments, or bringing stories to life in writing, Year 5 has enthusiastically embraced every challenge. Their teamwork, creativity, and commitment have made everyone proud. Keep shining, Year 5—your hard work is inspiring us all!

Ms D Saeed - Year 5 Team Leader

YEAR SIX LEARN ABOUT THE AMAZING HUMAN BODY








Year 6 students have embraced the new term with enthusiasm and confidence. Teachers are thrilled by the students' growing independence and enhanced organisational skills. We kicked off the year by discussing our expectations and how Year 6 can embody the principles of being Ready, Safe, and Respectful.

This term, our captivating topic has been "How Are Humans Created for Survival?" We began our exploration with an interactive journey through various classrooms, experiencing firsthand how our bodies respond to different scenarios. In the hot room, we noticed how we sweated and our faces flushed red; in the cold room, we felt the chill of goosebumps; and in the dark room, we marvelled at how our pupils dilated. This hands-on approach sparked curiosity as students pondered why these changes occur and asked insightful questions.

Next, we took a creative turn by tracing our friends' outlines and adding the organs we knew. Some students shared extensive knowledge, while others eagerly presented their findings, filling in any gaps. We dug deeper into the fascinating world of human anatomy, debating which organs are essential for survival. It was heartening to see our teachers pleased with our resourcefulness as we made connections and sought answers to deepen our understanding.

As we progressed, we turned our attention to how our lifestyles impact our survival. We explored food groups and designed balanced meal plans that promote health and well-being. Reflecting on our bodies' reactions during exercise, we became risk-takers, hypothesising how nutrients, water, and oxygen circulate through our systems. Through research, we uncovered the truths behind our guesses, making valuable connections to our own lives.

We demonstrated our relationship skills when our teamwork shone brightly as we collaborated on researching how animals adapt to thrive in their habitats. We also crafted non-chronological reports on human survival, honing our writing skills while learning about the remarkable resilience of living beings.

In the following weeks, we delved into the concept of inheritance. A lively quiz where we guessed teachers' parents from old photos sparked laughter and discussion about similarities. Students brought in family pictures, sharing stories about how they resemble their relatives, making the lesson personal and relatable.

Our classification lessons were another highlight, where we utilised classification trees to categorise living things, including fascinating microorganisms. Many students showcased their resilience by creating their own classification trees, generating unique questions along the way.

Finally, we celebrated our homework projects, and our teachers were truly impressed by the creativity and effort displayed. Overall, this first term has been incredibly productive, filled with exploration and excitement. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!

Ms S Rawlings - Year 6 Orange

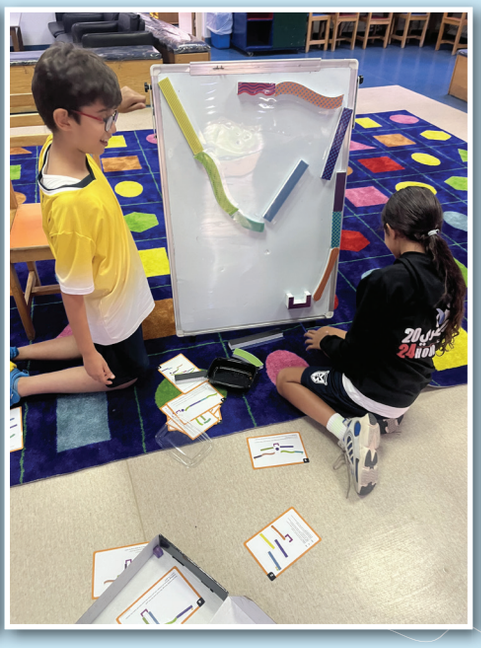
FRIENDSHIP CLUB

In the hustle and bustle of school life, friendships can sometimes feel overwhelming, especially for children navigating the complexities of social interactions. To help foster these vital connections, our school has introduced Friendship Clubs for Year 5 and 6 students, running twice a week during the second break. Led by specialists from the Learning Development Department, these clubs offer a welcoming space for children to relax, make friends, and develop essential social skills.

Each session is designed to create a nurturing environment where students can engage in fun activities that promote teamwork, communication, and empathy. From interactive games to creative group tasks, the club encourages children to build relationships with their peers. Participants often report feeling more confident and supported as they learn to navigate friendships in a safe and structured setting.

The initiative is especially beneficial for students who may find social situations challenging. By providing a dedicated time and place for building friendships, the club aims to reduce feelings of isolation and anxiety that some children may experience during break times. With guidance from trained staff, students can discuss any concerns they have about friendship dynamics, helping them develop the skills needed to foster healthy relationships.







Whether your child is looking to meet new friends, strengthen existing bonds, or simply enjoy some time indoors, the Friendship Clubs present an excellent opportunity. The atmosphere is friendly and inclusive, ensuring every student feels valued and understood.

If your child is interested in joining, encourage them to speak with their class teacher for more details. With the support of the Learning Development Department, these clubs are paving the way for stronger friendships and a more connected school community. Together, we can help our students flourish socially, ensuring that everyone feels like they belong.

Ms N Williams - Assistant Headteacher, Years 5 and 6

INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS AT MES CAIRO







In an increasingly interconnected world, it is essential for our Primary students to develop an understanding and appreciation of international events around the world. At MES Cairo, we want to foster an awareness of International events. To do this, we established the International Ambassador Programme from Years 3 - 6. Our International Ambassadors play a crucial role in promoting monthly international events, creating an International event display, producing a monthly vlog, and leading activities during break times for other students.



The primary goal of the International Ambassador Programme is to encourage a sense of global citizenship among students. By actively engaging in the planning and execution of monthly events, our International Ambassadors have the opportunity to showcase various aspects of International events such as World Cheetah Day and World Kindness Day. These events provide a platform for students to learn about and appreciate events in the wider world.





The International Ambassadors aim to produce a monthly vlog or presentation that shares insights into the international event they have chosen to highlight. During break times, International Ambassadors also have the opportunity to lead activities that allow their peers to learn about the international event of the month.

By taking on the role of International Ambassadors, the students have become cultural advocates and are also developing essential leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. Through their efforts in choosing monthly events, creating an International Events display, producing vlogs, and leading break time activities, these young ambassadors play a role in shaping a more globally aware and empathetic generation. Their work not only enriches the school environment but also contributes to the broader goal of fostering a more interconnected and inclusive society.

Ms B Meason - KS2 Deputy Headteacher



Ease on Down the Road

Excitement is building here at school as preparations are in full swing for the return of the beloved Whole School Production.

Over the past twenty years, audiences have been thrilled by these shows which involve students, staff and alumni coming together to produce breathtaking entertainment.

Our production 'The Lion King' in 2006 was so well-received and such an amazing experience for everyone involved that the tradition of Whole School Productions was born.

'The Wiz' is a modern retelling of the story of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. We are delighted to be returning to the land of Oz this year in an updated version of the show as we watch Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion struggle to reach the Emerald City to find what it is they are each looking for. They learn plenty of lessons about friendship and maintaining a connection with family and 'home' on their journey.

Demand for tickets is sure to be high when they become available in the new year so don't miss your chance to witness the stunning example of what we can achieve when we work together - there is nothing quite like a Modern English School Cairo Whole School Production!

Mr J Todd - Whole School Production Director



DISCOVERING CULTURE:
YEAR 6-8 ENJOY A MEMORABLE TRIP TO CAIRO OPERA HOUSE

















On Tuesday 5 November 2024, Year 6 students embarked on an exciting adventure to the Cairo Opera House to experience the enchanting ballet 1001 Arabian Nights.

Upon arriving at the iconic Cairo Opera House, the students were immediately struck by its impressive architecture. With its elegant design and beautiful surroundings, the venue set the perfect stage for the day's performance.

As the matinee show began, the lights dimmed and the atmosphere turned electric. The ballet 1001 Arabian Nights came to life, showcasing the tales of Shahryar, Aladdin, Ali Baba, and Scheherazade through captivating dance and movement. The performers dazzled the audience with their grace and artistry, transporting everyone to a magical world.

Ms Ghada Dajani, the Script Writer and Narrator for this very special performance added an extra layer of enchantment to the students' experience. Her engaging storytelling wove seamlessly with the dancers' performances, allowing the audience to immerse themselves fully in the story. With her warm and expressive voice, Ms Dajani brought the characters to life, captivating the audience.

As the curtain fell and applause filled the air, the students were left buzzing with excitement. The trip to the Cairo Opera House was a memorable educational experience that sparked a deeper appreciation for the rich tradition of Arabic storytelling and the Arts. Many students found inspiration in the performance, discussing how they could express their own stories through art.

Mrs J Boukottaya - Headteacher, KS2





Secondary Library News

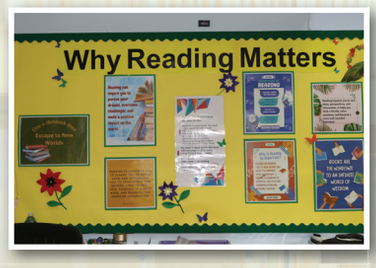
As the new Secondary Librarian at MES Cairo, I am proud of our environment. The recent renovation, complete with a stunning 3D display and vibrant new décor, has created an even more inspiring and inviting space for all of our secondary students.

The students' attitude and respect for the space have made it a pleasure for us all to work in the LMC this term.

Reading vibes across the LMC

Years 7, 8, and 9 have been enjoying their fortnightly lessons in the LMC. During this time, students can explore our vast collection of books and dive into the Read Theory app, introduced by the British Section English Department this year. This app provides engaging reading strategies and comprehension tests that help improve students' reading skills.

We have also witnessed inspiring moments as our student speakers share their passion for books through "Book Talks." These presentations showcase the books they have recently read, sparking enthusiasm and inspiring their peers. A big shoutout to all the students who have participated!













Some reflection from our students about reading:

"When I read a book, it takes me to another world and I enjoy relating myself to the lives of the book characters" - **Manith Singh (Y7Y).**

"Why I love reading non-fiction books about technology: My goal is to start a company, create and enhance technology together with quantum computing." - **Younis Wahby (Y8Y).**

'To me, reading is the gift of escapism. Having a book in your hands and reading about a character's life takes you out of your own. I can find myself in a completely different world and witness its characters and life through words" - **Zahra Haque (Y11Y).**

Great reads of the term

These are some of the most popular titles chosen and read by our students:







We look forward to an equally successful Term 2.

Mrs M.D Nguyen - Secondary Librarian







Enjoying Reading at MES Cairo

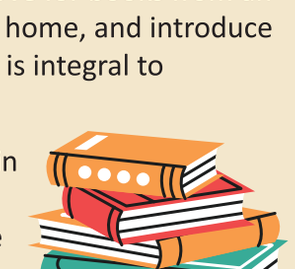
One of the most delightful experiences in Primary school is the joy of reading. This is where children's love for books and stories begins to blossom. The Primary school years are crucial for developing reading skills and nurturing a love for literature. Teachers and parents play a vital role in fostering a positive reading environment that encourages children to explore the wonders of books.

At MES Cairo, the students are introduced to a wide range of books that cater to different interests and reading levels. From colourful picture books to engaging chapter books, there is something for every young reader to enjoy. MES Cairo students visit the library, where they can choose exciting books and spend time immersed in captivating stories. This not only enhances their reading skills but also allows them to explore new worlds and ideas through literature.

MES Cairo has also hosted our very own book fair, which sparked excitement and curiosity about reading. The event allowed students to discover new books and discuss their favourites, making the reading experience more engaging and meaningful.

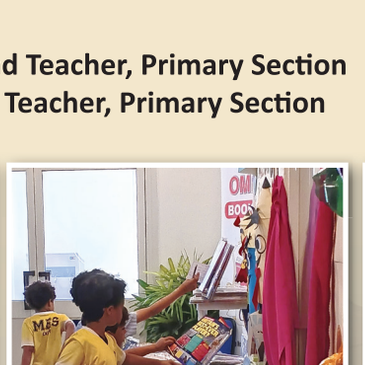
In addition to the classroom setting, parents also play a crucial and valued role in nurturing a love for reading. Reading together at home not only strengthens the parent-child bond but also instils a love for books from an early age. Parents can set aside dedicated time for reading, create cosy reading nooks at home, and introduce their children to a variety of books to fuel their interest in reading. Parental involvement is integral to children's reading journey.

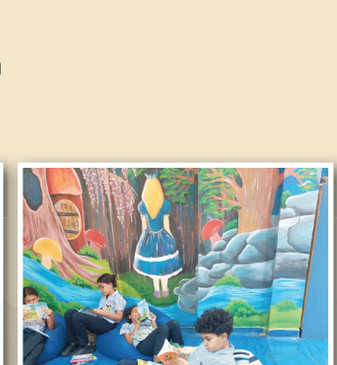
By providing access to diverse books, organising engaging events, and involving parents in the reading journey, MES Cairo aims to create an environment where our students learn to read and love reading. This sets the foundation for a lifelong appreciation of literature and the endless joys it brings.



Ms B Meason - KS2 Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Section
Ms T Nissan - KS1 Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Section









Our Primary Libraries are Hives of Learning!













Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students enjoy visiting the Library, where a world of fantasy, imagination and learning awaits them. In the Libraries they are welcomed by spectacular displays linked to curriculum topics and wider school events. Every week they choose new books, engage in learning activities based on their reading books, and indulge in some quiet reading time.

Our Librarians want to thank parents for encouraging great reading habits at home!

Primary Library Team





























SECONDARY SPORTSDESK

Ms L Shepherd - Athletic Director

SWIMMING



The MES Cairo Cougar Swim Team has had a fantastic start to the season, competing in two exciting meets at BISC and King's School The Crown. Our Team Captain, Dana Donia (G9R), has led with outstanding leadership, while Vice Captain, Hamza Abdelfatallah (Y9Y), has been a consistent presence, excelling both in practice and competition. As we look ahead to the conclusion of the term, we are ready to take on the challenges that come with the colder waters!

Head Coach: Mr Johnson

MIDDLE SCHOOL NETBALL



Get ready to cheer for our U13 girls Netball Team! Under the inspiring leadership of Captain Karma Ghoniem (G7R), our players are diving into the sport with incredible enthusiasm, even as some are new to the game. With their hard work and dedication during training, they are primed and excited for the year ahead 5 November 2024. Join us in supporting these talented athletes as they showcase their skills and teamwork on the court! Let's go, team!

Head Coach: Ms Freeman

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS NETBALL



Get ready to rally behind our U15 Netball Team! Under the dynamic leadership of Captain Farah El Gohary (Y9Y) and Vice Captain Talia Hassan (Y9Y), this team is brimming with talent and enthusiasm. They kicked off the season with a fantastic performance in their first friendly match, showcasing their love for the sport and solid teamwork. With every training session, they bring passion and commitment, ready to tackle whatever challenges the season holds. Let us support these amazing athletes as they aim for success on the court! Go, team!

Head Coach: Ms Freeman

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL



I am incredibly proud of our JV Girls Basketball Team, especially all the Grade and Year 7 and 8 girls who have consistently shown up to practice and pushed the team to new heights. Their hard work, determination, and commitment have been truly inspiring. I cannot wait for our upcoming friendly matches and the CISSA Tournament. With so many talented players, we are set to be unstoppable this season. Go, Cougars!

Head Coach: Ms Ashley

JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL



What a fantastic start to the season! I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible resilience and teamwork that our Junior Varsity Boys Basketball team showed in their recent game scoring double of their opponents BISM. The matchup was filled with unexpected challenges—from disrupted schedules to changes in the lineup but the team rose to the occasion showing resilience and unity. From the opening tip-off, the players were locked into our game plan, determined to put our training to good use. And what a show they put on! I am looking forward to the season ahead.

Head Coach: Mr D.Eaglestone

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS FOOTBALL



As the season begins, get ready to support our Junior Varsity Girls Football Team. With a strong start and impressive performances, our girls have shown remarkable skill and determination on the field. Their constant commitment and team spirit have prepared them for an exciting journey ahead. It is an exciting time for our girls, and we cannot wait to see them excel going forward.

Coaches: Mr E MacAulay and Mr McArdle

JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS FOOTBALL





Both CISSA and BSME have kicked off their seasons with strong performances, setting a high standard for the upcoming matches. Led by their talented captains, Adel Khalil (G11Y) and Yehia Labib (Y10R), both teams have displayed exceptional commitment and a positive attitude throughout training and preparations. The players have shown a strong work ethic, consistently pushing themselves to improve their skills and fitness levels. This dedication and enthusiasm have translated into impressive results on the field, as both teams have secured early victories. As the season unfolds, it will be exciting to witness the continued growth and success of these two formidable teams.

Head Coach: Mr Keast

VARSITY GIRLS FOOTBALL



As the season begins, get ready to support our Varsity Girls Football Team. With a strong start and impressive performances, our girls have shown remarkable skill and determination on the field. Their unwavering team spirit and dedication have set the stage for an exhilarating journey ahead. It is an exciting time for our girls, and we cannot wait to see them shine.

Coaches: Mr McArdle and Mr MacAulay

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball team has been diligently honing their skills this season, gearing up for the upcoming CISSA Tournament. Under the leadership of Captain Hana Rizeak GR9G and Vice Captain Leila Ahmed (G8R), the team has achieved impressive victories in friendly matches, boosting our confidence for the big day. Congratulations to all the talented players who made the team!



Head Coach: Ms Shepherd

VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Varsity Girls Volleyball Team is a dedicated group of athletes who strive for excellence both on and off the court. Led by the exceptional leadership of Captain Maleeka Ramadan (G12R) and Vice Captain Miriam Faragalla (DP11R), the team fostered a strong sense of camaraderie and worked tirelessly to achieve their goals. Through rigorous training sessions, the team showcased their skills, teamwork, and unwavering determination and we look forward to the season ahead.

Head Coach: Mr Haitham



VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The varsity girls' basketball team is off to a fantastic start this season, with incredible effort and teamwork already showing great potential. Our leaders, Tia Zarifa (Y12R) and Layla Saleh (Y10G), are doing an amazing job guiding our talented grade and year 7 players, building a strong and united team. We are all looking forward to the upcoming CISSA Tournament and are ready to give it our best. GO COUGARS!

Head Coach: Ms Ashley

VARSITY BOYS FOOTBALL

After a tough opening defeat, the Boys Varsity Team bounced back with a 3-1 win, showing significant improvement. The leadership of Captain Hazem Abou El Fadl (G12Y), and Vice Captains Omar Omera (G11G) and Sherif Nagy (Y12B) has been instrumental in this progress, making my transition as a new coach in a new school and country much smoother. With the CISSA Tournament ahead next term, the team is building momentum and ready to keep improving. Onwards and upwards!



Head Coach: Mr Collins

VARSITY GIRLS NETBALL



Varsity Girls Netball is back in action, and I was delighted to see so many familiar faces vying for a spot on the team. The girls consistently demonstrate their passion for the sport and put in tremendous effort during training sessions. I am eager to see what this season brings for the team. Congratulations to Captain Amina El Mallah (G12R) and Vice Captain Hanya Khattab (G12O). Your dedication to the Cougar Programme and your exceptional leadership make you both ideal for these roles.

Head Coach: Ms Shepherd

VARSITY BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The Varsity Boys Volleyball Team, captained by Adam Nasr (DP12R) has experienced a rollercoaster of emotions early in the season.

After a tough opening loss, they rallied together, demonstrating impressive teamwork and determination to secure a decisive victory in their subsequent match. The team's commitment to improvement is evident in their attentive listening during training sessions and their diligent application of new skills and tactics. As they continue to work hard and refine their game, the team is poised to make significant strides and position themselves favorably for the upcoming CISSA tournament.

Head Coach: Mr Keast

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL



The Varsity Boys Basketball Team is off to a fantastic start, winning their first two games against BISM and AIS. The highlight came in the second game against AIS, where our team triumphed with only six players, showcasing their resilience and teamwork. Led by Captain Ahmed Esmat (Y12B) and Vice Captain Ali Taha (DP12Y), this success sets the team up well for the upcoming CISSA Tournament. Congratulations to the team for their determination and excellent start to the season!

Head Coach: Mr Moumen

VARSITY BOYS TRIUMPH

Penalty Kick



The stadium fell silent as Sherif Nagy, the British Section's Senior Student Leader, stepped up for the sudden death penalty in the Varsity Boys Football CISSA Tournament final. The game had been a hard-fought battle, the tension building with every passing minute as both teams refused to back down. Now, it all came down to one shot—a single kick to decide the champions.



Under the light of the soon setting sun, Sherif's face was focused, his eyes locked onto the goal, yet he was surrounded by the murmur of the crowd holding their breath. His teammates lined up along the halfway line, arms linked, breaths held, every one of them sharing the weight of this one, decisive moment.

The referee's whistle cut through the silence. Sherif took a deep breath, started his run, and struck the ball cleanly. Time seemed to slow as it sailed through the air, the only sound the thud of his foot connecting with the ball. The keeper dived to his right, fingers outstretched—but it was just out of reach.

The ball hit the back of the net with a resounding swish, and for a heartbeat, there was a stunned pause before the stadium erupted. Teammates sprinted towards Sherif, tackling him in a joyous pile-on as their cheers echoed through the night. Spectators leapt to their feet, clapping and cheering, while chants of his name broke out across the stands.

Sherif, barely able to contain his own grin, threw his fists into the air, overwhelmed by the thrill of victory. The MES Varsity Cougar Boys were victorious, champions once again. And in that electrifying moment, the whole of Cairo seemed to celebrate with them.

Mr E MacAulay - Assistant Head Y10-12, British Section

PE

Grade 9 and 10 students had a fantastic term, diving into a world of sports and health. They participated in a variety of exciting activities, including swimming, volleyball, track and field, and basketball. Through these sports, students developed essential skills like teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.

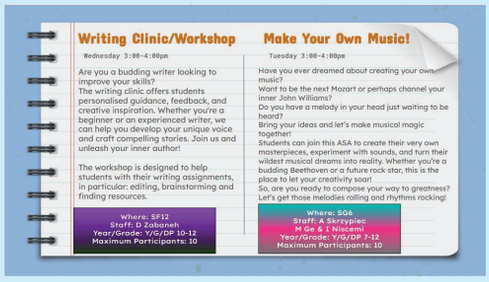
Beyond the physical activities, students delved into crucial health concepts. They explored the importance of health and well-being, learned to analyze their own performance, and understood the impact of social media on their health. Additionally, they gained knowledge about the components of fitness and effective training methods.

This well-rounded term provided students with a fun and informative experience, fostering both physical and mental well-being.

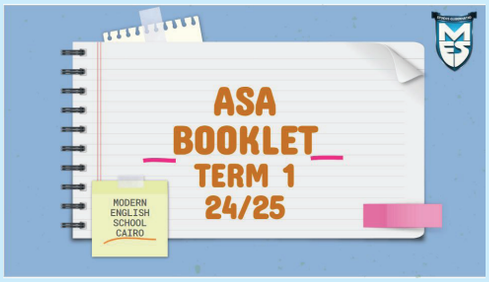
Mr J Keast - Curriculum Lead P.E, British and American Sections

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES

The after-school activity program has witnessed success in many of its activities, offering a diverse range of engaging activities to cater to every student's interests. Some of the most successful clubs have been the Cougars Athletic Program, International Award, Scholars Debate Club and NHS. The programme is designed to accommodate all interests, from academic enrichment in clubs such as Acing the Final Chapter, Math Challenge, and Gifted & Talented, to creative pursuits such as Digital Art, Picture Perfect, and Film Making Club, there's something for everyone.

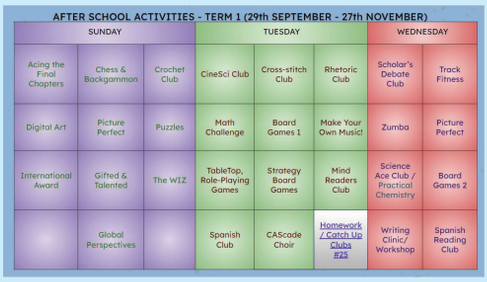


Students can explore their artistic side with options like Cross-stitch Club, Masks of the World, and Crochet Club, or delve into strategy and problem-solving with Chess & Backgammon, Puzzles, Board, Strategy Board Games, and Mind Readers Club. For those interested in language and culture, the Spanish Club and Rhetoric Club offer unique opportunities.



Additionally, the CAScade Choir, CineSci Club, and Make Your Own Music! provide platforms for musical expression and exploration. The dedicated staff members have been instrumental in creating a vibrant and stimulating learning environment, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among the students. The students, in turn, have shown remarkable commitment and enthusiasm, actively participating in various activities and demonstrating a strong desire to learn and grow.





We look forward to continuing the success of this next term with more students signing up for the Whole School Production, even more Cougar teams and some new ASAs that will become available. Keep your eyes peeled and look out for the ASA booklet which advertises all ASAs available to the students.

Mr J Keast - Physical Education Head of Faculty

PRIMARY COUGARS








Cougars Basketball

The excitement around Cougars basketball is in full swing! Over 50 students showed up for the boys' basketball tryouts and 40 students for girls' tryouts, making it clear that the love for the game is alive and well at MES Cairo. Mr Carlos and Ms Sara had some hard decisions for the final selection. Students showed huge enthusiasm and we hope that the non-selected were not discouraged and they keep playing and enjoying this wonderful sport. Training sessions started a week after with a mix of Year 5 and Year 6 students. Now we have some important weeks ahead with a focus on quality training, and the effort and commitment shown will define the outputs of the season. Finally, a note of appreciation to Mrs Dajani for recently renovating the Sports Hall, which looks fantastic and is a privilege to train and compete in.

Cougars Football

Over 150 students showed up for the boys' football tryouts and 60 for the girls' tryouts, and the energy was electric! From the moment the whistle blew, it was clear that these tryouts would be special. The excitement in the air was contagious! Competition brings out the best in athletes, and that's exactly what happened. Players were pushing each other, showcasing their skills with determination. Each dribble, shot, and pass spoke volumes about their dedication. It wasn't just about winning; it was about improvement and growth as players. One of the most outstanding aspects of the tryouts was the sportsmanship displayed. Training sessions started soon after for selected Cougars, and both teams registered wins in their first competitive fixture. Mr Ben and Mr Sam have been very impressed with what they have seen so far, and we are all looking forward to hosting our first tournament soon!

Cougars Netball

Cougars Netball is buzzing with energy as students gear up for an exciting season! With over 40 girls trying out, it's clear that netball is cementing its place as one of the school's most popular sports. This level of enthusiasm shows that students are eager to represent their school and make memories on the court. It's not just about scoring points; it's about teamwork, friendships, and building a community. Selected students have been training well and Ms Nina couldn't be more proud of the progress they are making. We are all looking forward to our first competitive fixture soon!

Cougars Swimming

The Cougar Swimming Trials have recently concluded, with a total of 60 students showcasing their aquatic skills in hopes of securing a spot on the team. The trials served as a platform for identifying promising talents and forming a competitive roster for the upcoming season. With several competitions already under their belt, the Cougar swimmers have shown great potential, with standout performances and admirable conduct. As the team gears up for future events, Mr John and Ms Lauren are proud of the collective effort and drive the squad has shown so far this year.

Mr H Gad – Head of Primary PE

CAS Team-Building Trip to C.O.D.E. Paintball

CAS Corner

As an integral component of the IB Diploma Programme, CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) provides students with meaningful opportunities to engage in experiences that foster their personal growth and strengthen their sense of community. The first CAS trip of the 2024/2025 academic year offered students a chance to engage in a series of team-building activities at C.O.D.E. Paintball. This experience was designed to promote collaboration and resilience and was an excellent opportunity for students, in both DP11 and DP12, to develop key IB attributes.

The trip included a variety of engaging physical activities such as sumo wrestling, bounce volleyball, and the highlight of the day - paintball! Under the careful guidance of the trip chaperones and staff from C.O.D.E. students worked together to strategise, communicate, and push their physical and mental limits. For many participants, this was their first experience of paintball, and it allowed them to move out of their comfort zone. The IB students embraced this challenge with their typical enthusiasm and determination.

The trip activities were not only a fun way to build relationships but also provided a chance to reflect on the importance of collaboration. Through teamwork, they learned to communicate effectively (even under a high-stress situation of the paintball arena!) and the importance of supporting one another.

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many expressed that, whilst the experience was challenging, they enjoyed the process of personal growth and developing new skills, exemplifying the core values of the CAS programme. The trip was a great introduction for DP11, as well as a reminder to DP12 seniors, of the importance of balance within the IB Diploma Programme, where students are encouraged to be active, creative and service-minded whilst developing into responsible, reflective and resilient individuals.

Ms E Dawes - CAS Coordinator















Primary Pioneers Programme

The upcoming Primary Pioneers Programme has certainly got the Year 5 and Year 6 students buzzing after the introductory event. Eager to explore new skills and earn badges in a variety of engaging subjects, the Pioneers participated an especially designed after-school event aimed at fostering camaraderie, resilience, and practical abilities within our fantastic school setting. Participants engaged in a range of activities, including team-building exercises, constructing survival shelters, mastering orienteering techniques, and tackling the challenges of a cross-the-river game. Each component was carefully crafted to teach valuable lessons while providing fun and excitement.

This year's Primary Pioneers Programme will feature five exciting badge categories: Community, Egyptology, Water Conservation, Equestrian, and Fun and Fitness.

Participants in the Community badge will engage in local service projects that foster a spirit of teamwork and civic responsibility, including MES Cairo Pink Day, Keep Egypt Warm, and the 24-Hour Run.
Our first out-of-school experience will focus on the Equestrian badge, which promises to be a favourite, offering hands on experience with horses—from basic care to riding techniques—while promoting confidence and respect for animals. The Egyptology badge will invite our young explorers to delve into ancient history, uncovering the mysteries of the pharaohs and their monumental achievements.

The Fun and Fitness badge will encourage participants to embrace an active lifestyle through various sports and physical activities, emphasising health and both physical and mental well-being.

Finally, the Water Conservation badge will empower participants to understand the importance of sustainable practices, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to

Mr R Mcgrath - Pioneers Coordinator and FS2 Red Teacher















MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO
RELATIONSHIPS · LEADERSHIP · TEAMWORK
PIONEERS



Secondary Pioneers



I am absolutely thrilled to be the Pioneer Coordinator this year. I am excited to be working closely with Year and Grades 7 and 8, being involved in various amazing activities ahead! As some of you may know, My name is Mr Mohamed Dahroug. I teach mathematics in the British and IB Sections here at MES Cairo. I am also an MES alumnus and, Like many of our wonderful KS3 students, I was once a Pioneer myself! Stepping into this role is especially meaningful to me because I know firsthand the lasting impact the Pioneer Programme can have. My experiences as a student at MES Cairo shaped me profoundly, so I am genuinely excited to guide and support each of you as you embark on this enriching journey.

The Pioneer Programme at MES Cairo is designed to challenge and inspire students through a combination of service, skills, physical recreation, and adventurous journeys. This year, we are looking forward to events that allow you to grow in each of these areas, creating a strong foundation for leadership, community service, and self-discovery. The programme is not just about ticking boxes; it is about truly embracing the values of resilience, teamwork, and responsibility. Through these experiences, you will not only make lasting memories but also build skills that will benefit you throughout your life.

We have already kicked off the year with our first major event, the bake sale, which was a tremendous success! Your enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication shone through, and I want to extend a special thanks to the students for going the extra mile with their fantastic baking efforts. Because of all of you, our bake sale raised impressive funds, with the proceeds going directly to the Cancer Research Foundation here in Egypt. Additionally, the sales of pink ribbons and wristbands were an incredible show of support for a meaningful cause, and it was truly inspiring to see how passionately you all contributed. Together, we have already made a difference in the lives of others, which is precisely what the Pioneer spirit is all about!



There is so much more to be excited about! We have an array of trips and events lined up that I know will be both fun and rewarding, providing even more opportunities to build skills, friendships, and lasting memories.

As we continue on this journey, remember that you are part of something special. The Pioneer Programme is a unique experience that encourages you to give back, grow, and push beyond your comfort zone. I am incredibly proud to be working alongside such talented, compassionate, and motivated students, and I am grateful for the chance to help each of you reach your fullest potential. Let's make this a year to remember, Pioneers—filled with challenges, achievements, and the spirit of adventure!

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication so far, and I look forward to seeing all that we will accomplish together.

Mr M Dahroug - Secondary Mathematics Teacher, British and IB Sections









MES CAIRO HOUSE NEWS

After months of planning, designing and eager anticipation, the moment had finally arrived - the inauguration of the new Houses at Modern English School Cairo! Gone are the times of changing Houses from Primary to Secondary! No more bitter family divisions when faced with siblings of different Houses! No more old faded t-shirts worn away from years gone by!

Instead, these were replaced by prestigious bright T-shirts of vivid colours and luxurious textures embroidered with badges to be proud. Badges of…





The inaugural event of the new Houses was the Staff Extravaganza! For the first time at MES Cairo, Primary and Secondary staff ALL participated in a choice of 5 activities;

Quizbowl - Answering questions from various topics using Blooket
Minute to Win It - Participating in 8 mini-games of varying skill and focus
Scavenger Hunt - Finding House Logos scattered around the school
Big Art - Recreating the House Logos using materials around the school
Dodgeball - Throwing balls at other teams without being hit







These events were specifically selected to test the bravery, imagination, knowledge and resilience of MES Cairo staff. Although, different Houses won different events overall Team Anubis proved to be the victors!







A week after the Staff Extravaganza, MES Cairo staff took a well-earned break from their planning and preparations for the new academic year and participated in the MES Cairo Staff House Potluck in the Multi-Purpose Hall. Staff members were invited to bring “home-cooked food” and display them on their House Tables in the MPH. The MPH was filled with exquisite cuisines from all corners of the world that filled the MPH with delicious aromas. Team RA proved to be the Masterchefs of 2024-25!



Thursday 19th September was the day all students and staff longed for - House Colours Day! The first opportunity for students at MES Cairo to joyfully wear their House T-shirts. The majority of Primary students wore their House Colours with more than half of secondary students also choosing to show off their new gorgeous garments! In Years 2 to 6 students had opportunities during their break to participate in a choice of 5 activities all supervised wonderfully by Senior Students; Top Trumps, Connect 4, Kindness Wall, Dance Party and Penalty Shootout. A super thank you goes out to Ms Nina Williams for organising the event and to Mr Alex Hinchcliffe and Mr Sam Beacham for their outrageous saves as goalkeepers. FS1, FS2, Y1 and Secondary students also had opportunities throughout the day to participate in fun activities and win points for their Houses.





The final major House event in the first half term was the Year/Grade 7 Extravaganza. On Thursday 17 October, all students in Year and Grade 7 participants in six challenges on the field during the first period of the day. Each event tested their concentration, wits and teamwork abilities. Students had an exciting and enjoyable experience furthering camaraderie between students in the same Houses whilst ensuring a healthy competitive spirit between Houses which no doubt will be seen in future events.

With further Quizbowls, Extravaganzas, Sports Day, Break Activities and various other activities planned for students following the Winter Break the future of the Houses at MES Cairo will be AWESOME!

Mr T Kasmani - Secondary House Coordinator
Mr H Gad - Primary House Coordinator

International Award

Purpose of the Award
The primary aim of the International Award is to foster the personal development of young people, echoing the values of community service, teamwork, and responsibility that are central to our school mission statement “Leadership through Education: Care, Challenge, Inspire”

At present, we are supporting students working towards their Bronze Award. This journey not only challenges them but also celebrates their growth and commitment outside academic life.

Practice Expedition for the Bronze International Award
In October, a group of our dedicated students embarked on their practice expedition for the Bronze International Award, marking an exciting step towards personal growth and achievement. Day one began with students learning the essentials of packing and preparing for their journey, ensuring they had all the essentials, from tents and water to food and safety gear. With their kits ready, they set off to Wadi Degla, where they demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication skills, tackling a challenging 18km hike through the rugged terrain before setting up camp for the night.

Despite a cold, restless night, the students embraced day two with resilience, taking on another 18km trek with determination. Each day’s hike took approximately six hours, pushing them to both mental and physical limits they hadn’t encountered before. Though exhausted, the students felt immense pride and accomplishment, having conquered a journey that tested their endurance, adaptability, and collaborative spirit.

This expedition not only exposed our students to life beyond their familiar environment but also fostered valuable skills such as responsibility, navigation, and planning. As they look forward to future adventures, the Bronze Award experience has undoubtedly strengthened their confidence and camaraderie, laying a strong foundation for future challenges.



Students Comments

Gamela Elsayed (Y10G)

”Earning the Bronze Level International Award transformed my perspective in ways I never expected. It was more than just a physical challenge; it pushed my mental limits. Each step tested my ability, forcing me to harness my energy and push through the pain. But when we finally reached the top, the breathtaking view made every struggle worthwhile. Now, I am looking forward to the next adventure: conquering the Silver level in Cyprus this February!

Taking part in the Bronze Level International Award was an incredibly rewarding experience. I learned practical skills like setting up a tent, and the entire adventure kept me active and healthy. Camping overnight with friends, cooking meals together, and sharing laughs made it both fun and memorable, while also helping me become more confident in my cooking skills. The journey also gave me valuable insights into wildlife and how to adapt to nature—a truly unique experience that I will always remember!”

Malak Sultan (Y10G)

“My goal was to enhance my communication skills within my team and to identify the key attributes needed to be an active and supportive group member. Additionally, I aimed to deepen my understanding of the human impact on Wadi Degla, particularly the effects caused by visitors. This experience not only helped me grow personally but also allowed me to contribute positively to our group discussions and the environment we explored.”



Cameron Bridges (Y10Y)

“At Modern English School Cairo, our International Award programme shapes young people, guiding them to tackle challenges that build their confidence and equip them for the journey into adulthood.”

Mr Y Alkaabi - International Award Coordinator











تحيا جمهورية مصر العربية
الاحتفال بانتصار السادس من أكتوبر العظيم



قامت المدرسة الإنجليزية الحديثة – القاهرة بالاحتفال بالعيد الحادى والخمسين لانتصار أكتوبر الذى نفتخر به جميعاً جيلًا بعد جيل ونشعر فيه بالعزة والكرامة حيث قام جيش مصرالباسل باسترداد أرضنا الغالية من يد العدو الغاشم (إسرائيل), وحققنا فيه نصراً غالياً مازال العالم كله يتذكره, فقد كان أشبه بمعجزة عسكرية .

لذلك فقد تم الاحتفال بهذا اليوم العظيم فى المدرسة منذ صباح اليوم وقبل بدء اليوم الدراسى حيث تم إلقاء كلمة قصيرة لتعريف أبنائنا بهذا النصر الغالى , وتعريفهم بقيمة هذا اليوم بالنسبة للعالم العربى عامة ولجمهورية مصر العربية خاصة وأيضاً المكانة المتميزة لجيشنا المصرى العظيم بين جيوش العالم .



كما قام جميع الطلاب برفع علم مصر وهم ينشدون النشيد الوطنى بحماسة حيث كانوا يشعرون بالسعادة والفخر وحولهم جميع مدرسى المدرسة وهم يتزينون بملابس تشيرلألوان العلم المصرى الأحمر والأبيض والأسود مما بث فى نفوس الطلاب الفخر والاعتزاز ببلدهم وجيشهم العظيم . **تحيا جمهورية مصر العربية**









ألو ! مطبخ المدرسة الإنجليزية الحديثة ؟



يعد النشاط بعد المدرسة (ASA) من الأنشطة المحببة للطلاب خاصة وهم الذين يختارون النشاط المحبب إليهم فالبعض يختار كرة القدم والبعض يختارلعبة الشطرنج أو الرسم وغيرها من الأنشطة المحببة لدى الطلاب ومن المدهش أن نجد هؤلاء الطلاب بعد يوم دراسى طويل ملىء بالمعلومات إلا أنهم متحمسون جداً فى نهاية اليوم وكأنه يوم جديد كله نشاط وحيوية طلاب (٧٥) اختاروا نشاط المطبخ فتحمس لهذا النشاط قسم اللغة العربية فكما نعرف جميعاً أن المطبخ العربى متميزجداً ومعروف بأشهى الأكلات التى لا يتقنها إلا العرب عموماً وقد اشتهر كل بلد عربى ببعض الأنواع مثل (الكبسة والتبولة وغيرها) والكثير من الأكلات الشهية أما هنا فى مصر فعندنا قاموس من الأكلات التى تشتهر بها مصروهى لا تعد ولا تحصى وبالفعل قام قسم اللغة العربية بعمل قائمة ببعض الأطباق لتقديمها للطلاب ومعرفة طريقة عملها وأيضاً قد تسابق الطلاب فى اختيار بعض الأصناف التى حاولنا جاهدين تنفيذها بقدر ما يسعنا الوقت وكان من بين هذه الأصناف المشوقة : (الكفتة) على الطريقة العربية وكذلك (رغيف الحواوشى) الذى لاقى استحسان من الطلاب أما (سلطة الزبادى) رغم أنها بسيطة فقد أحبها الطلاب وتسابقوا فى وضع بعض النكهات الخاصة بكل طالب فمنهم من أحبها برائحة النعناع الطيبة ومنهم من استساغ طعمها فقط بقطع الخيار اللذيذة ,



وعشنا يوماً من أيام رمضان ونحن نحضر لعمل (الكنافة)



وقد كان لهذا اليوم طابع خاص فمن منا لا يحب (الكنافة) بالقشدة أو بالمكسرات أو حتى بدون أى حشو تعلمنا طريقة عمل الشربات وطريقة عمل (الكنافة), ثم جاء الطلب الجماهيرى طبق (الكشرى) المصرى الأصيل اللذيذ الذى يزينه بعض حلقات البصل الشهية فما ألذ تحضير هذا الطبق ساخناً ! فقد كانت عيون الطلاب تتشوق لوقت الأكل وكم كان رد فعلهم بعد التذوق بأنه رائع ولذيذ وسوف نقوم بعمله فى البيت بنفس هذه الطريقة الرائعة .

شكراً قسم اللغة العربية









WELCOME NEW TEACHERS!

Mr Aleh Koba - Secondary Drama Teacher



Greetings! My name is Aleh, and I'm honoured to be part of the MES Cairo team. I teach Drama and Theatre in both the American and British Secondary sections. Originally from Ukraine, I hold an MFA in Theatre Directing and Teaching. I have also studied Contemporary Scandinavian Film in Norway, Human Rights in Romania, and Psychology in the Netherlands. My theatre journey has taken me across the globe, working on diverse theatre and film projects in Germany, France, Spain, Poland, Georgia, as well as in Asia and Africa. Before coming to Egypt, I taught in international schools in China and Tanzania, and now I am thrilled to learn more about Egypt's culture and people. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, martial arts, swimming, yoga, and meditation. I am excited to bring my experience and enthusiasm to the MES Cairo community!

Ms Alicja Skrzypiec – Secondary Music Teacher



I have studied music since the age of eight and I initially aspired to be a composer, but I found my true calling in teaching. I specialise in general music and enjoy exploring various genres, which allows me to connect with my students' diverse musical interests. Before moving to Cairo, I gained valuable experience teaching in Poland and Belgium. My biggest achievement was when a student of mine won a composition competition and I hope you will join him soon! My goal is for my students to achieve their best while understanding the profound impact music can have on their overall wellbeing. Outside of teaching, I love traveling and sightseeing – one of the reasons I came here.

Mr Baher Awaad - Secondary Mathematic Teacher



My name is Baher Awaad. It is an honour to join this esteemed institution, and I am eager to contribute to the academic and personal growth and development of students. My passion for mathematics teaching and dedication to fostering a deep understanding of the subject will be central to my approach. I am confident that the upcoming academic year will be marked by significant learning, growth, and achievement for all.
I have been happily married for fifteen years. I have a thirteen year-old daughter and three cats. My hobbies are reading, classical music, Judo, swimming, and long-distance walking. I extend my gratitude for the warm reception.

Ms Dalia Zabaneh - Secondary English Teacher



Hi everyone. My name is Dalia Zabaneh and I am excited to be a part of the MES Cairo family. I am Palestinian – Canadian and I have been teaching high school English in Egypt for fifteen years. I have lived in the Gulf, the US, Canada and Egypt. I am currently serving as the Head of Faculty of English and World Languages, and I teach Grade 7 and 9 English. I am very passionate about teaching literature to secondary students. I enjoy exploring different literary works with my students. I look forward to a great year at MES Cairo, building strong relationships with my colleagues and students.

Mr Daniel Eaglestone - Primary Physical Education Teacher



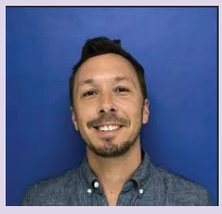
My name is Dan Eaglestone, and I am excited to introduce myself as a new member of the Primary P.E. department. With over ten years of coaching and teaching experience, I bring a passion for sports and a commitment to helping students thrive. I have had the opportunity to teach in diverse environments, having trained in England and spent four years in China and one year in Vietnam. A particularly fond memory from my time in China was with Shanghai Rugby winning the All China Cup, which recognised us as the best team in China! Additionally, I had the honour of captaining the England Touch Rugby team-an experience that taught me the importance of teamwork and leadership. Most recently, my enjoyment of sport led me on an incredible cycling tour across four countries, totaling over 1,000 kilometers. This adventure not only challenged me physically but also fueled my desire to inspire others to lead active, healthy lifestyles. I truly enjoy teaching sports and believe that engaging in exercise builds resilience, discipline, and valuable life skills.

Mr Darren Collins - Secondary Economics Teacher



I started my career as a PE teacher but have spent the last decade reskilling in Business, Finance, and Economics. Throughout my journey, I have worked as a Sales Consultant in London, coached football in Massachusetts, USA, and even worked part-time as a Financial Adviser in the UK. Although I have had a varied career, my passion for teaching young people has always remained. I am thrilled to be back in the classroom, where I look forward to helping students build a solid foundation for their future. This year, I am teaching Economics and Travel and Tourism to students from Year 9 to 11 and contributing to the Boys Varsity Football Team as a coach.

Mr Erich Smeaton – Secondary Social Studies Teacher



My name is Erich Smeaton and I have been a member of the MES Cairo faculty since July 2024. I am the Grade 8 Social Studies teacher in the American Section. My previous international experience has been in Seoul, South Korea, and Abuja, Nigeria. I have served in various roles during my 24-year journey as a career educator. My devotion to the field began in the urban school district of Denver Public Schools in the state of Colorado in the USA where I served as a teacher, instructional coach, peer tutor, curriculum developer, and elected member of the board of directors for the local teachers' union. Before officially beginning my career, I served as a volunteer in the United States Peace Corps developing sustainable literacy programmed for rural subsistence farmers and their families in Zambia.

Mr Fady William - Secondary Chemistry and Biology Teacher



I am a dedicated educator with a degree in Pharmacy, graduating in 2013. Over the past ten years, I have gained extensive experience teaching in international schools, specialising in Chemistry and Biology. My passion for these subjects drives me to create engaging learning environments that inspire students to excel. I am committed to supporting students in their academic journeys, ensuring they receive the highest quality education possible. I am always eager to foster their curiosity and help them develop both academically and personally.

Ms Hannah Salem - Year 6 Teacher



I grew up in London, England and that is where I started my career in teaching. This is my nineteenth year teaching, I have taught in a variety of positions and have had the pleasure of teaching wonderful children across the primary school! My two children have also joined the MES Cairo family, I have a daughter in the Secondary school and my son is in the Primary school. Everyone at MES Cairo has been extremely welcoming and supportive. As a family, we enjoy travelling, baking, visiting the theatres in London, and participating in a range of sports.

Ms Kate Cannaby – Secondary English Teacher



Hello! After qualifying as a teacher, I taught for a few years at a secondary school in the UK, then started to teach internationally in the UAE. I spent the last four years teaching in China. I have also spent time studying and doing voluntary teaching in Denmark, France, Spain, Poland and Argentina. In my spare time, I enjoy hiking, reading and yoga.

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS!

Ms Lauren Ford – Year 1 Teacher
I joined MES Cairo in August as the new Year 1 Orange teacher. I am originally from the UK, and I previously lived in Alexandria. I studied at the University of Exeter, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Zoology. I then completed my PGCE in Primary Education at the University of Chichester. I have taught Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6. In my spare time I enjoy swimming, exploring, reading and painting.



Ms Lina Marzouk - Secondary Science Teacher
I was born and raised in Cairo until my family moved to California when I was a teenager so I consider my recent move to Cairo a "coming home" moment. I've lived in Los Angeles, California and completed my bachelors degree at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. I later attended the University of Southern California to earn a Masters in Teaching and have taught a range of science courses at public and private schools in Los Angeles for the past 4 years. This is my first experience teaching outside of the States and I am looking forward to teaching and learning at MES. Outside of teaching some of my favorite things to do include spending time with my daughter exploring the outdoors, reading and crocheting.



Mr Mahmoud Alqammari - Secondary Humanities & Commercial Studies Teacher
I have been in the educational world for around ten years now, focusing on humanities and helping students discover just how amazing learning can be. Whether it is history, geography, or any of the other fascinating subjects, I love bringing lessons to life and making learning an exciting experience for everyone. I am a proud graduate of The American University in Cairo and I believe that the best learning happens when students feel comfortable, engaged, and cared for. My classroom is a place where curiosity is encouraged, ideas are explored, and every student's voice is valued. I want to create an environment where students feel supported in their journey to grow not just academically but personally as well.



Ms Marissa Hice – Secondary Social Studies Teacher
Returning from a year-long sabbatical in the states to spend time with my family, I rejoined the MES Cairo staff as a social studies teacher in the American Secondary section. I spent three years teaching middle school English here before my departure and the thing that brought me back to MES was of course the students! In my time away, I have missed the excitement of teaching and being a part of the busy school community. I am most looking forward to teaching students I have followed since Grade 7 (shoutout to the Class of 2026) at the high school level and I am grateful for the chance to return home once again.



Mrs M Nguyen - Secondary Librarian
I come from Coventry in the West Midlands in England where I worked as Librarian in an English secondary school for over seventeen years supporting students aged eleven to eighteen. My academic achievements were made possible by my passion for reading. I have been lucky enough to travel to a number of countries around the world. Every single school day going to work, my heart jumps with joy knowing I am now a new member of the MES family. The smiles from students and staff members make me feel so attached to the MES Cairo family. I am proud to be here!



WELCOME NEW TEACHERS!

Ms Nada Khaled - Year 3 and 4 Music Teacher



My name is Nada Khaled. I have always had a deep passion for music, and I am excited to share this love with my students, helping them discover the joy and creativity that music brings. Outside of the classroom, I love spending time reading, going swimming and exploring new cuisines. Trying different foods from around the world is something that keeps my adventurous spirit alive, and it ties into my love for traveling. I am so excited to be part of the MES Cairo family, and I look forward to creating beautiful musical memories with the students.

Ms Nina Williams – Assistant Headteacher, Y5 and Y6



Many of you might remember me from my previous role as the Year Team Leader of Year 5 and 6 from 2015 to 2019. I loved supporting and guiding my previous classes during those crucial years, and seeing them embark on their Senior year this year has been incredibly rewarding. Originally from Weston-Super-Mare in the UK, I have returned to MES Cairo with a renewed passion for education and a deep appreciation for our vibrant community. In my free time, I enjoy relaxing by the pool with a good book and going for meals with my daughter, who is joining Year 9 of the British section. I have kept up my Netball back in the UK and I am looking forward to being the Primary Cougars Head Coach, I am also excited to explore more cultural experiences during my time here. If you have any recommendations for interesting cultural spots or activities, I would love to hear them! I am looking forward to reconnecting with old friends and making new ones!

Ms Salma Ezzeldin - FS1 Teacher



Greetings! My name is Salma Ezz EL-Din and I am Lebanese. I am thrilled to be part of the MES Cairo family this year as FS1 yellow teacher. I have worked in the early years for ten years and have a passion for early childhood education. I hold a Master degree in Children's Literature and also PGCE with a specialism in early years. When I am not at school, I enjoy travelling, cooking and listening to music. I look forward to a great year and many more to come.

Mr Sam Beacham - Y5 Teacher



When looking to teach abroad the school's approach to education really stood out and I knew I was going to the right place to further my career. This is my third year in teaching Key Stage 2 and I am looking forward to what MES Cairo has to offer. I am enthusiastic about the Cougars teamsand ready to help some of the football teams develop a passion for sports one that I share deeply.

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS!

Mr Timothy Keylada - Secondary Mathematics Teacher



Hello everyone! My name is Timothy Keylada. I was born and raised in the great state of Oklahoma, USA, and recently moved to Cairo from Los Angeles, California. I became a math teacher after earning my undergraduate degree in pure mathematics from Oklahoma State University. Fun fact: our mascot is a c owboy, which says a lot about where I grew up. I am super excited to explore Egypt through kitesurfing, marathon running, scuba diving, and traveling.

Ms Tuovi Pahkasalo - FS2 Teacher



Originally from Finland, I moved to Cairo with my husband at the beginning of August. I feel fortunate to have lived in twelve different countries-including Romania, Kuwait, Russia, Estonia, China, Poland, Hungary, India, Thailand, Turkey, and now Egypt-and to have taught in thirteen schools along the way. I earned my degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and I completed my Master in Education while teaching in Poland. As a proud mother of two amazing adult sons, I hold dear the memories we have made while traveling and living in various countries throughout their childhoods. Motherhood has offered me invaluable opportunities for learning and personal growth along the way. I am a lifelong learner and I am passionate about reading, and exploring new places. I deeply value diversity and the richness that different perspectives bring to our lives. I believe that if we foster trust among each other, we can truly make the world a better place. My experiences in international schools have enabled me to build friendships around the world, and I am thankful for everyone who has positively influenced my life.

Mr William Brooke - Secondary Choir Teacher



Music has given me many opportunities to travel around the world and I look forward to being a part of the music education here at MES Cairo. As a trained opera singer, my last international concert performance was in Tokyo, Japan and hopefully I will also have the opportunity to perform here in Cairo. Musically, I hold a doctorate in operatic performance, play six different instruments and this will be my fifth year teaching choir. I am originally from Arizona in the United States but have lived in seven different US states and three different countries. In addition to music, I love anything that allows me to be in the water including swimming, beach time and sailing. I hear Egypt has some of the most beautiful beaches which I am excited to experience!

Ms Yasmine Wahby – Secondary Mathematics Teacher



I am a dedicated and dynamic secondary Maths teacher with a comprehensive teaching journey spanning nine years. My experience includes five years of teaching in the UK, where I gained valuable insights and developed a fresh perspective on education. Following an initial tenure in Egypt, I returned to the UK for a year before coming back to teaching in Egypt, where I am now in my fourth year. I am passionate about both education andexploration, and I find living in Egypt to be exceptionally rewarding. This beautiful country offers the perfect blend of professional fulfillment and travel opportunities. With a proven ability to make Maths engaging and accessible, I strive to be not just a teacher but a mentor who inspires students to achieve their full potential.

Level Up Your Study Game: A Guide to Effective Study Skills and Exam Prep



Secondary school can feel like a whirlwind of homework, projects, and tests. But fear not, young scholar! With the right study skills and a dash of tech wizardry, you can conquer your academic challenges and emerge victorious.

Mastering the Art of Time Management

- Schedule Your Success: Create a realistic study schedule and break down large tasks into smaller, manageable chunks.
- Tech to the Rescue: Utilise time management apps like Todoist or Google Calendar to organise your tasks and set reminders.

Active Learning: Engage Your Brain

- Get Hands-On: Take notes, summarise key points, and create mind maps to actively engage with the material.
- Quiz Yourself: Practise active recall techniques, such as flashcards and quizzes, to solidify your understanding.



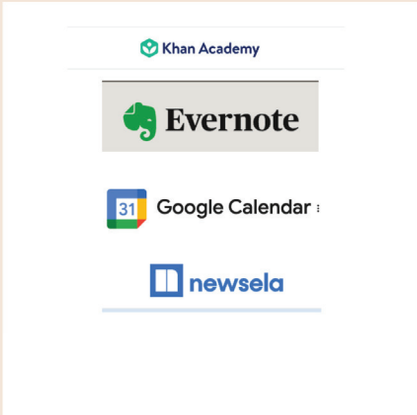
Find Your Zen Study Spot

Create Your Sanctuary: Identify a quiet, well-lit space where you can focus without distractions.

Unplug and Recharge: Minimise noise and electronic devices during study time.

Test Prep: A Strategic Approach

- Know Your Enemy: Understand the test format, question types, and grading scheme.
- Practise Makes Perfect: Practise with past tests under timed conditions to improve your time management skills.
- Study Smarter, Not Harder: Create a study plan, prioritize topics, and review regularly.
- Join the Study Squad: Form study groups to discuss concepts and clarify doubts.



Level Up with Tech: Your Virtual Study Toolkit

- Online Learning Platforms: Explore Khan Academy, Coursera, and edX for additional resources and interactive tutorials.
- AI as Your Tutor: Utilise AI-powered language models like ChatGPT to generate study materials, answer questions, and provide explanations. Remember to follow MES Cairo rules about how to use AI for studying.
- Digital Note-Taking: Organise and search notes efficiently with apps like Evernote and OneNote.
- Focus Boosters: Use apps like Forest and Focus Keeper to stay focused and productive.

By incorporating these study skills and test preparation strategies, along with the power of technology, you can unlock your full potential and achieve academic success. Remember, consistency and dedication are key to mastering your studies and acing your tests. So, let's get studying!

Ms R Gaber - English Inclusion/LDD, American Section

REMEMBRANCE DAY



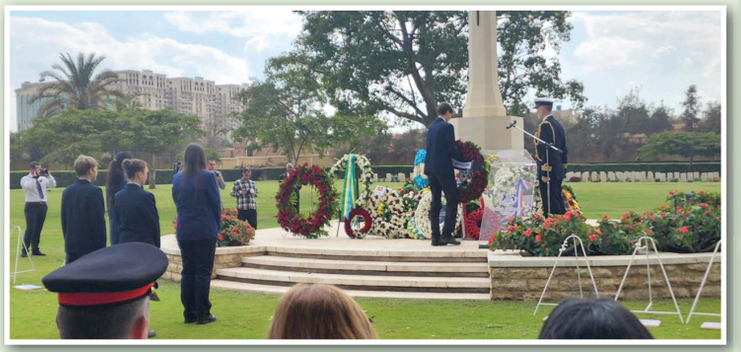
To commemorate the annual Remembrance service, Modern English School Cairo was invited by The British Ambassador, Mr. Gareth Bayley, and the Ambassador of Canada, Mr. Ulric Shannon, and their Defence Attachés to attend the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Heliopolis on Sunday 10 November.

Our Primary and Secondary student ambassadors attended and Sherif Nagy Y12Y, our Student Leader, laid a wreath at the cenotaph in respect. Our students also took the opportunity to spend time after the ceremony to walk amongst the graves and memorials from 83 countries, including Egyptians and took time to reflect on the impact of war in terms of human cost but also to have hope for the future.

Many at the commemoration commented on how important it is to see the younger generation attend and were impressed by our students' demeanour during the ceremony and were complimented on their behaviour and smartness. Our students epitomise our graduate profile and were dignified and reflective and are a credit to the school.

Ms L Talbot - Headteacher, Secondary British Section

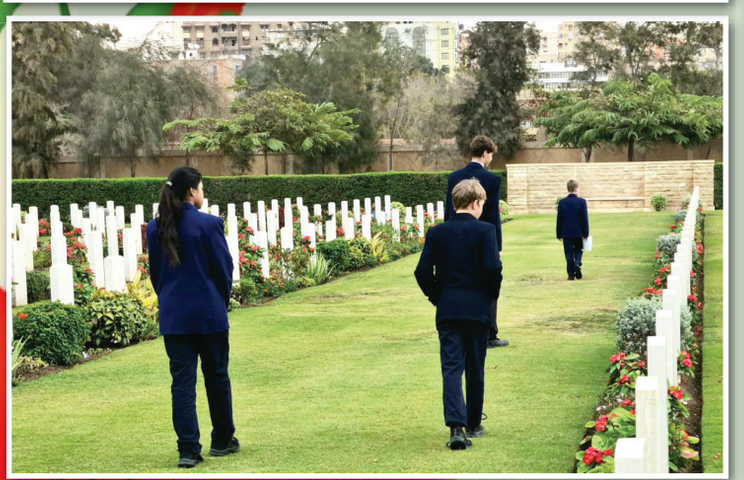












YEAR AND GRADE 7 HALLOWEEN SOCIAL – OCTOBER 2024







This year's Halloween Social proved to be a frightfully fantastic event, showcasing the creativity, dedication, and leadership of our senior students. Organised by the DP12 students, the social was a treat for our Year/Grade 7 attendees, who enjoyed an evening filled with laughter, games, and a touch of Halloween magic.



The event was a testament to the Seniors' ability to plan and execute a memorable celebration. From the moment the young students entered the venue, they were greeted by spooky decorations that set the mood for the evening. Pumpkins, cobwebs, and eerie lighting transformed the space into a Halloween wonderland. No party is complete without good food, and the seniors didn't disappoint.

They prepared an array of delicious snacks and Halloween-themed treats, including ghostly marshmallows and scary donuts, as well as burgers and chicken dishes.



The music added to the lively atmosphere, with a playlist that got everyone dancing—some even in their costumes! For those less inclined to hit the dance floor, there were engaging games and activities, from photo booths to face painting, which proved to be a hit among the young students.

It was heartwarming to see the seniors take charge, ensuring the younger students felt included and had a memorable evening. The event not only brought Halloween fun to life but also fostered a wonderful sense of community across different year groups.

A big thank-you to the senior students for their hard work and creativity in making the Halloween Social a howling success!

Mr B Rainford - Assistant Headteacher/IBDP Coordinator











SENIOR DINNER - CLASS OF 2025

Making treasured memories of their final year at school, Y/G/DP12 Seniors invited teachers to share a special Dinner on the Nile. The Class of 2025 enjoyed sailing in the evening weather and made the most of the opportunity to have a wonderful time together as a whole cohort.

Ms S Sheehan - Headteacher IB Section, Whole School Deputy Head









LET'S GET RHAPSODIC ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT!







Learning a musical instrument improves a child's learning potential because it teaches so much more than how to make a great sound! Playing an instrument, whatever the level, contributes to cognitive, emotional, and social development. You may have heard about how musicians also make magnificent surgeons, or superb mathematicians.

The cognitive benefits include improved memory, enhanced concentration, better coordination, increased creativity and higher achievement at school in general. The emotional benefits are also many. Playing an instrument helps with stress relief and anxiety management. A child's confidence is boosted by playing an instrument as music enables them to express themselves in a rewarding way. Social skills also get a boost because musicians are great team players and they have enhanced communication skills because of their ability to interpret meaning through music, which naturally translates to other aspects of life.

Music teaches discipline, focus and patience and it makes a person cultured and interesting to others. Everyone admires a musician!

Parents' perspective on the benefits of instrumental music lessons with Natateef.

This school year, my three sons began instrumental music lessons with Natateef: piano for my eldest, drums for my youngest, and continued guitar lessons for my middle son. From their first lessons, all three were enthusiastic, immediately engaging in at-home practice. In today's digitally-driven world, it's rewarding to witness their passion for learning and playing their instruments.

Their musical skills, including music reading, rhythm, and vocal abilities, have significantly improved in just a few months, a testament to Natateef's highly skilled instructors. We are immensely proud of their progress and eagerly anticipate their future participation in recitals and concerts, hoping they will continue to find lifelong fulfillment in musical expression.

Ms E Dawes - Science Teacher and CAS Coordinator, British and IB Sections

A lifelong gift

My children tell me how grateful they are that I did not let them "give up" their instrument when they were younger. I did not force them to practise if they didn't feel like it but would never entertain the idea of stopping lessons! Now they appreciate that being able to play an instrument adds so much to their lives. In social situations, they can contribute the gift of music to friends and family. To relax and unwind, they can shut out the rest of the world and dive deep into the world of their music, whether practising or playing for personal enjoyment.

Starting musical training early amplifies these benefits, but **it is never too late to begin.** Several adult members of staff have started learning an instrument with Natateef. To sign up, contact mabbas@natateef.com

Ms S Sheehan - Head of IB Section, Whole School Deputy Headteacher




















MESmerised













MESmerised













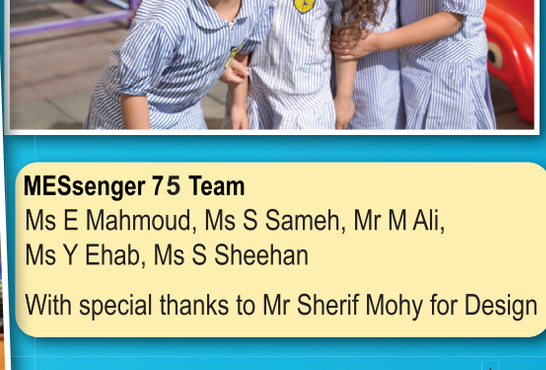












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With special thanks to Mr Sherif Mohy for Design



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