

MESSENGER

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MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO - MAGAZINE



MES Cairo sets the pace!



CONTENTS

Whole School Principal Foreword	3	International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme News	40
Cambridge Outstanding Learner Awards Ceremony	4	UK Universities	42
24-Hour Run	6	Artbeat	43
Secondary Production of 'Evita'	10	Peripatetic Music Department and British Section Drama	51
World Book Day	14	Secondary Learning Development Department News	52
Foundation Stage One	17	Secondary House News	54
Foundation Stage Two	18	International Award	56
Year One	19	Secondary Pioneers	58
Year Two	20	Primary Pioneers	60
Year Three	21	Primary After School Activities (ASAs)	61
Year Four	22	Primary Sportsdesk	62
Year Five	23	Secondary Sportsdesk	69
Year Six	25	Ski Trip	76
BSME Writing Competition	26	Model United Nations (MUN)	77
Year Seven – 'ToTAL'	27	Senior Trip	78
Year Seven – History and Geography	28	Alumni News	79
Year Eight – 'ToTAL'	29	MES Cairo Achievers	82
Year Seven Science and Year Seven/Eight Mangahigh and COBIS Maths Challenge	30	Ms Georgina Dean's Ironman Challenge and New Births	83
Year Eight Maths	31	Professional Development and British Embassy Carol Concert	84
Year Nine News	32	Seasonal Concert	85
British Section – English	33	MESMerised	87
Design and Technology News	35		
American Section – Mathletes	38		

WHOLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FOREWORD

Our MESsenger magazine is the icing on the cake. It showcases the 'extra' that defines an MES Cairo educational experience and endorses our reputation as an 'outstanding' school. It celebrates how fortunate our students are to experience all that our school provides and how well they thrive given such privilege. It reminds all members of our school community that there is much to be proud of at our wonderful school.

Current educational theory led by renown academics including Sir Ken Robinson, Carol Dweck, Michael Fullan and John Hattie, tell us that schools now serve entirely different purposes to those they were originally designed for. Traditional education was about teaching the 'what': content driven curriculum with assessment designed to test students' ability to recite whatever the teacher and textbook told them. Fast forward to present day and we are very clear that the functions of school are now very different. It is no longer the 'what', but the journey towards understanding 'how' and 'why' that is our focus. Students no longer need teachers to tell them the answers, they need teachers to support their development of a wide and varied skillset that enables them to discover the answers for themselves. Whilst grades remain an important currency, testing methodologies have broadened beyond the requirement of a single 'right answer'; examinations now demand more engagement in complex questions that are designed to reward deep thought and not a lucky guess.

At MES Cairo we engage in related conversations as a matter of routine. The teacher no longer serves the role of the one who knows all; they now serve a far greater purpose as facilitators of learning.

Students are no longer empty vessels waiting to be filled, but rather the owners of curious minds which are encouraged to think, discover and explore along the path that the teacher in the classroom has defined.

Engagement, investigation, analysis, grit, reasoning and application are learning attributes that we seek to nurture in students at MES Cairo. Our Graduate Profile defines our aspirational values in each and every one of our students. Our 5Rs help the youngest members of our school community develop personal qualities that are integral to their evolution into successful human beings. The broad enrichment curriculum we offer is instrumental in expanding our students' learning experiences and fostering in them the skills they will need to survive and succeed in their adult lives.

Our MESsenger publication captures some of the many ways that students engage in their learning at MES Cairo. We provide opportunities to develop students in multiple ways every day, be it in the application of a complex concept that is new to them, applying problem solving strategies to real-life situations, project managing significant events and occasions to name but a few. Our magazine showcases the dynamic and vibrant educational experience that we offer our students in our ongoing efforts to care for, challenge and inspire each and every one of them.

Mrs Nicola Singleton – Whole School Principal



CAMBRIDGE OUTSTANDING LEARNER AWARDS CEREMONY

10th March 2018 at the British University in Egypt

Diversity is our Strength!



It was with enormous pride that senior leaders applauded the great success of an education that reliably results in MES Cairo walking away with almost all “Best across subject” Awards. In this

continues to do so at St Andrew’s university where he is in his second year studying Medicine.

The theme of success leading to Medicine continued, as Omar Sadek (Y12B) gained 2nd place “Across 4 AS Levels” and will leave in the summer to study Medicine at Brighton and Sussex, which is a major achievement and one that makes us very proud. We are delighted that Aisha Morsy (Y12Y) gained top in Egypt and Cairo “Across 4 AS Levels” and see this as further evidence that we made an excellent choice in awarding her the British Section Senior Scholarship this year. Her success over the years has also been a result of sheer hard work, which leads us to hope that she will succeed Moataz in his category next year.



section of the Awards, Modern English School Cairo is repeated over and over again clearly stating that our students beat all of Egypt and Cairo schools in achieving excellence in all studied areas. It was with particular pride that we applauded Moataz Hamed (Class of 2017) who achieved ‘Top in Egypt and Cairo across 3 A Level subjects’, as he demonstrated that independent learning and sheer hard work is what it takes to succeed. He



What really makes this exciting is that it provides evidence that our students have the potential to change the future, not just for Egypt but globally. To be top of the country comes with the responsibility to use education, intelligence and privilege to work for the good of all. Our students realise that they are extremely lucky and the calibre of students who win these awards is high. They understand the need to use their success to make a difference and they certainly intend to do just that, both at home and abroad. They aim





to do this through areas that have maximum social impact like Medicine, Law and Economics.

Students who have been taught to think analytically will be the most important asset that Egypt possesses to encourage future success. We are honoured to be helping to shape generation after generation of leaders including Ms Dina Ghalwash, Master of Ceremony at the Award Ceremony. Ms Ghalwash tried very hard to present all winning participants equally, but her smile said it all when MES Cairo students took to the stage. Her pride and excitement was evident, which gave truth to the assertion in her speech that she had found her passion: teaching. Her speech was inspirational and gave all participants a common goal, which was to shape the future through education and to share the privilege of this with as many as possible. The audience were equally delighted to hear this



reinforced by the Minister for Education and the laudable plans to educate all children.

The afternoon was such a wonderful celebration of the possibility of a bright future that everyone left excited by the potential for positive change and the knowledge that there are students ready and prepared to make it happen. We are delighted and proud to celebrate our CAIE Outstanding Learner Award winners. Well done to all!

Congratulations to all our award winners, their families and their teachers. We are filled with pride and inspiration.



Zyad Mohamed	Graduated 2017 and now at Erasmus in Holland studying Economics High Achievement A-Level Economics
Nikolett Bartus (Y12Y)	High Achievement AS Level History
Karim Nagy (Y12Y)	High Achievement AS Level Information Technology
Nay Assassa (Y12Y)	High Achievement AS Level English Literature
Nour Elwi Coptan (Y11B)	High Achievement IGCSE History
Mohamed Fikry (Y12R)	Top in Egypt for AS Business
Aisha Morsy (Y12Y)	Top in Egypt for AS Economics First Place in Egypt and Cairo - Best Across 4 AS and A Levels
Hala El Tawil (Y11Y)	Top in Egypt for IGCSE Design and Technology
Moataz Hamed	Graduated 2017 and now at St Andrews, Scotland studying Medicine. First Place in Egypt and Cairo - Best Across 3 AS and A Levels
Karim El-Bouri (Y12Y)	Second Place in Egypt and Cairo - Best Across 3 AS and A Levels
Yasser Dabees (Y12B)	Third Place in Egypt and Cairo - Best Across 3 AS and A Levels
Omar Sadek (Y12B)	Second Place in Egypt and Cairo - Best Across 4 AS and A Levels
Omar Maarouf (Y12Y)	Third Place in Egypt and Cairo - Best Across 4 AS and A Levels
Karim Ramadan(Y11R)	First Place in Egypt and Cairo - Best Across 7 IGCSE
Farah Kabesh (Y11Y)	Second Place in Egypt and Cairo - Best Across 7 IGCSE

Ms S Clingan – Assistant Head, Years Ten-Twelve, British Section

MES CAIRO'S 24-HOUR RUN RAISES 332,000LE FOR TAWASOL



This year, Ms Ghada Dajani, Managing Director of Modern English School Cairo, inspired and motivated the whole of the MES Cairo family to participate in our 24-Hour Run which

this time was dedicated to Tawasol. As always, 21st March is a very special day for us, as there is so much to celebrate with it also being Egyptian Mother's Day and the birthday of our cherished founding leader and Chairman of the Board, Mrs Sawsan Lababidi Dajani.

Tawasol was founded by an esteemed member of our parent community and her family. Ms Ghada Dajani learned of the work of Ms Yasmina and her husband Mohamed Asmin Ismail by chance. She felt inspired by her mission and sought different ways to help her. Tawasol for Developing Istabl Antar NGO is a registered community school founded in 2008 and located in Ezzbet Khairallah in Cairo. The Tawasol project provides quality services to their immediate community as well as Istabl Antar and Batn el Ba'ara settlements, where only one public school serves its population of over 750,000 residents. Tawasol offers free, high-quality education to children who would otherwise never attend school due to their families' social and economic conditions. The school has two important priorities; education and health. Children are taught valuable vocational skills alongside an interactive primary curriculum accredited by Egypt's Ministry of Education. Training is provided for women in crafts such as embroidery, sewing, crochet and carpentry providing a source of important family income. Young people are taught music, fine art and the performing arts related to Egyptian cultural heritage such as theatre, choir, percussion, musicals, circus and sports. Tawasol also provides health care services to the children and residents of the communities they serve including health checks and financial support with surgery, as needed.



The Tawasol project is currently building a vocational community school on a 1,050msq block of land in Ezzbet Khairalla. The school will serve the same community on a much larger scale. This project will allow Tawasol to expand its community services in both education and health.



The new building will include twenty-seven classes, Science laboratories, performing arts and activities spaces, a library, workshops, auditorium, teachers' room, cafeteria, kitchen and basketball space. Our fundraising from the 24-Hour Run will directly help this building project and its surrounding community.



Our 24-Hour Run commenced with the Secondary and Key Stage Two Choirs singing the Egyptian National Anthem. We then sang 'Happy Birthday' to Mrs Dajani whilst Foundation Stage students blew celebratory bubbles into the air. An Arabic Song was sung by the Primary and Secondary Choirs and then children from Tawasol entertained us with a circus performance as a thank you for our support. The audience was amazed as Tawasol children brightened our stage with acrobatics, drumming, hula hooping and stilt walking!



As per tradition, Mrs Dajani donned the red silk sash to officially begin the first lap. Walking alongside her this year were our Primary and Secondary Student Councils, our Scholarship Winners from British, American and IB Sections as well as the daughter of the founders of Tawasol, Baheya in Foundation Stage One. A huge countdown timer (in the scaffold arch built over the start line especially for the occasion) showed everyone how long we needed to keep the sash moving throughout the 24 hours.



The special edition MES Cairo Tawasol T-shirts raised a substantial amount of money for the charity and were sold along with a specially decorated cookie with icing in advance of the event. Money was also raised via the sale of food from external vendors, through the selling of crafts made by Tawasol and through generous donations made from our community. An impressive amount of funds were raised for this important cause in just one day; a total of 252,000LE was raised for the cause with an additional 80,000 in craft sales, making a total of 332,000LE!

MES Cairo family members of all ages, including parents, grandparents and alumni, kept the sash going around the track for 24 hours. Every single student took part in the run at some point during the school day,



and many were delighted to be joined by their family members, who came along to support the cause. Throughout the event, we were entertained by performances given by talented students in the Production Band, Peripatetic Programme, Shine On and Secondary Music classes. Teachers from across the school also performed including Mr Paul Edgeler, who supported students, Mr Kyle Cullen who sang and played piano and Ms Claire Williams and Ms Kate Banks who sang and played guitar together. We witnessed a range of fun appearances from several classes during the day including Year Two students as Chinese Dragons



and some Primary teachers dressed as superheroes. Students ran, walked, danced or skipped, but what mattered most was that everyone participated with enthusiasm and had fun. Students even completed laps in wheelchairs and siblings in pushchairs - everyone wanted to take part! Students were very proud to take over the red silk sash at the end of each lap throughout the day. At 3.00pm, our entire MES Cairo staff community came out on the track to support the run. The whole event was captured on a live feed on the MES Cairo website and via our Facebook page we learnt that our web link was watched by well-wishers in England, Ireland, America, Scotland, Wales, Canada and New Zealand! The event even attracted attention from the national media who interviewed parents, students and teachers during the day.

After the school day officially ended, the track and field continued to be a hive of activity until late evening, with students coming back to run in representative groups or just to keep running with a friend to raise as much money as possible for Tawasol. Groups included Primary



and Secondary Pioneers, Primary Cougar Teams, JV and Varsity Girls Basketball team, National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society, Year/Grade Nine Bronze International Award students, the Secondary House Teams (Kheper, Edjo, Amun and Selket) as well the Secondary Student Council. To promote a healthy life style, a series of fitness workshops were led on the field from 3.00-6.00pm. Ms Hodgkinson ran a relaxing yoga session, which was followed by an energetic Cross Fit hour with Mr Hinchliffe and then a fascinating Defensive/Offensive submission grappling workshop with Mr Ayele and Mr Houghton.



As the sky darkened, participants lit up our track by purchasing glow sticks for our 'Light Up the Night' Walk. However, the highlight of the evening happened when visitors were treated to a 'Cinema Under the Stars' experience. The field was awash with MES Cairo family members of all ages enjoying the movie 'The Greatest Showman', whilst a vast array of runners journeyed on around the track.

In MES Cairo tradition, our Primary and Secondary Senior Leadership Team completed laps

at midnight, showing dedication and leadership by example. A special thank you to all our staff members who woke up early or stayed up very late to keep our sash moving in the very early hours of 22nd March. Our super fit PE teachers showed off their stamina when they donned the sash early Wednesday morning and kept it going until the very final laps when the Primary and Secondary Student Councils took to the track again as part of our closing ceremony. The whole school gathered once again to celebrate our great achievements. We all stood together for the National Anthem, then watched a final thank-you performance from the children of Tawasol.

The MES Cairo 24-Hour Run for Tawasol brought the whole school together. Thank you to the entire MES Cairo community, for helping us

all to help the Tawasol appeal in such a memorable and uplifting way. It has reminded us all that together, our MES Cairo family can make a difference in Egypt.

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

MES Cairo Choirs

At the opening of the 24-Hour Run, the Primary Key Stage Two Choir was joined by students from the Secondary Choir in leading the national anthem and singing the Om Kalthoum classic, *Masr Ellaty Fi Khately*. They had spent time over the last couple of months preparing with the help of Miss Maha Emad Eldin and Miss Safaa El-Bagoury.

The hard work paid off as they produced a wonderful and spirited performance that was enjoyed by all present. Well done to you all!

Many thanks must go to Miss Maha and Miss Safaa for their hard work as well as Mr Kyle, Mr Joey and Maurice Andrawes (Y7R) for providing the musical accompaniment.

Mr J Tomlinson - Head of Primary Music

Mother's Day at MES Cairo

Wednesday 21st March 2018 was a very special day of love and celebration for the students, staff and families in Foundation Stage One at MES Cairo. All FS1 classes came together to say Happy Mother's Day to their wonderful mums. The celebration was a collection of songs performed with confidence and enthusiasm by students in Foundation Stage One. They have been working very hard over the last few weeks with their Music teachers, preparing for this special performance. They learned all the words of their songs, perfected their singing, and prepared to be very brave on stage. The Foundation Stage learning space has also been a hive of activity with children creatively making a special Mother's Day card. Each student made their card with lots of love and kindness, which they presented to their mothers along with a super heart shaped cookie at the end of the show. Our wonderful Foundation Stage students made a fabulous effort to entertain and impress their audience and were especially resilient when they walked on stage to perform for





their audience. It was a wonderful morning and everyone was very happy to be there. We had lots and lots of smiling faces all round. After the celebration, FS1 students and their Mums enjoyed time together watching an amazing circus



performance by our Tawasol guests. Finally, everyone set off to join in with the 24-Hour Run festivities and walked or ran around the track together. What a busy day!

Ms A Holmes – Primary Headteacher, Key Stage One

Peripatetic Showcase

The 24-Hour Run provided the ideal opportunity to highlight musicians from across both the Secondary and Primary school. In total over eighty students were selected and they contributed close to four hours of entertainment for spectators and those runners on the track. As well as confident solos from students learning in the Peripatetic Music Programme, the Senior Production Band provided variety with Blues, Jazz and upbeat songs like *Beat It* and *Happy*. Performing outside on

the large stage was a great experience for the young members of the Production Band as they prepare for the 'Band-makers Battle of the Bands Competition' at the end of April. The 24-Hour Run coincided with class music performances that have been taking place in Grade/Year Seven and large numbers of these students teamed up with the peers to take to the stage. Performing with energy and passion, this aspect provided a new dimension to the event and all of the students are to be commended for their enthusiastic contributions. As in previous years the 'Shine On' singers, with their experience and finesse, added that extra touch of class. We look forward to hearing them again at future MES Cairo events.

Mr P Edgeler - Secondary Music Teacher

A Performer's Perspective

The Build-up!

The build-up to performing at the 24-Hour Run was nerve-racking. I was preparing to sing three songs, on stage covered by live TV! On the one hand it was all very exciting but on the other, I worried that I would completely embarrass myself on TV and in front of the entire school. The songs I rehearsed for were 'Titanium' by Sia, 'Fight Song' by Rachel Platten and 'Maybe' from Annie the Musical.

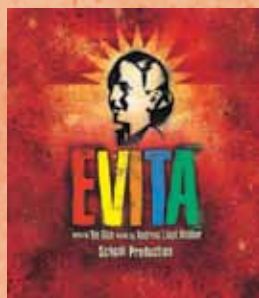
Music has always been important to me. Music has comforted me at my worst, and made me feel like I am the best. Singing is my passion and it always has been! When artists sing, especially live, they are giving energy to other people. I want to be a positive influence for other people and I have always told myself that if I have a platform such as singing, that will not be my only voice. I want to help people become their best selves. I would like to speak up about mental health for example. If I do this I would help people who feel like they don't have anybody else.

After the Performance

I felt elated! I had performed on live TV in front of all those people and it was thrilling. I saw my friends cheering for me! I was so moved, I was ecstatic. I overcame something huge today. I was able to do my bit to help other people too; the people of Tawasol. I am no longer afraid to be on stage, singing my heart out! **Malak El Attar (Y9Y)**



SECONDARY MUSICAL PRODUCTION



The

heart of MES Cairo, our 400 seat theatre, pounded with passion throughout the exhilarating performances of this year's spectacular Secondary Musical Production: Evita. A special thanks and congratulations must go out to our talented duo, Director Jonathan Todd and Musical Director, Daniel Tomlin. To compliment the wonderful singing and acting, the show was brought to life by the slick dance routines choreographed by Shelby Fowler.

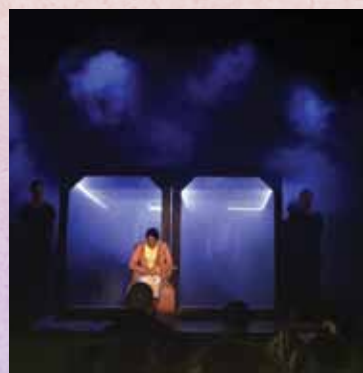
Parents, teachers, students, alumni and visitors to MES Cairo from the wider Cairo community thoroughly enjoyed the superb show. Our talented performers provided a feast for the senses as they told the iconic story of Eva Peron with stunning perfection. Each and every member of the cast

and crew worked together in superb harmony to present this memorable production. Carol Ramy (G11Y), no stranger to the MES Cairo spotlight, played the role of Eva Duarte with finesse, beauty and perfection that would be hard to find on a real Broadway stage. Ahmed Ibrahim (G12R), played the ever present but ephemeral commentator and critic, Che, with style and conviction. Our talented students each played their parts like true artists, deeply involved in their characters. Ismail Abaza (G11R) portrayed General Peron with understated elegance, providing a pragmatic foil to Eva's energetic ambition. Magaldi (Mohamed Fouda DP11Y), The Mistress (Malak Hegab G12R) and every member of the supporting Ensemble all shone brightly in their roles, supported powerfully by the Secondary Choir and by our graceful Dancers.

Our students took on impressive lead roles behind the scenes too, with Mohamed Taymour (G12R) stepping up to the demanding position of Stage Manager this year, supported ably by Omar Soliman (G12B) as his Deputy Stage Manager. Ziad Ayoub (Y11R), Hashem Afifi (DP12Y), Lana Mahmoud (G12R) and Nada El Anany (DP11Y) ran the sound and light with true professionalism from the Control Box, supported and tutored by Michael Baskalis, James Carter and Technical Assistant Laura Sauret. The Production team was strong throughout, and the MES Cairo stage was again enriched by a series of striking tableaux - masterpieces in their own right. The vision of the design by Jonathan Todd was brought into being by Kim Tapsell, Shereen Taha and their Art and Design Technology teams, joined by Dan Mulligan running the impressive projections.

For the matinee performance we were delighted to be visited by NCBIS and also the British School of Alexandria – who journeyed all the way from Alexandria to Cairo for our production! One bright young visitor explained on his way out, "Evita was amazing. She is small but powerful. She was very ambitious and climbed her way to the top. She also has a beautiful voice with a lot of emotion in it. All the students in the show were really good and we had a great time. We liked asking them questions after the performance. Thank you, MES Cairo!"

Ms S Sheehan – Assistant Headteacher/IBDP Coordinator





From the Production Team

Evita has been a very special musical production to plan for with its elegant sets and clever use of positioning of scenery to create multi levels for the actors to perform on. The use of black created the illusion of space across the stage and gave it height, as if at times the action was suspended in the air. The action was amplified with the beautiful use of lighting. As always, we would like to thank Tamer El Husseiny and Clement Peter and their teams, for their continued patience and hard work with all our productions. A special thank you must go to Mohamed, our carpenter and Mahmoud, our electrician.

Ms Kim Tapsell - Head of Secondary Visual Arts

It was a pleasure to watch our cast learn about the life of Eva Duarte and her rise to fame. They focused not on the politics but rather on the human beings at the centre of the tale. They developed the relationships between the characters to a truly believable level. As ever, the entire ensemble, stage crew and technical crew worked together in an admirably professional way, each bringing their own contribution to the success of the piece. Of all the aspects of Theatre I love, seeing our students work so incredibly well together is among my favourites. **Mr J Todd - Director**



REVIEWS – EVITA

Mr P Godfrey - Member of Board of Governors

It is now a week since I had the pleasure of watching the Secondary production of *Evita* and still the tunes and melodies keep haunting me. I can't get them out of my head! I have seen the Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber 1978 musical many times on the West End, London stage. It was their last collaboration together and many aficionados believe it to be their best.

They would have been proud of this MES Cairo show...a great event with a strong story, excellent music, some inventive choreography and the ever present scary and at times disturbing figure of Evita championing the common people in her rise to power in a story of rags to riches in Argentina. The musical follows a young girl's rise to the top of an entire country, where she was heralded as "the spiritual leader of the nation" by the Argentinian people.

The very same people start the show enjoying a movie in the cinema in Buenos Aires when the film is stopped to announce the death of Eva Peron. An ingenious compelling beginning using the projector screen set the stage for a truly creative production which enthralled at every moment through both acts.



Throughout, the staging was sharp, edgy and pacey. In that cinema audience was Che, the prominent figure who stalks the show offering a bitter ironic commentary on it. Ahmed Ibrahim was perfectly cast as the cynical revolutionary who guides you through the show, looking forward and back. Ahmed came of age in this demanding role holding the show together with increasing charisma and confidence excelling in such songs as "The money keeps rolling in (and out)".



Not just anyone can play Eva Duarte Peron - and it was soon clear that Carol Ramy is not just "anyone". From the moment she appeared as Evita she filled the stage with presence and created an entirely believable character full of life, admirably portraying the many different emotions with technical virtuosity. Her voice has an extraordinary range and the different musical genres, rhythms and tones were mastered easily. It is rare to witness such a mature performance from one so young. Mesmerising. Truly a star!

Ismail Abaza played the controversial Argentinian president Peron in his first individual role. You could feel him going from strength to strength growing in confidence by the minute. He portrayed a true understanding of the political dictator. Ismail, this show "was surprisingly good for you." We all look forward to your future roles at MES Cairo.

There are other featured roles in Evita. The flamboyant Magaldi, Evita's former beau, was played by Mohamed Fouda who convinced us all completely especially with his "On this night of a thousand stars". Malak Hegab took the role of Peron's mistress and did very well in her solo spot with "Another suitcase in another hall".

All five of the main actors gave a great example of how excellent diction can make the story understandable and believable for the audience. It was much helped by the simple dark set of steps and platforms moved swiftly and securely by the backstage crew who knew that their contribution was vital to maintain the pace. Congratulations to all of you guys in black who took your jobs so seriously.

I was not the only one who was impressed by the witty choreography and blocking on the stage which the large ensemble confidently executed. The neatly goose-stepping soldiers were engaging.

They were not onstage but they were certainly a major ingredient contributing to the absolute success of this production...namely the thirty-four students who formed the choral ensemble delivering some gorgeously harmonious vocals throughout this long show. Your efforts gave the performance some added dynamism.

MES Cairo has always striven for the very best in performing arts and to reach such a standard requires the help of many, many individuals who never take the spotlight on the stage. On behalf of the cast I thank all of you regulars involved in the lighting and sound, stage managing, set design and execution, make up, compilation of the programme and general assistance.

I know that Ms Shelby Fowler has been congratulated by many on her fresh choreography which was impressive.

Over the years I have run out of superlatives for our Musical Director and overall Director, Daniel Tomlin and Jonathan Todd. This time is no exception. They both know that I can be a harsh critic. This show was a risky choice, incredibly demanding on everyone. Their faith in the ability of our students to deliver has never wavered and they were not let down. It was a magnificent example of what can be achieved if you aim high.

Again, I hear in my head those strains of "Don't cry for me Argentina" and I smile because it reminds me of how proud and privileged I was to be a member of the audience for this classy production.



Thank you all for ensuring that everyone leaving the theatre basked in a feelgood feeling. This is what MES Cairo is all about. Long may it continue.

Ms J Cole - Assistant Head, Years Seven-Nine, British Section

A wonderful production with star quality singing, dynamic choreography and superb team work off and on stage. The backstage crew were swift in the scene changes allowing the cast to sing, dance and bring the story of Evita to life on the MES Cairo theatre stage. Well done to all involved!

Mr M Ingham - Year Three Team Leader

I went to see the school production of Evita on Sunday 11th March with high expectations after the successes of Mary Poppins and Shrek in previous years, and I was not disappointed. Here was a production that clearly showed just how much time and effort had been dedicated to it. Evita is an ambitious production that relies heavily on its two main stars. Ahmed Ibrahim as Che and Carol Ramy as Eva rose to the occasion admirably with an incredible amount to memorise and strong singing voices. Special mention should also go to the black t-shirted stage crew who did a sterling job reconfiguring the constantly changing set. Congratulations to director, Mr Jonathan Todd and Musical Director, Mr Daniel Tomlin for another in a long string of musical successes!



Ms S Clingan - Assistant Head, Years Ten-Twelve, British Section

Evita was exceptional, not just for the outstanding singing, but for the mature acting. "What happens Now?" moved me to tears, through emotive and skilled singing and acting. The performers deserve much credit, but so do the Director and Musical Director as the whole show demonstrated their brilliance.

Ms R Hanlon - Secondary Drama Teacher

An ambitious school show with excellent musical expression both on and off stage and an incredibly well disciplined and effective stage crew.

Ms C Ingham - Secondary English Teacher, British Section

What a wonderful evening this was! The lead performances were at times stirring, at times moving, and the passionate energy with which they were delivered was always incredible.

Mrs Nicola Singleton - Whole School Principal

At MES Cairo we never shy away from a challenge. In selecting Evita as this year's Secondary Musical production, we confronted challenges head on! The demanding score, the formidable characterisation and the complex narrative all made this choice an ambitious one. Yet we had no doubt that our students would rise to the occasion thanks to their carefully curated talents and the many months of rehearsals and preparation that have been invested in bringing Evita to our theatre stage.



Our performing arts culture is such an important part of the MES Cairo tradition. Beyond the accomplished acting, singing and stage presence we have young men and women who have juggled demanding academic studies, committed to a worthy purpose and found community in their endeavour. Self-confidence has been nurtured, as has self-discipline. Time-management has been necessary, as has comradery and tolerance. Staging a production puts almost every quality of our MES Graduate Profile to the test within each of the individuals on stage and those behind the scenes.

The whole of the MES Cairo family can take pride in the achievements of the Evita cast and crew.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Secondary

While we continuously celebrate literacy and the pursuit of new knowledge every day here at MES Cairo, 4th March proved to be an extra special day of reading and discussion.

In honour of World Book Day, students celebrated books and reading through introductions to many new book titles. As students entered their Homeroom classes in the morning, any tiredness from their mid-term break adventures was immediately



alleviated by their Homeroom teachers' presentation of various book talks and book trailers. Throughout the day, students began each of their lessons by learning about two new novels. Each title was chosen from our MES Cairo library collection and, according to our Learning and Media Centre Coordinator, Mr Mesnard, many novels had already been checked out by the end of the day. As students learned, discussed and pursued these books, they also assessed their knowledge by taking a World Book Day quiz on Google Classroom. Those who scored the highest won House Points!

We are already looking forward to next year's event. Until then, Happy Reading!

Ms K Bull – American Section HOD English



WORLD BOOK DAY

Primary



World Book Day is a worldwide celebration. The written word is something that unites us all; each culture has its own traditional tales and favourite characters. Over the years, famous authors have had their words translated to ensure that both adults and children, worldwide, have access to a wealth of real and imaginary places and characters, thus allowing the audience to share the wonders, traditions and lives of others.

World Book Day was celebrated at MES Cairo on 4th March. Even before the event, students, along with their parents, had been preparing for the day by researching their favourite book and analysing the character they wished to portray. As we entered the school yard on Sunday morning, the impact was immediate; an atmosphere of excitement with an array of colourful and imaginative characters from a range of books.

The students then spent the day engaged in a range of activities across Primary, with teachers and students both exploring the literary world. Great teamwork was visible when students from Key Stage Two visited Key Stage One to read to those younger classes. The older students were eager to share books that they had selected from





the library, as well as keen to listen to the younger students reading their books.

In Year Five, everyone spent the day searching for 'Wally' as well as reproducing a version of their own.

Downstairs, the teachers treated Year One students to a one-time only spectacular show, acting out the story of Hansel and Gretel. However, it was not the story they had heard before, but a revised version made up by the teachers in which the characters took on different traits.



The Year Two pod was transformed into a catwalk for a rather unusual fashion show, displaying the latest outfits for the Gruffalo, Cinderella and a host of other imaginative characters.

All in all, the day provided opportunities for all students to explore and share a wide variety of literature, through the written word, together with illustrations, costumes, discussions and role-play.

The aim of the day was to inspire curiosity and a love of reading and evidence of that goal could be seen in every area of the Primary School. World Book Day was a great success!

Ms T Nissan – Deputy Headteacher, Key Stage One

'There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. A love of books is the best of all.' - Jacqueline Kennedy



FOUNDATION STAGE ONE STUDENTS ENJOY A VISIT TO FAMILY PARK



Foundation Stage One students enjoyed learning about many different animals during their recent topic 'Amazing Animals'. Students explored jungle animals, farm animals, arctic animals, birds, underwater animals and insects. They have been learning where these animals live as well as finding out all about the characteristics of the animals.

To celebrate the end of our topic, we decided to visit *Family Park* in New Cairo. Over a period of three days we visited the park with two classes visiting each day. Our students had a wonderful time. Students were able to see many different animals including visiting enclosures containing majestic lions, a beautiful peacock, monkeys, crocodiles, camels and goats.

The children enjoyed eating their lunch al fresco and the trips finished with a visit to the playground.



Everyone had a lovely day out at *Family Park* and all the students behaved impeccably.

Ms A McLaughlin - Foundation Stage One Green Teacher



Once Upon a Time in a Not So Faraway Land



On Wednesday 24th January, Foundation Stage Two took us on a magical journey through some of our favourite childhood fairy tales. The MES Cairo stage was transformed into the enchanted Fairy Tale Land for the day, thanks to the hard work of everyone involved in music, costumes, lights, directing and last but not least acting.

This year's production focused on the underlying themes of compassion and forgiveness, combining six somewhat unrelated age-old fables into an interesting learning lesson for Foundation Stage Two and the audience. The story began at the Fairy Tale Land Post Office, where our jolly postmen and postwomen each has a message to deliver.

The postmen and post women introduced us to the key characters and delivered each message of compassion and forgiveness. All six fairy tales involved a central conflict. The messages delivered explained how best to resolve their fairy land conflict and offered an alternative happy ending.

Foundation Stage Two Yellow were first to take to the stage with their rendition of *Hansel and Gretel*. They sang *the Wicked Witch is Gone* and impressed us with their amazing dance moves.

Red Class came second and beautifully sang the song *Little Red*, and then preformed their cool wolf dance.

Violet Class performed their version of the story of *The Ginger Bread Man*, alongside their lovely song, and very catchy dance.

They were followed by **Blue Class** who performed the story of *The Three Little Pigs* but with an apologetic wolf. They sang their song beautifully and amazed us with their dancing skills.

Green Class were next with their rendition of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. They sang their song with loud clear voices and danced a lovely partnered-up dance.

Orange Class were last on stage with the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, but in this version, it wasn't porridge she was eating it was fuul! They sang their song with their lovely singing voices and preformed the popular *Gummy Bear* dance.

The students in Foundation Stage Two amazed us with their lovely singing, beautiful dancing and great confidence on stage.

The children loved learning about these classic fairy tales which had twisted endings to follow the theme of forgiveness and compassion. Not only did they learn their own songs and actions, but all the other class songs as well, which they sang and preformed beautifully on stage.

It was wonderful to share the children's achievements with their parents during the performance. The Foundation Stage Two team is extremely proud of all the students that made this performance so successful. Congratulations!

Ms Raghda Aly – Foundation Stage Two Orange Teacher



YEAR ONE STUDENTS CELEBRATE READING



After a lovely mid-term break, the Year One students were well-rested and ready to learn, and what better way to start the new term on Sunday 4th March than with *World Book Day*. We really enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book characters, sharing our stories and reading different books. We were really busy all day with a multitude of different activities!

The start of the day was very exciting as we headed straight to the pod for a surprise play. All our Year One teachers acted out the story of *Hansel and Gretel* but with a twist. To get the celebration started we gathered on the running track to have our own costume parade.

Everyone looked amazing in their costumes and it was great fun trying to guess who everybody was dressed up as. We loved making our own book marks to use when reading stories at home. We practised our writing skills and showed understanding of what

we were reading by writing our own book reviews about our favourite stories. Our creativity continued when we had a go at making our own puppets and re-telling some well-known stories to our classmates. The fun didn't stop during break-time either when we had a wonderful time at our *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* inspired by one of our favourite fairy tales that we had learned about

earlier in the term, *Alice in Wonderland*. Shortly after break, some wonderful visitors come to our classroom from Year Five. It was so exciting to share stories with some of the older students and they were all amazing readers and storytellers.

The excitement did not stop there when a couple of days later the Year One students received a surprise visit from Secondary teacher, Mr MacAuley, who was dressed up as the very famous British archaeologist and Egyptologist

'Howard Carter'. He spoke about discovering the intact tomb of the 18th Dynasty Pharaoh, Tutankhamun (also known as 'King Tut'), in November 1922. The tomb was considered the best preserved and most intact pharaonic tomb ever found in the Valley of the Kings. He also brought back some artefacts to share and explained that he could not have done it without his extremely hardworking and dedicated team. We were all enthusiastic and excited to see him and his visit really sparked our curiosity to learn about explorers which is our next Year One topic.

We look forward to learning more about different kinds of explorers as the term goes on.

Ms K Barakat – Year One Blue Teacher



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF YEAR TWO...

Have

you ever wondered what really goes on both inside and outside of the Year Two pod? Take a look at these inspirational pictures taken over the past week. As you can see, there is a lot of learning going on in here.



Stepping into Mr Stuart's and Mr Phil's classes, we can see students working hard in Maths. In Year Two we have been busy learning addition and subtraction and then using the inverse to check our work or solve missing number problems. We can also see they have been learning about 3-D shapes and their properties. What properties does a hexagonal prism have? Ask Year Two students to find out.

As we can see in Expressive Arts, Ms Heather's class is dancing and singing, putting together a terrific performance for the Year Two production.



All classes were also vigorously participating in the MES Cairo 24-Hour Run, which raised over a quarter of a million Egyptian pounds for Tawasol. We all brought our topic of China to the track with brightly coloured dragons.

In English we have been continuing to improve our grammar through learning how to write traditional tales. Here, Ms Jordana's class is using spelling and phonics to make their writing even better. Can you think of what makes a traditional tale?

Ms Rebecca's students are making use of checklists to score points for features included in their tale. How high do you think you can score?

What do 'water-resistant' and 'waterproof' really mean? In Science, Ms Judy's class are exploring with waxy crayons to see what will happen when these beautiful fish are painted over with

watercolour paint. They've learnt that once applied, the paint beads and doesn't stick to the wax. Do you think the wax is water-resistant or waterproof? What is the difference? Year Two students can tell you!

I hope you have enjoyed reading about a day in the life of Year Two. As you can see from all the smiles, we love spending time learning here together in such a caring environment.

Ms H Lidkea – Year Two Orange Teacher



YEAR THREE CONCERT

WEIRD SCIENCE

Here in Year Three, we jumped aboard a time machine and travelled from last term's Ancient Egypt to this term's Modern Egypt. It's been a most interesting and exciting trip! We shared this theme, together with our Science work on 'Forces', with the Year Three parents in our recent production of *Weird Science*.

Our show kicked off with the rousing song 'Egypt, Gift of the Nile'. All six classes sang this opening ditty whilst also doing some Egyptian dance moves. It certainly set a thrilling atmosphere for the rest of the show!

The Year Three classes then came on to the stage one at a time. Each song was introduced by eight of the students from that class who then rejoined the others for their particular song and dance. Yellow Class set the ball rolling with an imaginary visit to the beautiful area of Downtown Cairo and how that, with all of its cafes and bright lights, could cheer you up when you're not so happy.

Orange, Blue and Green classes focused on 'Forces'. Orange Class told of how Cairo today needs and uses electricity in a huge variety of ways. Imagine life without electricity? Being extremely adventurous, Green class told us all about air resistance and how aeroplanes fly. They were certainly thankful, as doubtlessly we all are, that this force had been harnessed as it means we fly away just about anywhere on our holidays. We were informed by Blue class about how all of these many and varied forces boil down to being either push or pull forces. To help us remember that important fact, they had each word written on a big sign which was displayed whilst they sang their song.

A not quite so pleasant aspect of present day Cairo is the amount of rubbish and waste which we all produce. Red Class gave us a



timely reminder of what we can do to recycle a large amount of our waste thus helping lessen the impact on our environment. We can and should make a difference.

Year Three Violet showed that they could combine our Topic and Science areas when they sang *Floating Down the River*. Cleverly, they showed how the River Nile has always been of immeasurable importance to Egypt from ancient to modern times.



By singing about floating, they consolidated their learning about the force of water resistance.

To round it all off, the six Year Three classes united once more for the final number, *Weird Science*. What a superb finish! Clearly, the parents all thought so too. They gave such thunderous applause at the end that we had to sing this song again!

Ms D Sinson – Year Three Yellow Teacher



YEAR FOUR STUDENTS ENJOY ALL THINGS 'SPANISH'

Hola

a todos desde Year Four! At the start of this term, students would not have understood that this greeting means, "Hello everyone, from Year Four", but after a few weeks of studying all things Spanish, they have mastered some basic language skills and built up a lot of knowledge about this fascinating country. It all started with a talk about the culture of Spain and how Spanish people live by Ms Gonzalez, a Spanish teacher from Secondary, whose enthusiasm for her country and love of its food, music and traditions inspired us to find out more.



Out came the atlases to find out where Spain is, what its topography is like and how the climate differs from Egypt. Many agreed that being able to sun themselves on a beach and take to the ski slopes all in one country, is quite exciting. Maths skills were put to the test as colourful graphs were drawn and comparisons made between Egypt, Spain and the UK. They became expert tour guides as they researched what there is to see and do in Barcelona and Madrid (apart from watch football), and their tourist leaflets could be used to help others find their way around the many museums, famous buildings, palaces and observation towers.

They then turned their attention to the Spanish language, which all agreed had some similarities to the French they study every week. The students practised greeting each other, enquiring about names and asking how their friends were feeling. Some very catchy songs, which we all found difficult to get out of our heads, were employed to help remember the phrases they were using in their conversations. Music featured heavily too when they studied the history and traditions of flamenco, the instruments used and what the dance moves mean. There are some similarities here with Egyptian music too and students were spell-bound as they watched performances of flamenco from old and modern traditions. Some students designed and performed their own flamenco dances, which were brilliant to watch as they tried to incorporate traditional features and give a personalised touch too!



Spanish tapas and other dishes such as *paella*, *tortilla* and *crema catalana* are eaten worldwide for good reason – they are delicious! After learning how to say they are hungry in Spanish and how to express preferences for favourite foods, Year Four students designed their own colourful café menus in Spanish, which may come in handy one day if they ever decide to set up their own restaurants. Then onto the practical aspect of the study, the actual cooking. One hundred and sixty students took to the kitchens to prepare and taste traditional Spanish tortilla, or omelettes – not all at the same time, I hasten to add! What excellent chefs they turned out to be: the tortillas were fluffy, tasty and quite delicious. Many students went straight home and prepared them again for their families that very same evening.

Sorry parents, you may find yourselves under a little pressure from your Year 4 children to arrange a family trip to Spain as they are very keen to practise their Spanish and visit all the fascinating places they have been learning about. ¡Bien hecho por todo su trabajo duro! Or, in English to Year Four, "Well done on all your hard work!"

Ms J Lawrence – Year Four Team Leader



YEAR FIVE TRAVEL DOWN THE RIVER NILE IN STYLE



This year's Year Five Nile Cruise residential trips were a huge success and lots of fun was had by students and teachers. The trip was split into two visits of approximately sixty children each visit, five staff, security and an accompanying doctor in each group. The first group travelled on 7th February and the second group travelled on 14th February.



As February got closer the anticipation and excitement was intense! Who would be sharing a room with who? What would we see as we sail down the Nile? What would the boat be like? What sort of food would we eat on the boat?

When the time finally came for the trip, the students were warned to get a decent night's sleep in advance as it was going to be an exhausting, but exciting adventure.

Teachers and students gathered bright and early at 4.30am at Cairo Airport for their flight to Luxor. We

had no tears but after lots of hugs, the students were guided into the Departure Lounge. Here we were met by the 'Go To Know' team. With all the students safely through security, it was time to board the plane.

When we arrived at the boat there were gasps of delight. For the next few days our home would be the magnificent, Nile Sanctuary Adventurer, a luxury yacht with extremely friendly and helpful staff who made us feel very welcome. We were greeted by a delicious

breakfast of pancakes, fresh fruit, salad and a whole variety of other goodies. We needed our breakfast; the day ahead was going to be long and packed with many activities.

Our first stop was the Temple of Karnak, with its extraordinary chapels, pillars, lakes and obelisks on a gigantic site dedicated to the Theban gods. After a quick lunch, it was then on to Luxor market, where the students demonstrated their bartering and trading skills and showed off their impressive retail prowess!

At sunset, we experienced a magical visit to Luxor Temple. Built largely by Amenhotep III and Ramses II between 1390 and 1213 BC, this breath-taking monument stands within the heart of the city. We were all awestruck by the huge monuments of Ramses II and pink granite obelisks. We had the chance to take a walk down the avenue of sphinxes as the sun went down. A quick trip back to the boat and an early night was in store. Everyone was exhausted.



After another hearty breakfast, day two started with a coach trip to Luxor's majestic West Bank. We started at the largest temple in Egypt (Amenhotep III's memorial). We ventured further up the bank and saw the amazing Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut's temple. The students were excited by the short train ride and even more enthralled by the chance to go down into the burial



chambers of some famous pharaohs. We were all surprised by the excellent condition of what remained of the temple walls and the bright colours that had been used to decorate them so long ago. Seeing the actual remains of Tutankhamen was a real highlight for many of the Year Five students.

We were soon back on the boat for an outdoor barbeque lunch before setting sail towards Esna. The boat had not actually moved until this point, which sent excitement throughout the decks. It would be several hours before we reached this large lock, so the students were kept occupied with several teacher-led activities. We had drama based activities, hieroglyphic writing, word games and more that were all educationally linked to our trip and on top of that – the chance to swim in the swimming pool onboard the boat! The sun was shining and Ms Nina and Mr Stuart happily watched over the swimmers – whilst catching some rays! At dinner, there was a huge amount of excitement as we geared up for the infamous talent show.

Before our very eyes we saw dancers, singers, gymnasts and comedy sketches. The students impressed the 'Go To Know'



judges and even though not everyone could be a winner, a triumphant round of applause was received by all participants.

Day Three saw a slightly later get up, much to everyone's relief. Students were enthralled by the 'Go To Know' staff's presentation on mummification. We stopped at the Temple of Kom Ombo to see even more beautiful sights and hieroglyphs, as well as a museum dedicated to mummified crocodiles. Sadly, we weren't allowed to take any 'snaps' inside the museum! The students then enjoyed the chance to do some more bargaining along a small strip of market stalls.



The evening of our third day meant the most anticipated event of the trip was near - the Nile Cruise Disco! Everyone looked fabulous in their finest dancing clothes. Mr Barry did a great job of being the compere on trip one, accompanied by DJ Jake on the Decks. DJ Alex also did a sterling job of getting the dance floor jumping on trip two. The students enjoyed seeing the teachers dress up in their market bargains to join them in some fun on the last night!

The last day meant another very early start. We said goodbye to our boat and hello to the Aswan Dam. After admiring its size we headed straight for Philae Temple. This was the favourite site for many of us. We arrived by motorboat to this beautiful monument and students were wowed by its beauty and magnificence. After this we took another boat ride to the Nubian village where the teachers were treated to Egyptian tea and the students were fascinated by a real crocodile that lived in a large caged sunken bath inside the family home. One last splurge at the street markets and it was time to head back towards the airport, with a small detour to McDonalds on the way!

All our students will remember this trip forever. They have learnt so much about their country, whilst making new friends and learning to be responsible and independent. Thank you to everyone who helped make this fabulous trip possible!

Ms N Williams – Year Five Team Leader

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

YEAR SIX PRODUCTION



On Thursday 16th November 2017 Year Six put on their production of *James and the Giant Peach*. This production was a big spectacle and a huge success that followed months of hard work. The story is about a young boy called James who loses his parents and has to live with his horrible aunts. Whilst being put to work by his aunts, James meets a mysterious old man, who gives him a bag that will change his life forever.

The play was split into six scenes, with each class being responsible for a scene. There were popular

songs between each scene that had been adapted to fit the production.

Year Six Red started with a rhinoceros breaking free from a zoo and rampaging through the city, killing Mr and Mrs Trotter and leaving poor James (Ioan Underwood) an orphan. James has to go and live with his two horrible aunts who were brilliantly played by Habiba Tag-El-Din and Khadija Mashour. James meets a mysterious old man who gives him a bag of crocodile tongues, promising that they will have magical qualities. James then drops these onto the floor and the crocodile tongues seep into the ground. The next morning a huge peach has appeared.

Year Six Violet took over the mantle with Aunts Sponge and Spiker charging people money to come and see their fabulous peach. AbdelKader Abdel-Gabbar played James and really shone in this scene where he had to sing a solo. As James is clearing up he sees a way into the peach and he enters. This is where it gets more interesting! He encounters a large group of insects, who have also been grown with the peach and are bigger than him. The



scene ends with the peach breaking away from the tree to escape the aunts.

Year Six Yellow took over next as the peach lands in the English Channel and sharks start to eat the peach. Luckily James (Adam Rady), comes up with a plan as to how to escape. The peach gets attached to seagulls so they could be carried away.

The story continues with **Year Six Green** as the peach soars through the air above the ocean. James, (Ali Badr), sees a ship below. The Captain of the ship looks through his telescope to see giant insects in the sky and his crew assume he is mad and take over control of his ship.

As the journey continues, **Year Six Blue** travel through the night. The insects try to comfort James (Youssef Sawan), as he is unsure of where they are heading. The gang of insects and James then see a swarm of cloud men, who get angry at the intruders and throw clouds at them.

The final scene saw **Year Six Orange** take over as the story reaches its climax when the peach lands on top of the Empire State Building in New York City. James (Adam Shafik), realises that they have flown across the Atlantic Ocean and are now safe in the USA. As James and the insects are rescued from the building, they realise that they have now become heroes and we find out that they all lead exciting lives in the future with James finally having lots of friends.

A huge thank you must go to all the students in Year Six for all their hard work, enthusiasm, effort and for smiling through it all. You all made your teachers and parents very proud! Thank you also to the team of staff who worked tirelessly to make sure the performance was a success.

Ms Rachel Bennett – Year Six Team Leader



BSME WRITING COMPETITION 2018

DEAR FUTURE ME...

This

year, our Primary Student Council was delighted to launch their first ever online letter writing competition in collaboration with British Schools in the Middle East (BSME). The theme for the event was 'Dear Future Me - Wishes for Our World' which inspired and challenged students to embrace their creative side through the art of letter writing.

'Dear Future Me'
Wishes for Our World

Story Writing Event for Years 1 to 6

Modern, English School Cairo Primary Student Council are pleased to launch this year's letter writing event in collaboration with BSME. There are three categories: Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6.

The theme for this year's event is 'Dear Future Me' - 'Wishes for Our World'. Children should write a letter to their future self, set a goal, make a prediction about the world, share their hopes and dreams and then go and make it all come true!

HOW TO ENTER
Participating schools can submit one letter in each age category.

Categories for Entries:
Years 1 and 2 - 200 words maximum, artwork may be included
Years 3 and 4 - 300 words maximum, artwork may be included
Years 5 and 6 - 500 words maximum, no artwork

Entries must include the entrant's name and age group. Letters must be word-processed and scanned artwork should be included (if applicable to your age group).

BSME schools wishing to participate in this event must complete the registration form and email this to boukatayya@bsmeaem.com by 3.00pm on Thursday 25th January 2018.

BSME PRIMARY WRITING EVENT

AWARDS AND CELEBRATION
All stories submitted will be included into a digital booklet
Certificate of participation for all submitted stories
Prizes for the winning entries



more than twenty schools taking part. Many of the schools used the competition as an opportunity to focus on letter writing to celebrate their literacy weeks. The task inspired fun conversations, sparked new ideas, enabled new connections and even created new friendships.



Our Primary Student Council members were excited about the different aspects of the competition which they experienced, such as judging the entries, creating an e-book to celebrate the writing and preparing their own examples of work to be entered into the competition.

Ms J Boukatayya – Primary Deputy Headteacher

The results of the competition will be published in the June MESsenger

YEAR SEVEN TOTAL DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP DAYS

Our Year Seven students experienced two high-impact ToTAL days, where they were taken off regular timetable to explore the effect they have on their online communities and how to ensure that their contribution is positive. Each class followed a tailor-made programme of activities to discover Digital Citizenship.

The activities were designed to cover the following aspects of Digital Citizenship:

- Cyberbullying
- Internet Safety
- Self-Image and Identity
- Digital Literacy
- Copyright
- Relationships and Communication

Students participated in lively and interactive sessions with our teachers who were committed to making a difference to the students' online activity. They explored the information that can be gained from a photograph and reflected on how to safely portray themselves through the images they choose to post online. Students also wrote scripts and created a movie to highlight the dangers and effects of cyberbullying. Creative rap songs were written in French and Spanish to spread a message about safe internet use and then recorded over an original beat in Music lessons. Students also tested their digital literacy skills through a group challenge whereby they had to access digital tutorials using QR codes to create a 3-dimensional pyramid. Another session was given to help our students understand that online activity leaves a digital footprint which may impact their opportunities and choices in the future. They were also trained to become digital ambassadors for WeMovie, a skill they can now use and share in projects across the curriculum.

Our students were asked to feedback on what they had learned over the two days and below is a snapshot of what they said:

- We always need to check and think carefully about what we post online.
- After the first day, I checked all my privacy settings as soon as I got home.
- I learned not to photoshop myself and not to make people feel bad about the way they look.
- I need to leave a good digital footprint.
- Bullying affects everyone around you.
- Having a device isn't the most important thing in life and we should learn to put down our phones.
- We should respect everyone whether it is online or face to face as the internet is no excuse to bully anyone.
- I learnt that I should never follow anyone I don't know and to keep my account private.

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



KING OF THE CASTLE PROJECT



Our Year Seven History classes have once more excelled in their research and design of Medieval castles in order to demonstrate methods of control used by King William I when he conquered England in 1066. Our students created an array

of castles for presentation, including; physical models made from clay, cardboard and Lego, computerised models using Minecraft, graphic essays, wall hangings and even Medieval Castle cakes!

The Year Seven groups had to thoroughly research the varying designs of Medieval castles and fully explain the reasons for each aspect of the design, as well as evaluate how useful these would be to defend a castle from possible attack. Students carefully explained long term methods of control used by King William, and compared these to other methods such as the Feudal System and the Domesday Book. In order to complete the project, students then completed a concise report evaluating each



method and deciding which was most significant for controlling England – an important historical concept.

We look forward to this project in our department every year and are very excited by the attitude of our students and the progress they have made. Well done, Year Seven!

Ms K McTigue – Secondary History Teacher (British Section)



YEAR SEVEN STUDENTS GO ORIENTEERING IN HELIOPOLIS!

In January this year, the Geography Department took Year Seven on an orienteering adventure in Korba, Heliopolis. The students practised their map skills, using compasses to navigate their way around, whilst answering questions about the history of Korba.

Ms N Hodgkinson – Secondary Geography Teacher (British Section)

Student review of the trip



I had such an amazing time on our Year Seven trip to Korba, Heliopolis. It was a really great experience with many challenges and tasks. We worked in small groups, trying to navigate around Korba with our newly acquired map skills which we had learnt during Geography in Term One. We were assigned responsibilities within our groups which were rotated during the day to allow us to develop various skills. For example, someone would be a leader, someone would be in charge of the compass, someone would read out the information so that we knew about the place we were visiting and what it was used for and finally someone would read the map and tell us which way to head. The whole



experience was great as I can now confidently use a compass, whilst using a map to navigate my way around.

All the groups had the same eleven locations to investigate. Everyone's favourite stop seemed to be *Mandarine Koueider*, where we took a short break and got to eat some ice cream.

Once we finished the trip, we learned another new skill and that was how to draw a map. There was a competition for the most detailed map. Each group drew a map which had to include all of the new places they saw. We had to include all the features of map, such as a key, title compass and a scale. To be in with a chance of winning the competition we had to include directions around Korba, following the route we had taken, but giving exact measured distances and the compass directions. To help people that have never been to the fantastic places we went to know the quickest and easiest ways to get there. The students who drew the best maps won a treat!

Fatema-Al-Zahraa Kamal (Y7R)

YEAR EIGHT TOTAL ENTERPRISE



This term's Thematic Approach to Teaching and Learning (TOTAL) unit for Year Eight students was 'Enterprise'. The theme presented an opportunity for students to develop their creativity, team work, decision-making, risk-taking, communication and financial skills during an impact event. The Enterprise event helped students to gain confidence in their own abilities as well as learn through authentic experiences.



On 11th February 2018, students began their Impact Day by hearing about the fun and exciting challenge and competition they would be participating at the Celebration Event on 14th March 2018. This took place in the school theatre with a short presentation and a video created by current Year Nine students who gave advice to their younger peers about what they had learnt from competing in the event last year.



Students were asked to create teams of four, decide a team name and think of a product or activity that they could run via a stall for Year Five and Six Primary student customers. They had four weeks to plan and prepare. The

competition winners would be decided by the team who gained the most tokens sold during the celebration event. Teams needed to purchase a 'licence' from Ms Ingham from the Commercial Studies Department to rent a stall in the Multi-Purpose Hall and were informed that this would be refunded if they ensured that they cleaned up their stall at the end of the event, teaching them responsibility. The teams had restrictions; they needed to think carefully about how to attract customers and create a low cost, high profit stall so that they could try to win the prize of 5% of the overall takings on the day. 30% of the profits also went to a good



cause and will be donated to MES Cairo approved local charities. Being a responsible citizen who makes a difference to the community, is also an important part of being an MES Cairo graduate and an ethical entrepreneur.

The second part of the Impact Day event was a STEM challenge created by Dr El Geoshy to put their planning and team work skills to the test. Students were asked to build a spaghetti tower using limited resources. The winner would be the team that could construct the tallest tower whilst balancing a marshmallow from the top. This STEM opportunity encouraged team collaboration using science (scientific reasoning, scientific method, hypothesis, testing, analysing), technology (whatever tools you use to build and measure), engineering (physics, gravity, architecture) and mathematics (measuring and testing). The majority of students reflected at the end of the timed challenge that they had rushed too quickly into building, without spending enough time in planning. This was a good lesson to learn before the real competition in March. The learning process is as important as the final product and being a reflective student ensures later success.



The celebration event involved students having a day off regular timetable. They had time to set up during Period One, then during Periods Two through Four, Year Five and Six students from the Primary school came via a pre-planned rotation to experience the stalls and spend their tokens. This was a good opportunity for Primary students to experience a special event in the Secondary school. During Period Five, students had to clear up their event, reflect on their experience and hear about who won!

With many of our students in Year Eight wishing to be future engineers, business people or entrepreneurs as identified in their Plan 4 Grad, these two events have been a good opportunity to develop an understanding of what is involved. With many students pursuing Sciences such as Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Commercial Studies subjects such as Business Studies or Economics in Year Nine, the Enterprise Unit is an excellent early preparation for what is in store at IGCSE. For students interested in advertising, their skills were also put to use by creating promotional material to entice customers during the celebration event.

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

SAGED EL-SHAWAF (Y7G) BLASTS OFF AT SPACE CAMP!



Congratulations is well overdue to Saged El-Shawaf (Y7G) who, over the summer participated in a space camp called 'Make Space Yours'. The camp is part of a large project spearheaded by Omar Samra who is an Egyptian philanthropist, 7-Summit mountaineer and is now set to become Egypt's first astronaut. The 'Make Space Yours' project hopes to boost young interest in Egypt for space science and exploration and it was a very fulfilling experience for our young and driven scientist Saged who, in his own words, 'loves space more than anything in the world!'

Saged was tasked with designing his own spaceship with detailed fuel, material and capacity specifications. He researched his design and proposal excitedly and extensively for months and in



the process consulted with several engineers for knowledge and advice. A few months later Saged was ecstatic to learn that his spectacular and very creative spaceship design was one of four winners and placed second overall. The project enabled him, at eleven years old, to join the 'Make Space Yours' camp for children thirteen years old and above. This doesn't surprise me because as his Science teacher, I have witnessed Saged's relentless hard work and resourcefulness throughout the year.

Congratulations and well done Saged!

Ms S Barakat – Secondary Science Teacher (British Section)



MANGAHIGH/COBIS Mathematics Challenge in the British Section

From 20th November to 3rd December 2017, British Secondary students in Year Seven and Eight had the opportunity to participate in the Mangahigh (a game-based learning system) and COBIS (Council of British International Schools) Mathematical Challenge.



Their target was to earn as many points as possible over a period of fourteen days. Points were earned by completing a Mangahigh activity successfully and earning a virtual Bronze, Silver or Gold level in that activity. Each medal was worth a certain number of points and at the end of the challenge, students who earned more than 150 points received a real gold medal! A total of 3,265 students from 63 COBIS schools took part in the event.

Our students were given the option of whether to compete or not and their success in the challenge required them to demonstrate several MES Cairo Graduate Profile qualities, such as being proactive, confident, resilient and independent.

Seven students earned enough points to be awarded real gold medals. Congratulations go to Omar Ashraf Mohammed and Saged El Shawaf (Y7G), Ismail Abdel-Ghaffar and Mostafa El Fiky (Y7B) and Leena Serag, Merna El Bassiouny and Maya Salam (Y8Y). We are very proud of their achievements.

Thank you to the Year Seven and Eight Maths teachers who promoted this event and encouraged their students to take part, namely, Mr Carney, Ms El Rify, Ms Hainsworth and Mr Kasmani.

Mr S Rayner – Head of Maths (British Section)

YEAR EIGHT MATHS IS A 'HOLES' LOT OF FUN AT MES CAIRO!



As part of their English curriculum, Year Eight students study the novel 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. 'Holes' is an hilarious and powerful story of crime, punishment, redemption and lots and lots of holes. Readers of the MESsenger magazine may be familiar with the book, or might have seen the film. 'Holes' is also quite a mathematical story and Year Eight students have spent some time during Maths lessons investigating the mathematics in the book.

Here is what some of our students had to say:

"We had an amazing Maths lesson recently! During last term we read the book called 'Holes' and this activity was based around it! Miss Hainsworth guided us to make some circles with specific circumferences and then we measured the diameters. We put our data into a table that helped us to improve our mathematical skills". **Jana Zein (Y8B)**



"In the Maths lesson we used pieces of paper to make circles with the correct circumferences. The first step was to cut strips of squared paper so that you ended up with ten pieces when you were finished. We had to cut strips of paper with lengths from 6cm to 16cm. Then we glued the strips into circles

so that one of the squares covered up the one underneath it. Then we had to measure across the centre of the circles to find the diameter. We put all of our measurements into a table, and divided the circumference by the diameter to find a value for pi." **Sion Underwood (Y8B)**



"Last week we had a very fun and interesting lesson. We made circles by cutting strips of paper into different lengths. After cutting them, we joined the ends of the paper with tape to form a circle. Then we measured the circumference of the circle and divided it by the diameter. Surprisingly (for some people) we got very similar answers even though all the circles were different sizes. This reminded me of the book 'Holes' that we read in English class. I enjoyed this lesson extremely and hope we can do more fun and out of the ordinary lessons."

Bakry Hisham (Y8G)

We hope that our Maths students thrive on being problem-solvers and use that skill to apply what they have learnt to enable them to succeed. During this lesson, students were able to develop problem-solving skills in an environment driven only by the enjoyment of investigation and discovery. Through this type of lesson, we move closer to our aim of sending our students out into the world with the highly-valued 21st Century skills.

Mr S Rayner – Head of Maths, British Section

YEAR NINE UPDATE

On Wednesday 31st January 2018, Year Nine students in the British Section had an opportunity to pause and self-reflect as part of their focused Academic and Attendance Review Target Setting Day. This was an important occasion for students to create SMART targets that will assist them with their progress for the rest of the year. Each student met in the Learning Media Centre with their Homeroom Teacher or Assistant Head for an individual ten-minute appointment with preparation occurring beforehand during Homeroom leading up to the event.



SMART Targets are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time based. They encourage students to consider what steps they need to take to make a change. Homeroom Teachers used their knowledge of the student, Cognitive Abilities Test Data, Punctuality and Attendance Data and Term 1 Reports to create a tailored educational plan for each student.

Students were asked to consider how they currently show aspects of our MES Cairo Graduate Profile, to share how they are involved in After School Activities and how they could improve aspects of their school performance including punctuality, attendance and grades in IGCSE classes.



Students had a special assembly where they heard about the famous British entrepreneur, Sir Jack Petchey CBE, who used a variety of techniques to help him to be a reflective businessman who is very successful. Ideas shared with students included having clear goals, short and long-term planning, how to overcome problems and how to contribute to others through service and volunteering.



As the year continues, we look forward to seeing students working together with their teachers to achieve their goals and to developing into inspirational role models for their peers. Guided target setting and mentoring will continue as part of the 'Plan 4 Grad' four-year process where we support students through their university and career aspirations through to graduation.

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



ENGLISH IN THE BRITISH SECTION



This term the British Section English Department has been bringing the words of Shakespeare to life in classrooms in Years Seven-Nine, whilst exam preparation has been the focus for our Year Ten students. A-Level students have been studying plays, with A2 students also exploring Shakespeare.



Year Seven students have enjoyed the Shakespearean comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It describes the events surrounding the marriage of the Duke of Athens to the former queen of the Amazons. It includes the comic adventures of four young Athenians and six amateur actors who are controlled and manipulated by fairies who live in the magical forest where the majority of the play is set. Students looked at dramatic techniques, imagining what advice they could give

to the characters as if they were an 'Agony Aunt'. They wrote newspaper reports using the events of the play as stimulus and completed carousel activities. They analysed characters by looking closely at figurative language as well as improving their skills of deducing information, annotating difficult texts and understanding and using tricky new vocabulary.

Year Eight students have been getting to grips with the famous tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*. Set in Verona, the play is about a long ancient feud between the powerful Montague and Capulet families. This feud leads to tragedy for the main characters. Students read aloud or performed parts of the play, watched extracts from film adaptations and had the chance to use hot-

seating skills to explore the thoughts and feelings of characters. They explored themes from the play such as love vs hate and fate vs destiny. They also discovered the rich tapestry of literary techniques used throughout the play including antithesis, oxymora, dramatic irony and iambic pentameter. Students were encouraged to independently research the Elizabethan Era and to widen their vocabulary; attempting to understand Elizabethan English and improve their inference skills.

Our Key Stage Three lessons are supported by regular visits to the Learning Media Centre for an opportunity to choose books to read at home. Using a range of resources including a subscription to First News, (a weekly newspaper for students published in the UK) and Destiny Quest, we encourage students to read a range of genres, authors and both fiction and non-fiction.

Year Nine English Language students have also been engaging with the tragedy genre whilst studying *Macbeth*. A brave Scottish general receives a prophecy from three witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and incited to action by his wife, he murders the King and takes the throne for himself which leads him to become wracked with a guilty conscience and paranoia. Students watched different adaptations of the play by different directors to see how the play can be interpreted in many ways. They have been presenting their findings and showing their understanding of the text in a plethora of forms which have ranged from student-made videos, in-class performances, creating display work and writing academic essays. The aim of the unit was not just to expose the students to the works of the great bard himself but also to help students build on the skills they will need over the next few years in IGCSE English. They have been looking at how Shakespeare used language to create particular effects to show mood and character. As part of the study of the play, students become aware of the difference between the explicit and implicit meanings within dialogue and language.





Year Nine English Literature students completed a study and analysis of the play *A View from the Bridge* and they have been looking at the poetry of Gillian Clarke and learning how to approach an unseen piece of poetry and prose. As part of this, students have been tasked with analysing poems of their own choosing and then presenting these to the rest of the class as a formal presentation working as a group as well as composing analytical essays exploring the themes and deeper ideas that were identified in their chosen poem.

Our **Year Ten** classes have been preparing carefully for their Mock Examinations. After experiencing a combination of traditional individual and paired teaching activities, supplemented by clips from weird and wonderful communities around the world, impassioned debate, lots of assessed work and shared modelling from their teachers, they were in a position to tackle the full-length reading and writing paper, displaying their inference, evaluation, summarising and analytical skills under tough two hour conditions. Many students have commented how helpful they found the markers' feedback on this, shared on Google Classroom very soon after the exam.

AS Level students have been studying 'Philadelphia, Here I Come!' a modern play by Brian Friel. The play shows Gar's last day in Ireland before he flies to America to start a new life. He comes from Ballybeg, a small town in the north of Ireland full of 'old men and old ideas.' The brilliant thing about the play is that the character Gar is played by two different actors on stage, Public Gar, the one the other actors see, and Private Gar, who voices the inner thoughts of the character, the hopes and dreams and frustrations he doesn't share with the world. The play is both

funny and sad: it is about home and what makes us want to stay or go. Despite the rather slow and stifling nature of Ballybeg, Gar ends the play in a sort of paralysis, not certain whether he will actually get on the plane or not. In a globalising world this is one of the most vital issues facing young people today.

A2 Level students have been exploring Shakespeare's Richard II, about the deposition and death of Richard at the hands of his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, the future Henry IV. It raises interesting questions about the nature of kingship; the clash between the values of military honour and public virtue; the way in which a nation is reflected back to an audience through the theatre; the character of the 'poet-king' Richard and his lonely death; the nature of tragedy, and whether the term 'tragic' can be applied to such a self-regarding figure. The play contains John of Gaunt's famous dying speech about England, "This royal throne of kings, this sceptered isle, this earth of majesty, this seat of



Mars...' which raises all kinds of questions about what a nation is and who defines it. The getting and losing of power and its stage management – it's all still relevant.

In all English classes we use a variety of ways to engage students and to encourage deeper understanding. This could involve group or class discussions, a Socratic Seminar, giving a presentation, writing imaginatively in character through diary entries or letters or writing analytically in the form of an essay. We have used a range of assessments to help students understand what they are doing well and how they could improve throughout the year.



All class work within English is now being supported online via our Google Classrooms. Students are encouraged to use the material posted by teachers to enrich their understanding of what is being studied in class.

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



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWS

The

Design and Technology Department has been very busy this year with lots going on! Firstly, Mr Lansdown joined the department this year and he brings a range of skills and experience

teaching Computer Science and ICT. Take a look below at what the department has been doing in; Lego Robotics, Computer Science Principles AP, Graphic Products IGCSE, and more.

Ms S Taha - HOD Design and Technology

Grade Seven

Students have been learning how to make money boxes based on an animal theme. They learnt how to use the tools and machines in the workshop safely and accurately. Have a look at some of the fantastic work below!



Hussein Bakry G7Y



Tamara Lasheen G7Y



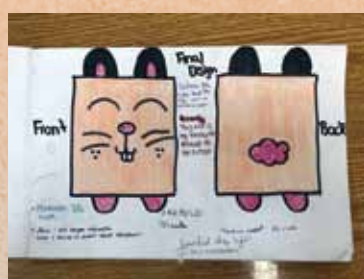
Laila Bakry G7Y



Mark Hakim G7Y



Salma Kouchouk G7Y



Laila Bakry G7Y



Jana Shahin G7Y



Salma Kouchouk G7Y

Year Eight

Year Eight students have been learning technical drawing skills, starting with perspective drawing then progressing on to 3rd angle orthographic drawings which is excellent preparation for those students who are interested in a career in engineering. We then learned how to produce realistic 3D rendered models in *Sketchup* – the kind of thing that you see advertised on the billboards on the ring road.



Nader Abdel-Khaliq Y8Y



Merna El Bassiouny Y8Y



Abdulrahman Wasfy Y8Y



Joudy Selim Y8Y



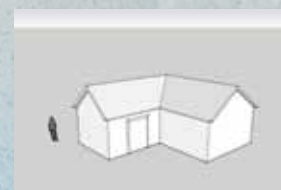
Arwa Eid Y8Y



Omar Shourbagui Y8Y



Jasser Zoheiry Y8Y



Chantal Labib Y8Y



Mahmoud El Morshedy Y8Y



Leena Serag Y8Y



18 Maya Salam Y8Y



Hana El Fiky Y8Y



Tamara Azmy Y8Y



Yassin Mostafa Y8Y



Zeina El Morshedy Y8Y



Lama El-Alfy Y8Y (2)

Robotics - Year Seven and Grade Eight

Year Seven and Grade Eight students have been learning to code using the *Lego Mindstorms* platform. It is a really fun way to learn to code as students get to see the results of their work in a physical 3D robot. Their robots can sense their surroundings and react to what is going on around them. For example, students made a vehicle that can follow a black line. They have made many links with other subjects such as Maths, Music and Science as they have needed to know about sound, pitch and wavelength.

They have made what you could describe as a sort of theramin (Google it!): a robot that can play different notes according to how much you twist it and the volume can be controlled by how bright the surrounding light is.

For students that have enjoyed the robotics course, it is possible to buy a *Lego Mindstorms* kit from the Lego shop in Festival City. Although fairly expensive, they would make a really great present that encourages and develops coding and engineering skills.



Graphic Products - Year Nine

Never before has a cardboard box been so exciting! In Graphic Products we explore products that are made from paper and card such as packaging, business cards and scale models. Students have learnt how to develop nets that will fold up onto complex structures and then have considered how to add graphics to the surface. So far in the course students have made chocolate packaging, a model truck and an architectural model. Shortly, they will be starting their coursework that makes up half of their IGCSE grade.

Mr B Higgs – Secondary DT Teacher



Adam Oates Y9Y and Soliman Soliman Y9O



Amr Samy Y9Y



Mariem Geassa Y9G

Design Technology - Year Nine

Students have been making products based on their 'favourite things'. They have learnt how to create a product using a variety of joints selected, based on the individual product's needs. They had great fun making these and learnt a range of important skills at the same time which will help them with their IGCSE coursework.

Ms S Taha - HOD Design and Technology



Hala Safwat Y9O



Ali Badawy Y9O



Nour Zarki Y9O



Ahmed Badawy Y9G

There are also lots of exciting things happening in the American Section High School Computer Technology department!

Computer Applications

Students have been creating a foundation of skills and tools in the areas of productivity software, computer hardware and operating system software. They have examined digital literacy and citizenship both in terms of the impact on them as individuals as well as society as a whole. Most recently they have begun exploring the fundamentals of Computer Science by creating websites and games of their own.



Magdi Shukri G9B

Multimedia

Students taking Multimedia this year have been learning to create digital multimedia experiences meant to inform, persuade, and/or elicit emotional responses using a variety of techniques and platforms. They have manipulated images, shot videos, created interactive children's books, and most recently designed their own websites.



Marize Bernaba G9Y



Marize Bernaba G9Y



Natalie Botros G9B



Marize Bernaba G9Y

Digital Animation

Grade Twelve students have used about various digital methods for creating the illusion of movement or bringing something to life. For the last couple of months, they have been working on 3D modeling and animation. They have learned to create objects in an artificial three-dimensional environment, texture them, and compose and light their scenes. Students then created armatures, skeletons, for their characters and recorder them in various poses, which, when played-back, brought their characters to life.



Hussein El Komy G12B



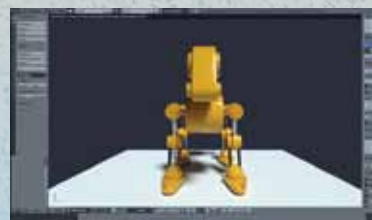
Hussein El Komy G12B



Lana Mahmoud G12R



Hussein El Komy G12B



Hussein El Komy G12B



Lana Mahmoud G12R

AP Computer Science

In its first year at MES Cairo, and second year in existence overall, AP Computer Science Principles exposes students "to the beauty and awe of computer science". Students have learned about how the physical infrastructure of the internet was conceived and how it enables users to access information around the world. Students have learned how to "think" like a computer in binary, converting everything, from text to images to songs and more, into zeros and ones. They are currently learning the foundational concepts of computer programming, using the programming language JavaScript, to code their own apps from scratch.

Mr T Naggar – Computer Technologies Teacher, Secondary



Mark Eshak G11Y

MES CAIRO STUDENTS COMPETE IN THE 7TH WORLD MATHEMATICS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP IN BANGKOK



On 8th November 2017 a group of eleven intrepid mathematicians namely Noam Henning (G9R), Nour Darrag (G9Y), Rodayna Hossam-El-Din (G8Y), Malak El-Morshedy (G10B), Adham Abdel Majid (G8Y), Kirmina Sadek (G10G), Ziad El-A'any (G8Y), Katrina George (G10R), Lara Gamaleldin (G8Y), Salma El-Hadidy (G9Y) and Leila Hamad (G9Y) set out from Cairo on a journey that tested their intellectual and cultural ingenuity. Insert photo 1

Led by a trio of MES Cairo teachers, these students braved the streets of Bangkok, Thailand to broaden their horizons and forge new friendships. Students in Grades Eight to Ten trained for months with the American and IB Math departments and were set to test their mettle with some of the sharpest numerical minds on the planet at the World Mathematics Team Championship.

The competition started early in the morning when students were roused from their hotel rooms and ushered into the conference centre hosting the competition. During the first individual rounds, students felt confident and relied on their expert training to break down complex problems. Next came the real test as students participated in the relay rounds in teams to solve sequential problems. After a break, the MES Cairo Mathematics team returned to the conference hall where we concluded the day with the team round. At this point all the students were exhausted and they returned to the hotel to get recharged for an evening at the



Asiatique and a dinner cruise. The students led the whole cruise boat in a collection of Egyptian songs and inspired many of the teams from other countries to share their own music.

The next day our students were off to Safari World for a day of relaxation and dolphin shows. They had the opportunity to connect with mathematicians from different cultures and made some lasting friendships. After a day of relaxation, the team spent the following day learning about Thai culture during a tour the City Palace. Our students really impressed with their fortitude and inquisitive nature in the tropical sun as we took in the Buddhist





Math and as well as that they learned about creating international friendships. The team and coaches would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the supportive parents and family members who made this trip so special for our students.

Mr J Carter – Secondary Science Teacher (American Section)



temples. That evening our MES Cairo Mathematics team dressed up in their traditional Egyptian costumes, complete with formal galabeya, for the awards ceremony and headed back to the conference centre. The trip finished with some fantastic news when Adham Abdel Majid (G8Y) and Rodayna Hossam-El-Din (G8Y) received recognition for their outstanding work done during the individual rounds.

The MES Cairo Mathematics Team had a wonderful time in Bangkok, Thailand and participated in order to look back on their accomplishments proudly. They left to test their knowledge of





International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme News

December 2017 - April 2018

DP11 Business Management

On Wednesday 7th February, our DP11 students participated with students from Years 9 and 10 in an Entrepreneurship Event which developed their skills in entrepreneurial competence, corporate social responsibility and the practical application of financial accounts. Our DP11 students led the way in the event by offering the most popular services to our school community, with Years Seven through Twelve and staff enjoying the fun during break times. To attract customers, students had to promote their services appropriately using notice boards and personal sales techniques, which involved working in groups of students at break times and promoting their ideas. The result was 70% of the revenue going to the entrepreneurs as the organisers and 30% of their revenue going to charity. Well done everyone and especially to Fatema Abu El Kheir (DP11Y) and Maya Mehrez (DP11Y) who gained the most revenue and profit out of the participating groups with their fun-for-all, hit-the-target game!



Mr C Stock – Head of Commercial Studies

Extended Essay Workshop



There was an atmosphere of excitement in the Secondary LMC when our DP11 students started their Extended Essay journey this term. In a workshop led by Ms Sheehan, Mr Rainford, Mr

Mesnard and Ms Ingham, the students were guided on how to approach every aspect of their work on the EE. Mr Mesnard, our LMC coordinator, guided the students through the skills of advanced academic research. Our students have now chosen their subjects and topics and will soon visit the AUC Library for



their first research day. You can find out more about the Diploma Programme Extended Essay here: <http://ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>



IBDP Information Evening

Parents and students in Year and Grade Ten who have been considering a move into the IBDP next year enjoyed MES Cairo's IBDP Information session last term. Our eloquent DP Eleven students were great ambassadors - shining examples of caring, knowledgeable thinkers and communicators. Our new IBDP parents have told us that they really enjoyed the presentations and they were most impressed by the maturity of the DP11 speakers.

eSafety week – IBDP11 Presentations



Recently we all enjoyed eSafety Week at MES Cairo. We engaged in a variety of activities that aimed to help us stay safe online. In order to reinforce these important messages for our Key Stage Three and Middle School students, our DP11 students gave presentations to Year and Grade Seven and Eight on eSafety. Despite a technical hitch, one group went ahead and talked to the younger students without the visual support of their

Powerpoint, showing how resilient, flexible and knowledgeable our DP students are! They impressed the KS3 and Middle School. Homeroom Teachers and demonstrated the power of learning



through teaching and mentoring. Is your online activity safe and secure? If you are not sure – ask any one of our Key Stage Three or Middle School students!

Celebrating great effort in the IBDP Section



This year our students of the month are being selected based on the attributes IB Learner Profile. Each month of the academic year is focused on one attribute. Since September, the following students have been awarded Student of the

Month. Congratulations to you all!

DP12 Laila Diab, Abdel Aziz Said, Lana El Seesi, Hashem Afifi, Sara Canelli, Aly Afia and Ali Attia.

DP11Y: Youssef Sorial, Menna El Shebli, Khaled Megahed, Haya Shama, Farida El Sonbaty, Jumana Khafagi, Hussein Sarhan, Tia El Ghalban. Omar El Fiky and Nadine El Nomrosy.

DP11R: Mariam Ramadan, Youssef Atta, Hassan Gaber, Ibrahim El Nemr, Farah Talaat and Narya Soliman.

Good Luck, IBDP Class of 2018!

As our Seniors prepare for Study Leave and their final examinations, we are experiencing mixed emotions. We will be sorry to see them go but despite the sadness of their departure, they are making us happy and proud every day, as their fantastic university offers keep pouring in from all over the world!

DP12 students have received offers from top UK universities, including an offer for our Scholarship student, Lana El Seesi (DP12Y) to study Engineering at Imperial College London and at UCL. Other DP Seniors setting their sights on the UK have received offers from King's, Leeds, Warwick, Loughborough, De Montfort and Bath University.

Many of our students have been offered places at top universities in the USA too, as well as the very best universities in Canada. Lana El Seesi has recently been offered a place at the prestigious McGill University. Abdelaziz Said (DP12Y), has been offered the 'Principal's Scholarship' to study Engineering at Queen's University in Canada. The Principal's Scholarship is only offered to a handful of students worldwide, and is based on very high academic achievement.

DP12 Group Four Science Projects

At the end of Term One, our DP12 students recently showed the DP11 class how SENSE-ational Science can really be, when they presented the findings of their Group 4 Science Projects.



These projects are designed to introduce students to the idea that in the real world, science is performed in teams made up of different types of scientists, mathematicians and experts in a variety of fields. All DP students participate in the project, which aims to develop understanding of the scientific method, enhance ICT skills and "raise awareness of the moral, social, economic and environmental implications of using science and technology." (IBO)



Students based their projects on the theme of the Five Senses and we all agreed that their presentations were sensational!

Final TOK Presentations



DP12 shared their final Theory of Knowledge Presentations with their TOK teacher Mr Rainford, along with other subject teachers. The DP11 students attended these presentations and gained much from the experience, as they start to plan for their own presentations next year. We enjoyed hearing DP12s views and their analysis of a variety of gripping topics including; the promotion of Diversity, the Theory of Everything (TOE), Altruism, Capital Punishment and the factors that affect the creation of Laws.

DP12 Theatre

At the end of Term One, our talented IBDP Theatre students performed their Research Presentations to IB students and teachers from other subject Groups. The Research Presentations are part of the Theatre final assessment. The confident students taught us all about; Kathakali from India, Noh Theatre from Japan, Karagoz from Turkey, French Farce, Commedia dell'Arte from Italy and last but not least, Khayal El Zill from our very own Egypt. As well as revealing the fascinating intricacies of their research to us, they also demonstrated the theatrical styles they were teaching us about, by including highly polished performance extracts in their presentations. Visitors to the Drama Studio were thrilled to see our students in action and amazed at the excellent work and depth of understanding shown.

To all of our DP12 students: Congratulations! We are very proud of you all! We wish you the best of luck in your final examinations.

Ms S Sheehan – Assistant Headteacher/IBDP Coordinator



UK UNIVERSITIES WELCOME MES CAIRO STUDENTS



Imperial College
London



It is always a real pleasure to report the continuous improvement in UK places for MES Cairo students and this year is no different.

So far, we have received 177 offers in total, 10 in the top 3, 45 in the top 5, 122 in the top 10 and 148 in the top 20! There is no doubt that our students are performing at an exceptional level and that the support given at MES Cairo leads to outstanding success.

In all sections, students work on personal statements to ensure that what is sent to UCAS is of the highest quality. This includes redrafting and deliberately building a range of experiences, including work experience, after school activities, research and charitable opportunities to prove to universities that we really do encourage the holistic education that the Graduate Profile promotes. UK universities and universities worldwide, all show their appreciation for an MES Cairo education by offering some of their most competitive places to our students.



Omar Maarouf (Y12Y)

We would like to congratulate some of our exceptional students who have gained very top places on some of the most competitive courses in the world. Aisha Morsy (Y12Y), British Section Scholarship Award winner and Lana El Seesi (DP12Y), IB DP Scholarship Award winner who have made us proud by gaining places in the top three universities in the UK, regardless of which ranking indicator is chosen. Aisha has an offer at London School of Economics for Law. LSE is consistently in the top 3 universities in the UK, either for the whole university or by subject and is perhaps the most renowned university when searching for international employment in Law or Economics. The rigorous selection process and eventual success justified the endless drafts to Aisha personal

statement! Equally, impressive is Lana El Seesi's place at Imperial College London for Biomedical Engineering, which is also always in the top 3 by whole university or subject and as Biomedical Engineering is a very popular choice, there can be no doubt that Lana proved that MES Cairo, really does produce world class players. Gaining an offer at top universities for Economics is always difficult and requires an exceptional performance in many areas, consequently we congratulate Omar Maarouf (Y12Y) for gaining places ranked third and fourth place for subject at University College London and Warwick.

From the American Section, Mohamed Taymour (G12R) has been made offers by all five universities applied for and has a splendid offer for Bath University, which is number two for Accounting and Finance the course that Mohamed wishes to follow.



Lana El Seesi (DP12Y)



Aisha Morsy (Y12Y)

News about North American University acceptances will come soon after this edition of the MESsenger goes to print. We look forward to updating you on the success of students heading to the USA and Canada in June.

Overall, we have so many outstanding students who are proving they are being educated for global success and are achieving it. We are proud of you all!

Ms S Clingan – Assistant Headteacher, Years Ten-Twelve, British Section

EXPRESSIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Art in the British Section

Year

Seven Digital Citizenship students explored the importance online identity in their digital citizenship ToTAL week, looking at both positive and negative aspects to be aware of. Students focused on the power of an image and how much information can be gathered from just one online image, as well as the story that can be gathered from many. They looked at how celebrities can use their online images to create powerful and positive personas that appeal to their fanbase; and at some negative social media images where people have given off the wrong message by mistake. The use of portraits to identify a person has been used for many years and with digital technology even very old photos are being uploaded so there are now records going back for nearly one hundred years. Bearing all this in mind students came up with their own ideas of how they could identify themselves online by revealing their own fun mini stories of things they are guilty of.

Ms K Tapsell – HOD, Expressive Arts



Layla Murphy Y7Y



Jumana Eid Y7Y



Saged El Shawaf Y7G



Lara Hegazy Y7G



Hamza Soliman Y7G



Radwan Samaqia Y7Y



Abdelaziz El Shourbagy Y7Y



Salma Assal Y7G



Omar Radwat Y7Y



Omar Ashraf Y7G



Khadiga El Gohary Y7G



Omar Amin Y7G



Omar Badawy Y7Y



Omar Ali Y7G



Mohamed Farouk Y7G



Refaat Salem Y7Y



Sarah Masarny Y7Y



Yahia Genena Y7G



Ziyad Hassan Y7G



Fady Nasr Y7G



Mohamed Saleh Y7G

YEAR SEVEN ART

Self-Portraits

Students have been developing skills in a variety of different media. They have been using H, HB and colouring pencils to create a range of tones in their compositions and to explore colour. Grids were also used to enlarge images and to understand scale and proportion. As part of their 'Me and my Community' topic, Year Seven students completed some very dramatic self-portraits.

Ms L Lee – Secondary Art Teacher



Ismail Abdel-Ghaffar Y7B



Jameelah Azab Y7B



Fady Nasr Y7G



Maya Ayoub Y7B



Mostafa El Fiky Y7B



Nour Reyad Y7B



Omar Mohammed Y7G



Hamza Soliman Y7G



Anoreen Hashad Y7B

YEAR EIGHT ART

Year Eight Art students have produced some amazing cityscapes that show a clear understanding of two-point perspective. Skills were developed in the formal elements using line, tone, pattern texture and colour. Scale and proportion was also explored using the grip method.

Ms L Lee - Secondary Art Teacher



Farah Khalil Y8B



Sara Ramadan Y8R



Abdulrahman Mohamed Y8Y



Alya Moemen Y8G



Ali Abdel-Hady Y8R



Alya Moemen Y8G



Leilah Raphael Y8B



Merna El-Bassiouny Y8Y



Salma Abu-Al-Magd Y8G

YEAR NINE ART



Nour Mounib Y9B



Mariam Osama Y9R



Laila Haikal Y9O



Fady El Mairy Y9O



Layla Dajani Y9R



Farida Zeidan Y9B



Nadine Helmy Y9O



Tia Botros Y9O

Year Nine are on a massive learning curve and have been mastering their use of colour in a range of mediums. They began with oil pastels to understand how they can blend the colours together effectively and have moved on to pencil work focusing on building up tone and form. Here they have experimented with blending and layering their colours. Working from secondary sources of their friends or family on a very large scale has helped them understand about planning and how to compose their work.

Ms K Tapsell – HOD Expressive Arts (British and IB Sections)



Jessica



Soliman Saied Y9B



Nouri El Zarki Y9O



Zeina Soliman Y9O

YEAR NINE IGCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Year Nine students have been working through a range of topics this year developing a wide variety of photography skills. They have been busy uploading the photographs to their own personal websites that they are creating. Here are just some of the interesting results you can find there.

Ms L Lee - Secondary Art Teacher



Malak El Attar Y9Y



Mohamed Barakat Y9B



Malak El Halafawy Y9B



Layla Sadek Y9B



Maya Shaaban Y9R

Artbeat

YEAR TEN PHOTOGRAPHY



Hassan Sadek Y10R



Michael Tapsell Y10Y



Hana El Badri Y10B



Mohamed Abdelwahab Y10B

Year Ten Photography students are busy working on their coursework and preparing for their exams. There is a lot of experimentation and practical work being done to find each of the student's strengths and the techniques they most enjoy and want

to use in their eight-hour exam. Year Ten Photography students have shown how creative and hardworking they are and all are aiming high this exam year.

Ms K Tapsell – HOD Expressive Arts (British and IB Sections)



Nadia El Gohary Y10Y



Adel Serry Y10B



Aisha Mazen Y10R



Ziad Saleh Y10B

Art in the American Section

GRADE ELEVEN AND TWELVE PRE-AP ART AND ART III

Students in Pre-AP and Art III are studying a broad range of media, including charcoal, acrylic and digital art. Pre-AP students are especially focused on building a range of works that can be used in their AP portfolios next year.

Mr B Myers - Art and Photography Teacher



Miriam Aziz G11Y



Nada Iskander G11B



Kenzy Wadood G11R



Youssef Shokeir G11Y



Amina El Shourbagy G11B



Nancy Azazy G11Y



Nadine Heizem G11R



Yasmina El Gendy G12Y



Mariam Gouda G12R



Natalie Aziz G11Y



Farah Ibrahim G12B



Jana Al Sharif G11G



Nadine Omar G11B



Hassan Sinbel G11Y

Self-Portraits 'Beyond the Selfie'

Over the past several weeks students in Grades Seven through Ten have been investigating the variety of options artists take in creating self-portraits while reflecting upon the following questions... "Who am I? and "Why do artists create self-portraits?"

The theme of self-portraits explores the ideas of how we understand ourselves as individuals. Whether it is through the representation of living people or through the invention of fictional characters, artists explore a range of possibilities in



Alia El Aarag G7B

GRADE SEVEN AND EIGHT – "I'm A Star/Superhero!"



Kenzy Tierra G7B

Students chose from a variety of Egyptian movie posters or created a personal superhero and then posed as the character depicted. They created self-portraits,

transforming themselves into the image they chose and used text to reinforce the visual message.

Mr D McKoski – Vice Principal and HOD Expressive Arts (American Section)



Zeina Mostafa G7B
creating self-portraits.



Zein Rashad G8Y



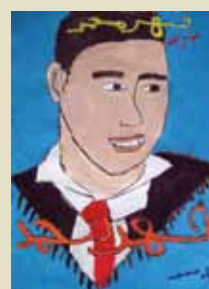
Farouk Touni G7B



Adam Kirollos G8Y



Karim Ebeid G8Y



Fahad Baghafar G8Y



Malak Fikry G7B



Laila Lofty G7B



Malak Kandil G8Y



Leila Aglan G8R



Maria Marco G8B



Lina Yasser G8Y



Omar Saleh G7B



Mark Hakim G7Y



Renada Badawy G8B



Nour Sarhan G7B



Soher Shahin G7B



Nour Taha G8B

GRADE NINE

Art I

Self-Portraits

Students developed their artistic skills focusing on observational drawing, colour theory and painting techniques. They explored and discovered how creating tints and tones of a colour impact the visual qualities of an image and how adding texture will provide additional clues to defining a self-portrait.

Ms J Walker – Secondary Art Teacher



Hassan Kotb G9B



Ismail Diao G10R



Kenda Chamssi G9R



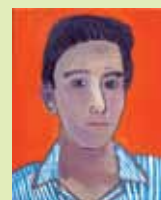
Kenzi Sadek G10Y



Mariam Khalil G9R



Mohamed Khalil G9R



Youssef Sadek G10Y



Noam Henning G9R



Taya Maged G10R



Amir Aziz G9B



Bashar El Togby G10B



Feras Baghafar G9R



Farida Refaat G9Y



Ferial Hamid G9B



Habiba Mansour G9Y

GRADE TEN

Art II

Self-Portrait with Gesture

How does our non-verbal communication tell a story? Enhancing skills learned in previous art classes, Grade 10 students learned how gesture and the pose, can be used in a self-portrait to capture their personality. Students continued to explore observational drawing, colour theory and painting techniques created enlarged self-portraits on A1 paper.



Youssef Poulis G10B



Sarah Barawy G10R

Ms J Walker – Secondary Art Teacher



Rawan Abdel Wahid G10B



Valentin Luidzi G10Y



Salma Abou Taleb G10G



Malak Morshedy G10B



Farah El-Desouky G10Y



Abdelrahman Ammar G10Y



Mayada Higazy G10G



Mona Heikel G10Y



Leina Khaled G10G



Ahmed Zaghaw G10G



Habiba Mahmoud G10B



Amina Khaled G10R

GRADE TWELVE AP ART

Term Two is the busiest season of the year for AP Art students. During this time these young artists are completing one major work of art per week on average. Each student is working with a different media to develop a series of twelve pieces that explore a topic of their own

choosing. In early May, AP students will send their portfolios to the United States, where each will be graded by a university professor and given a score out of five.

Mr B Myers - Art and Photography Teacher



Shahd Rashad G12G



Ismail Hiza G12Y



Omar Hegazy G12G



Rodina Eldakrouy G12G



Haifa El Hout G12Y



Marihan Hamdoun G12B



Malak El-Ahwal G12G



Nour Rizk G12B

GRADE ELEVEN AND TWELVE DIGITAL ART AND DESIGN

Grade Eleven and Twelve students have worked on a range of digital media in Term Two. Some very entertaining films were produced while exploring video and audio editing and these will be available to view at the MES Cairo Art Exhibition in Term Three.

Students also explored the theme of the traditional Egyptian food cart culture through the context of the modern growing global popularity of street food. A variety of promotional products were created, including design concepts, logos, slogans and menus.

Ms L Lee – Secondary Art Teacher



Yasmina El Gendy G12Y



Malak Mansour G12G



Mohamed Elahwal G12R



Ismail Taymour G11B



Ismail Hiza G12Y

GRADE ELEVEN AND TWELVE PHOTOGRAPHY



Ahmed Shahin G12R



Alia El Abassiry G12G



Adham Sakkijh.
G12R



Abdel Kouta
G12B



Nour Abed
G12G



Yara Swellam G12R



Mariam Ebeid G12R



Fatima Al Harbi GR12Y



Mariam Abouelmaaty G12B



Malak Hegab
G12R



Maryam
Wahdan
G11B



Ismail Heiza
G12R

Photography in Term Two is an especially important time of learning for our students. After spending most of Term One on camera functions, basic shooting techniques and principles of composition, students go out from December to March and put their knowledge into practice. During this time of exploration, students produce a wide variety of images based on their newly acquired skills.

Mr B Myers - Art and Photography Teacher



Nour Mahfouz G12Y



Natalie Bishay G12B



Habiba Shaarawy G12G.



Amr Amin G11R



Farah Saied G12B



Hana Omera G12Y



Lara Salem G12Y



Mariam Abdelgawad G12Y



Lina Barhamtouchy G12G



Omar AbouelNour G12Y



Nour Rizk G12B



Salma Khalil G12R



Nuur Mourey G12G



Yasmina El Gendy G12Y



Zeina El Sayad G12B



Zeina Sakkijha G12G

PERIPATETIC MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Peripatetic Instrumental Music Programme continues to expand with over 180 students learning to play an instrument.

One of the main aims this year has been to increase the number of performance opportunities and as such the Tuesday afternoon Peripatetic Music Recital has become a regular event on the school calendar.

Frequent recitals take place each month in Room SG6 and the first Peripatetic Music Showcase in February was well received. As well as solos and duets from both Primary and Secondary students, variety was added to the showcase, with performances from the Key Stage Two Choir and the Senior Concert/Production Band.

Another showcase is scheduled for 1st April and plans for another exciting and varied programme are underway.



If you would like to enrol your child for instrumental lessons please contact Ms May Accad in the Peripatetic Music Office. The benefits of learning a musical instrument are well documented and we still have some vacancies for violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone and trumpet.

Mr P Edgeler – Secondary Music Department



DRAMA IN THE BRITISH SECTION

Year Ten IGCSE Drama students have hit the final furlong of their two-year course, and are now preparing for their examination showcase by learning individually chosen monologues which will allow them to play to their personal strengths and... to shine! Earlier in the term, we were very fortunate to welcome an international actor and director, Lawrence Carmichael, into some of our Drama classes. He worked with students to develop their physicality and vocal representations of Commedia dell'arte characters in preparation for their written examination

where they will respond to questions about their devising processes. It has been an exceptional journey with this incredible group of young people and I wish them the best of luck in their future dramatic endeavours.



Year Nine students also had the opportunity to develop their skills with Lawrence Carmichael and were able to create a piece of drama using Augusto Boal's technique called 'Image Theatre'. They experimented with themes of "The Unexpected Wedding" and "The Senior Trip" to develop narrative across two scenes. In addition to this, Year Nine students became "Spect-actors" and no, these are not strange ghostly characters, but are spectators who can stop the action on stage and replace a character thus changing the direction of a play and finding resolutions to conflicts within dramatic themes.



Year Eight students are currently working on "Prosperous Producers". Did you know that Cameron Mackintosh, the famous West End and Broadway producer, has an estimated fortune of \$1.1 billion? After completing preliminary research students are creating their own plays within plays, working within a chosen genre. To make their jobs harder, they are surrounded by incompetent set designers, moody directors, duplicitous actors and indifferent make-up artists. Maybe Mr Mackintosh will not have to worry about the competition from our fictional theatre bosses. During the planning phase, Ali Kishk (Y8R) really demonstrated that he can think outside of the box when he created a business model which could potentially revolutionise public access to theatre here in Cairo.

Digital skills and citizenship hold an essential role in all subjects in modern education and Year Seven students have been developing their understanding of these in drama while they create their own Silent movies. Using the greats such as Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin as inspiration, groups of five and six students are working collaboratively to create short movies which they will film and edit using either Wevideo online, iMovies, Moviemaker or Final Cut pro.



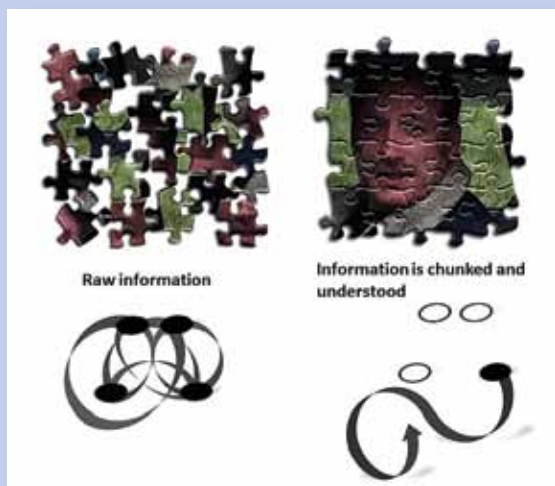
Ms R Hanlon – Secondary Drama Teacher



SECONDARY LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Study Skills



Have you ever thought about the best ways to learn and study? Here are some strategies backed by research that have been shown to work.

Top Tips

Chunk information so that it is 'bitesize'. When you're trying to work out something new and difficult, it's like a puzzle. But once you have worked it out, the pieces fit together and make connections in your mind. You can use this information to build on and link to other information that you have already learnt.

Practice testing is one of the best ways to retain information and improve skills. It doesn't need to be a real test or in a testing environment. You can test yourself anytime, anywhere, and with anything. You can test yourself in your head by asking yourself questions and answering them. You can also test yourself by using flash cards. You can test yourself by doing practice problems and practising skills – practice makes perfect!

Distributed practice is where you divide up your studies over time intervals rather than doing it all at once. The reason distributed practice works is because it gives the brain time to absorb the information. So, plan your study so that you review information regularly. In other words, don't revise for exams at the last minute – plan your revision so that you go back to your learning or skills and reinforce ideas and skills so that they are firmly embedded.

Top Tip for what not do!

Do not listen to music while you study! Recent studies show that students who study in a quiet environment on average

do 60% better on tests! Although listening to music can be motivating and improve mood, it does not help students learning new and complex material. Tunes with lyrics are especially unhelpful as listening to the words takes up your brain's processing space, leaving less for learning. Instead, listen to music before and after studying as it will give you that feel good factor.

Reference - <https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2018/mar/14/sound-how-listening-music-hinders-learning-lessons-research>

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

GIFTED AND TALENTED NEWS

What a fast-paced and action-packed term it has been for the Gifted and Talented students! Just like any other, Term Two has raced by with its fun and challenging activities focused on effective communication and centred around the inspiring TED talks delivered by our guest speakers.





The aim of the MES Cairo Ted-style sessions is to teach the Gifted and Talented students the art of public speaking, presentation literacy, communication skills and to provide them with a thorough,

well-rounded education in a broad scope of subject areas. Luckily, the students have had a wealth of opportunities to interact with the MES Cairo experts in different disciplines and bat around ideas on the subjects of Islamic Art, storytelling, the origin of dinosaurs, healthy living, and the origin and development of the English language.

Students were delighted to enjoy an hour of adventure with Mr Kasmani, Secondary Maths teacher, who took them on a journey of the magic of Islamic Art and shared valuable insight on how to create geometric patterns with a compass and a ruler. The students were fascinated by the remarkable intricacy and complexity of the Islamic designs and soaked it all in with rapt attention.

Ms Clingan, Assistant Head for Years Ten through Twelve hosted a session on the significance of arts and how storytelling shapes and transforms our perceptions of the world. The students explored the examples of storytelling in literature, art, cinematography, made their own meanings and developed new interpretations. They had engaging, round table discussions about the subjective, dynamic, open-ended nature of stories and their impact on people.

In addition, they were thrilled to travel back in time to the Age of Dinosaurs and join Mr Rainford, Head of Science, British Section, on an adventure to explore some important

and profound questions about their origin and extinction. The diversity of dinosaur species captured the students' imagination and sparked some lively discussions.

Ms Barakat, Secondary Science, British Section, delivered a motivational talk about nutrition and healthy living. The session was an eye opener for students who learned about the negative consequences of junk food consumption and health risks, smart snacks, brain boosting beverages and foods and discovered delicious and nutritious recipes. Students enjoyed the post-session healthy treats!

Mr Roodvoets, Head of History, American Section, has a proven ability to enthral audiences with stunning and powerful talks on a variety of topics. His talk on the origin and development of the English language challenged students and held them in awe throughout the session. In particular, students explored to the sources of English vocabulary: words inherited directly from Anglo-Saxons, Latin and French loan words and words of Arabic origin. The students learned how to recognise and make connections between world languages.

Without a doubt, the MES Cairo TED Talks have been truly inspiring and valuable experience for our students. The knowledge, expertise and great sense of humour of our guest speakers, has left positive and long-lasting impressions on students and equipped them with the tools to make success.

Dr T Kolesnikova - Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Learning Development Department



SECONDARY HOUSE NEWS



You would think that with the Staff and Student Extravanzas accomplished and the Student Council formed, the House System would calm down...but no! So much to do, so much to say, and so little time!

Since elections, the Student Council have been busy finding ways to solve student needs. First item on the agenda was the PE changing rooms. The girls and boys split up to think of practical solutions and help create a design, which have been shared with the PE staff. Action is underway to make these changes happen and student representatives are excited to help make your ideas a reality and tick one item off their list!

A new initiative for Term Two has been to encourage 'reducing, reusing and recycling'. Our students care about the environment and want to make a local change that can have a knock-on effect



on the wider community. The Student Council has met on several occasions through January and February to work with 'Finos' and the 'Juice Yard' to limit the amount of plastic forks, straws and containers distributed with every purchase. In February, the Water Bottle Challenge took place as House members had the opportunity to gather water bottles during the week to be used in a competition for the most

creative version of a sea creature affected by plastic pollution. This activity highlighted how much plastic we consume in just a matter of days! Keen Kheper environmentalists collected the most amount of plastic, but their interpretation of a sea horse was not as creative as Edjo's 3D sea turtle made with bottle lids for eyes and a moveable head. Amun and Selket only managed third and fourth place in the final competition. Our IBDP art students

benefited from this initiative as all the water bottle tops were donated to their outstanding art work which is soon to be on show. What all students seem to have taken away from this event, however, was whether you are at home or at school remember to... "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."

The fun has continued this term, on the football field with the Y/G/DP Ten-Twelve Football Tournament and Kheper and Edjo tying for first place. February saw younger students in Y/G Seven through Nine take their turns on the pitch with superbly organised teams of girls and boys. On goal difference, Kheper came out on top, followed by Amun. Both Edjo and Selket were left in a tie for final place. The students all demonstrated great effort and passion.

Those more tactful saw their opportunity in the Backgammon Event which took place on Yard Six. Students and staff took opportunities to out-do each other thanks to Mr Kasmani's efforts for making the event a success, with Amun, ending up the overall winners. The event saw Mr Lawrence, Ms Flake, Ms Galwash, Mr Roman, Ms Masarany, Ms Sorial, Ms Williams, Mr Nagggar, Mr Hayes, Mr O'Connor, Ms Sarah Elrify and Mr Higgs take on students from different houses in some nail-biting games. Things took an even more competitive twist when UNO was unleashed, creating a frenzy in the S building atrium! Yet again, the might of Kheper could not be superseded. A tremendous thanks to students for taking part and showing their true House spirit!



Term Two has given us more competitions and even a mini-extravaganza! Sports Day had a massive effect on the overall scores. Two very busy and competitive days where students from Y/G Seven through Y/G/IBDP Twelve demonstrated their agility, endurance and perseverance, especially out in the scorching sun. The Sports desk and PE Department have all the results...

As we embark upon Term Three, look out for announcements and take part in as much as you can; your House needs you!

Ms S Elsaadany – Secondary House Coordinator





Amun

The Amunians are moving in full force this year to achieve what has never been achieved. With hard work and perseverance, we have already come first in two main events; Year Eight Industry Day and Backgammon. Students went head to head with teachers and each other, putting their tactical skills to the test and coming up in first

place! In another lunch event, Amunians played against other teams and came up second in the Speed Stacking competition during their lunch break.

Although we did not win all the events our spirits still speak for themselves. One of our most memorable football games from the tournament was when Yousuf Helal (Y10G) doubled up as a goalie and defender/player until the remaining six members of the Amun team came onto the pitch.

Amun staff hosted a Mexican themed 'Pot Luck' lunch for the staff and the workers. Each member brought in different items to create a Mexican 'Build Your Burrito/Taco' buffet. The pot luck lunch included a selfie corner with Mexican themed props and with Mexican music playing in the background. The atmosphere was buzzing and everyone enjoyed the snacks. We are looking forward to taking part in many more exciting events planned for the rest of the year so stay tuned!

Ms A Elrify - Head of Amun House



Edjo

What a busy first term! Congratulations to all house members for all their hard work during the first term. We challenged for many titles last term but struggled to clinch top spot; coming second in the Y/G/DP Ten-Twelve House Football tournament, UNO competition and the Backgammon tournament. We were, however, successful in winning the Key Stage Three End of Term Quiz and we led the point scores in the Year Eight Industry Day. Massive congratulations to all those who were involved!

Looking ahead we have the chance to challenge our closest rivals and participate in the 24-hr Run and the Y/G Seven-Nine Football Tournament to represent Edjo and to gain valuable points. You will never know your limits unless you push yourself to them. LET'S GO EDJO!

Mr T Rosser - Head of Edjo House

Kheper

I want to congratulate Kheper House on your enthusiasm throughout Term One. A highlight of the House Events was the High School Football Tournament. Well done to all players and especially to House Captains Nour Mahfouz G12Y (Amun), Mohamed Osman Y11Y (Edjo), Youssef Abbas G11Y (Selket) and Omar Hassan G12B (Kheper) for leading their House teams onto the field.

In three separate break periods, each of the Houses played one another to find out who owns the pitch. The time constraints led to some fiery action and play all around. It came down to Edjo and Kheper battling for the top spot and in the end, we tied for overall victory, followed by Selket in third and Amun last. Thanks to all fans who cheered from the sidelines and helped make it an exciting event! Let's keep Kheper winning!

Mr B Myers - Head of Kheper House



Selket

Selket house kicked-off our first staff 'Pot Luck' of the school year. It was a wonderful way to bring staff members together for lunch and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the delicious dishes brought in by the Selket team staff members. Our dishes included a range of cuisines from the US (combread) to Egypt (oriental salads) as well as yummy desserts. It was a wonderful way to spend time together before the holiday season and to wish each other well in the upcoming year.

In other news, I am sad to report that Selket has not yet been able to redeem itself in its position on the House scoreboard but we will never give up. Selket is indeed in it to win it, and we have team members who tirelessly and enthusiastically turn up and participate in all our House competitions. So, well done, Selket! Keep your spirits and your heads held high. Most of the time, it is not about whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game. Where is it? It's all in the yellow...

Mrs K Fergus - Head of Selket House



We gathered at Cairo Airport early morning on 21st February 2018, blurry-eyed but enthusiastic for our Silver Adventurous Journey in Cyprus. Thirty-five students from America, British and IB Sections met Ms Downey, Ms El Rify and Mr Macaulay for what was to be one of the most enriching experiences we have ever had in Cyprus.



After landing in Larnaca, we had a prompt transfer to the beautiful Petra tou Romiou, also known as Aphrodite's Rock, a sea stack in Paphos. We had a lovely lunch there and met the team of experienced instructors, led by our old friend Dale Esau. We took in the beauty of the coastline as we sat on the beach before having an ice cream and boarding the bus – blissfully unaware of the hard work ahead.

Having checked into our rooms in Latsi bay, it was straight to work; learning, emergency procedures, gathering our equipment and finalising our routes for three days of walking. Then it was dinner and bed before a big day ahead. Day Two presented the opportunity to plan and execute a practice afternoon hike in final preparation for the main event. After lunch, all 35 students, in five groups, set off on their journey around the Latsi area. Half way through the hike, the weather turned on us and the rain hale drenched the students – a harsh warning of what was to come over the next three days.

That evening, having returned safely, if a little damp, the students headed to the local village to buy the ingredients required for their meal plans. Back at the hotel, the plentiful shopping bags then needed to be transferred to the hiking bags for the weigh in – everyone frantically trying to meet the 14kg limit. It was a late night with a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, packing and unpacking. Finally, the last of the students made their way to bed just after midnight.

Day One of the hike saw the students set off from the church of St George in southern Paphos and making their way up and across the ravine before making their way to camp. In blustery and blistering conditions, the students battled through navigational errors and to the camp site just after dark. Exhausted and

emotional, putting up their tents in the dark was a cruel reward after such great efforts in daylight. After, a well-deserved hot meal it was time to collapse into tents and contemplate day two.

Day Two of the hike for most required some short, sharp uphill efforts from each group. In windy and rainy conditions, the worst we have seen in Cyprus, the students showed great determination and perseverance to push through the pain barrier, forcing themselves to continue to the campsite. Arriving in the dark in soggy conditions, there were very emotional scenes as each group arrived to echoing calls of encouragement and 'Mabrouk!' before embracing one another, shoulders drenched from the poor conditions and the tears of peers. In such difficult conditions and at their physical and emotional limit our students showed great care and character that night – those were moments we were proud to witness.

Day Three of the hike was greeted with the optimism and hope of a warm shower and a night at the hotel. With improved conditions, spirits were high and the students were on the road. Weary with fatigue, a few navigational errors held some groups up. With most finishing before dark, they got to enjoy the sight of the sun going down over the mountains in the distance and consider their epic achievement.



During their reflections and debrief, the students made some extremely lucid comments and observations indicating that they gained much from the experience and demonstrated great personal growth. The instructors commented extremely positively on the results of the reflective discussions and agreed that as a whole this cohort made great strides over the week.

On reflection, given the conditions and other challenges the journeys threw at our students I believe that this group demonstrated the most growth during an adventurous journey I have ever witnessed. All passed their adventurous journey section with flying colours. We are very proud of them all and feel privileged to have witnessed their journey in Cyprus.

Mr E Macauley – International Award Coordinator



INTERNATIONAL AWARD - BRONZE

This term was the beginning for the Year/Grade Nine International Award Bronze group. The group has been working really hard attending two-hour ASA sessions looking at getting ready for the practice and final expeditions.



The group started off with seventeen students but has now settled at twelve brave souls who have completed over half of the physical recreation programme and have already attended and successfully completed their Bronze Practice Expedition.

The first expedition was held on 16th and 17th March and saw the group head out to Wadi Degla to complete a two-day/one-night expedition. Students experienced first-hand what it means to be completely independent, from

planning and packing to preparing all their own meals. A big shout-out to resident chef, Adam Nagy (Y9Y) for feeding everyone!

It has been a great start to the programme and all twelve students who have so far completed the Practice Expedition and will be going on to the final in May have been a great pleasure to work with. They have truly embodied the spirit of the International Award. Keep up the good work folks!

Mr M O'Connor – Bronze International Award Coordinator



SECONDARY PIONEERS

Clothes Bank Visits

Over two successive days in January, Secondary Pioneers volunteered at the Egyptian Clothing Bank. This non-profit organisation works to provide clothing to those most in need both in Cairo and all over Egypt. With items of clothing being donated from all across the country and from abroad, it is a large task to sort through and decide what is suitable to be boxed up and gifted to recipients. The Year/Grade Seven and Eight Pioneers, however, were more than happy to assist.

Large bags arrive at the clothing bank with a mixture of all possible items of clothing, from dresses to suits. The bags were opened onto a large sorting table where Pioneers separated out the garments according to gender, season, size and type. They also checked each individual item of clothing for any damage.

Over the course of the two mornings, Pioneers were able to assist in sorting thousands of pieces to earn their 'Clothing Collector' badge. Once the clothes had been sorted into the appropriate storage boxes, they were then ready for washing, ironing and

eventually for sending onto an individual or family in need.

Pioneers reflected on their experience once they left the clothes bank and were asked to think about how much service they already provide to others and how they could do more in a sustainable manner.



Student reflections

"I go to an orphanage in Upper Egypt with my cousins. I go during Eid and special occasions to give them presents and money as well as love and care." **Laurina Salama (G8Y)**

"This made me realise that we can't just give people ten pounds and never help them again. We have to give all that we can to make people's lives much better because helping one person could mean saving a whole family." **Lina Helal (Y8Y)**



Digital Citizenship

In February, and in line with e-Safety week, our Secondary Pioneers completed a new service badge: Digital Citizenship. In our digital world, it is important that students are exposed to new technologies and e-tools to equip

themselves for their future. However, it is also important our students are knowledgeable about the risks of this world and how they should use technology responsibly.

To achieve their Digital Citizenship badge, Pioneers had to work in cross-sectional (British and American Section) groups to create a short e-Safety presentation and activity for Year Five and Six





students. All in all, twelve groups presented to all classes across Years Five and Six. Younger students respond well when being taught by older peers and there were many interesting activities and important discussions that took place, such as:

- MES Cairo new e-Safety Golden Rules
- The impact of cyberbullying
- Managing an online reputation
- Protecting passwords



Internet Safety

One thought-provoking and fun activity, led by a few of the presentation groups, was the Toothpaste Challenge. When toothpaste is squeezed from its tube, how easily can you put it back? Not so easily. This is the same as what you say or do something online: once it is said or done then it cannot ever be taken back.

This is what some Pioneers said about their experience in completing this badge:

"This was a very important badge to participate in because, as older students, it's important we use our experience to inform younger students of the dangers of the online world."

Mark Na'eem (Y7R)

"I think that it is very important to teach fellow MES students about eSafety so that they can be prepared for the future and make sure they choose the right path to success on the internet."

Alia El-Helw (G7Y)

For further information about some of the ideas discussed by the Pioneers, as well as further games and activities on e-Safety for all the family, please click on the QR code.



Ski Egypt



Early January saw our Secondary Pioneers complete their last skills badge: Snow and Ski. This was the Pioneers inaugural trip to the snow-covered slopes in 6th of October City and so everybody was very excited to get their skis on!

To earn their badge, all Pioneers participated in an hour-long instructional lesson with trained instructors. Everybody learned how to walk up the slope in skis and how to stop before heading to the top of the nursery slope. Those with more

experience were quickly allowed to ski independently. Despite the fact that skiing is a very challenging skill, our beginner skiers were all risk-takers and resilient in their efforts.



After lunch, the students had fun enjoying some of the other attractions in the park, such as the sickness inducing zorb ball; tube run and bobsledding.

"Before the trip, I was worried I might fall and hurt myself. This made me think twice. However, when we arrived, I was totally ready to start the day. When we were learning how to ski it was fun. It was all such a new and exciting experience for me. It was very challenging to ski and I did fall but I stood up and kept trying until I got it right." **Nahed El-Berry (Y8R)**

Mr S Cole – Secondary Pioneers Coordinator





PRIMARY PIONEERS



As the Primary Pioneer Coordinator and my first year in this role, my proudest moment was seeing the students join with their Secondary peers to run around the track for the 24-Hour



Primary Pioneers have gone from strength to strength this term. We have begun our preparations for our end of year celebration ceremony and the students are eagerly awaiting their hard-earned badges.

Year Six Pioneers have created some wonderful artwork for a local partner orphanage and the students have created these with the theme, 'Together we are stronger' in focus. The collaborative artwork could not have been achieved without the artistic guidance of both Ms Godber and Mr Orr.

In **Year Five**, the Pioneers have been learning to survive in different environments, using the natural elements to their advantage. They have been learning to filter water using basic resources and have learned how to tie some unbreakable knots under the tutelage of Mr Hallam.



Run. Each and every one of the Pioneers should be proud of their achievements this academic year and move into the new challenges of 2018/2019 knowing they have all grown in their leadership and communication skills. Congratulations to all of the Pioneers and thank you to everyone who has made the programme a success this year.

The Pioneer programme will shortly be opening applications to the Year Four students, who will have an assembly discussing the wonderful opportunities which await those who are up for the challenge.

Mr A Hinchliffe – Primary Pioneers Coordinator

PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In

January we started our second term of After School Activities with a mix of popular activities from Term One and some new offers such as our Writers Club and Songs from Around the World.

Students had the opportunity to take part in music, sport, academic or creative activities to follow their passion as well as learn new skills. Many of the ASAs reached their capacity, demonstrating how popular activities such as Fun Football, Team Games, Cooking, ICT and Science Fun, really are.

In the new ASA, Songs from Around the World, the Year Three, Four and Five students learnt a range of songs. They really enjoyed the song "Ho Tarukoi" which is a Japanese song about a firefly. The students were able to sing this beautifully. Another favourite song was "Kisne banaya", an Urdu song which translates to "Who made the...". The students showed their creativity when they adapted this song to include words in Arabic and Spanish. Some songs are

a display of feelings, some songs promote hope in hard times and some songs are about the beauty of the world. Additionally, the students have been working on writing their own lyrics. They also had the opportunity to participate in other music activities such as our popular Choir ASA. Our Year Two and Three students were singing four wonderful songs: "The Tiki Tiki Tiki Room", "A Distant Shore" (which has a complicated two-part section), "A Million Dreams" from the musical "The Greatest Showman" and "Stodola Pumpa", a rousing morale-booster from Eastern Europe! One of the highlights for our Choir participants was the visit to the British International School of Cairo (BISC) in April, to participate in a multi-school choir recital.

Miss Theodora and Miss Alison enjoyed hosting Art Club for Year Two and Year Three. The students came to the club every week excited to find out what their next project was. They especially enjoyed creating cartoon drawings and recreating the famous painting, 'Starry Night' by Vincent van Gogh.

In our Cooking ASA, our little chefs have been very busy and loved practising new culinary skills each week. They often came to their ASA leaders Miss Amanda, Miss Patricia and Miss Hanna during the week to tell them how much they enjoyed coming to Cooking Club. The students loved sharing their creations with their families when they got home. A special highlight was the grand finale, a homemade chocolate cake in a mug on the last day of their ASA in March.

The students who participated in Storytelling Club this term have been absolute stars! There was a magical buzz in the library during this session. Each Year Two and Year Three student worked with a Secondary mentor choosing a book and then reading one-to-one. The students were also exposed to a range of engaging and interactive fiction and poetry.

All of the students have enjoyed trying lots of different activities in the Better Movers, Better Thinkers, After School Activity. In particular, learning how to be a team player, taking turns and being patient and thoughtful of others are also skills the students have developed during playing team games like Benchball or Volleyball. It was a joy to watch how the students' ball skills develop so quickly and to notice how they have been able to apply these skills across all the activities they have been offered by Ms Clarke and Ms Underwood.

Ms K Wohlberg – Primary ASA Coordinator



Primary Cougars

This has been my first year with the Primary Cougars since moving across from Secondary. The programme has continued to grow with an extended training season, additional sports on offer and a huge increase in fixtures against opposing schools.

Year Five and Six students have set the bar extremely high in terms of quantity and quality. We have remained excellent in Swimming and have improved dramatically in Athletics, Football, Basketball and Netball. This is all thanks to the dedication of both students and of our inspirational coaches. I look forward to building on the successes of this year. We have extremely talented students in Years Four and Five who will be representing MES Cairo next year. As long as they work hard over the summer, I am confident we can continue to make our school proud. **Mr C Carroll - Athletic Coach**

Boys Football

The MES Cairo Under-11 Team Cougar footballers have enjoyed a successful season so far this year. Having had limited time for training and preparation, the team successfully managed to develop a winning mindset, which they now bring to their competitive games on a regular basis. With a few games under their belt, the Cougars continue to be formidable, notching up wins against other schools during competitions and one-off friendlies.

Whilst the whole team has done their utmost during training sessions and fixtures, a few stand-out individuals have come to the fore with some great performances. Ahmed Rashed (Y5R), a consistent 'man of the match' winner, shines with his electric pace and some special goals and Team Captain, Hamza Darwish (Y6V), constantly leads by example, showing exemplary leadership and a competitive mentality. With just a few fixtures left to play, a promising start will hopefully culminate in a successful end to what has been an unforgettable footballing season! **Mr H Gad – Football Coach**



Girls Basketball



Our Basketball girls have had a very successful season. We started the training in the Autumn with fourteen talented young ladies entering two MES Cairo teams in local tournaments and both teams won all their matches against Metropolitan International School and the American International School. Our





students demonstrated great teamwork and worked very hard.

We had less girls later in the season in training and games but the remaining team members continued to work extra hard. The mix of our experienced players and great ball handlers, Tia Zarifa (Y5B) and Sherifa Badra (Y6V), together with athletically gifted players like Giada Canelli (Y6O), Alia Saba (Y6R) and Mariam Sallam (Y6B) worked extremely well. Lilly Hussein (Y5B) and Khadija Awad (Y6O) were always excited to learn new skills and showed great effort on and off the court to create a highly effective team.

Ms K Wohlberg – Basketball Coach

Boys Basketball

After a successful season with the Year Five and Six Cougar Basketball team, I am extremely proud of the way in which the team has continued to develop with an exceptional focus on their team work. This could be seen during games against Hayah International Academy (HIA) and Cairo English School (CES) playing outstanding defence keeping excellent opponents to very low scores. Having defensive specialist Adam Hammouda (Y6O) at the top of the zone keeping both focus and organisation at an optimum. Throughout the year, we have been making offence a focus, working on creating space on the court and attacking the opponent and basket.



In more recent training sessions, it has been fabulous to see Yehia Moussa (Y6O) show excellent composure on the basketball court and successfully controlling our attacking prowess as our starting Point Guard. I believe we are now starting to show all the components to be truly successful and with Hamza Fawzy (Y6B) showing more confidence and power in the rebounds, we look to dominate in future matches.

Mr B Shilley – Basketball Coach

Netball

Year Five and Six girls started the Netball season with a little hesitation. Most of them were unaware of the rules and positions on court so lots of time was spent going back to basics. However, their enthusiasm and great sense of team work meant that within no time at all they were focusing on passing and catching effectively, footwork, dodging on attack, pivoting to utilise space and shooting for those in the position of Goal Shooter and Goal Attack.

The girls were lucky enough to go and play at Cairo English School (CES), where they won 5-2. This gave them a fabulous confidence that they brought to the game against Year/Grade Seven and Eight. It was very close and the girls gave all of their effort but they were just pipped to the post with Secondary winning the two games.

On Cairo English School's (CES) return visit to us, our girls came back with a positive mentality and worked well together to push in attack. They fronted a strong defence and won 10-4.

Special mention goes to Nadia El Tantawi (Y5R) and Taliya Dajani (Y6O) who have grown into their role of shooter and are developing their confidence on the court!

Ms N Williams – Netball Coach



GIRLS' FOOTBALL

On 14th February 2018, MES Cairo Girls' Team Cougar welcomed children from Darel Yosr Orphanage for a football match. With the support from some of the Boys' Cougar team to bolster numbers, the MES Cairo team was eager to get going. Nerves, anticipation and excitement were running through the Darel Yosr team as this was their first ever competitive game. With both teams briefed by the referee and warmed up, we were ready to kick off.

The game kicked off, Darel Yosr immediately took control and Leila Reda (Y6G) for MES Cairo found herself being called into action almost immediately! An excellent strike from Darel Yosr saw them take the lead. With nerves from both teams beginning to settle, some excellent football was played during the first half. Darel Yosr created some wonderful linked passes which meant they had many chances. However, with Amina Farag (Y6G) and Khadija Hamada (Y6B) in defence the game remained at 1-0 up until the last two minutes. A sweet strike from Darel Yosr's striker meant they went into half time in the lead at 2-0.

The second half kicked off with MES Cairo starting strongly and with numerous chances being created by Adam Hammouda (Y6O), as he skillfully dribbled past Darel Yosr's defence. However, MES Cairo just couldn't score! Darel Yosr couldn't keep up with the link play between



Adam Atef (Y6Y) and Kenzy Abdel Aziz (Y6B) and eventually MES Cairo managed to slot one home. The final score finished 3-1 to Darel Yosr.

Well done to all who were involved, including Ibrahim El Nemr (IBDP11R) who ensured Darel Yosr had a football kit to play in and arranged referees.

Thank you to Mr Hainsworth and Mrs Glancy for arranging the fixture.

Ms L Young – Primary PE Teacher



GIRLS' FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

After the triumph of the Girls Team Cougar success at the U11 BSME Games in Dubai, excitement and anticipation surrounded the team as MES Cairo hosted the first girls' tournament of the season.

MES Cairo kicked off with high expectations and they did not disappoint. With some outstanding dribbling from Amina El Mallah (Y5V) and excellent support play from Lilly Hussein (Y5B), MES Cairo had many opportunities in goal. Zeina Saleh (Y5G) struggled to find the net but luckily for us, Amina El Mallah (Y5V) cleared up, taking MES Cairo into a 1-0 lead.

MES Cairo had much of the possession for the remainder of the first half, with Kenzi El Sayed (Y6Y) not being tested at all in goal. Second half then kicked off and almost immediately, with support from Marcel Gerguis (Y6G) and Zeina Fouda (Y5G), Amina slotted one home again taking the score to 2-0.

Metropolitan School began the fight back, scoring with an excellent long-range shot, which Kenzi could do little about. With some more excellent link up play between the defence and midfield, we once again scored, with the final score MES Cairo 3 – Metropolitan School 1. 'Man of the Match' was awarded to Amina El Mallah (Y5V) for her excellent

leadership on and off the field, as well as her outstanding play.

With MES Cairo fired up and raring to go after the first win, they went out fighting. Hayah International Academy (HIA) had spotted our excellent dribblers and didn't allow them any time on the ball. With a change of goalkeeper and Laila Reda (Y6G) stepping up to the task, there was little she could do about the shot from HIA's Centre Forward. MES Cairo's heads dropped due to little experience of being behind in a game and this allowed HIA to take advantage and score a second goal. The first half finished with a score of 2-0 to HIA.

After a team talk at half time from Miss Bennett, the team woke up and with some excellent defending from Gamila Hamouda (Y6B) and Yara Seada (Y5G), MES Cairo managed to hold HIA at 2-0 for much of the second half. MES Cairo began to play some real football again with Zeina Saleh (Y5G) and Shirley El Masarany (Y5R) taking on players in the middle of the pitch and creating opportunities for shots on target but MES Cairo just could not advance and the final score was 3-0 to HIA. MES Cairo's Zeina Salah (Y5G) was awarded 'Man of Match' for her excellent dribbling and improved performance.

Lilly Hussein (Y5B) was awarded 'Player of the Tournament', for excellent sportsmanship and brilliant work rate! Well done Lilly and to the rest of the Team Cougar Girls. Going forward for the remainder of the season and into the next game, we will be focussing on shooting and, also on our attacking play.

Ms L Young – Primary PE Teacher



JUNIOR RUGBY

On Friday 9th February 2018, MES Cairo hosted the largest Junior Rugby Clinic in Egypt with over forty children in attendance from five different clubs and schools.

In the morning, the children experienced a coaching clinic, where they worked on a variety of different skills, including catching the ball in the air, safe tackling, the rules of the game, 2v1 and how to form a ruck.



After a short break the teams met in a 7s tournament. The first game, MES Cairo v British International School Cairo (BISC), kicked off with the Zaki twins making their debut, and what a debut they had! Ziad Zaki (Y7Y) with his rapid pace down the wing meant that no one could catch him – resulting in Ziad scoring three tries in his first game! The game finished 20-5 to MES Cairo.

El Alsson then met Cairo Rugby and with this being El Alsson's first game of the season, they were champing at the bit. Excellent tackles and line speed from El Alsson meant that they were in control and the game finished 15-5 to El Alsson.



The winners from the previous two games then met in a nail-biting match. The excellent defensive lines and attacking plays from both MES Cairo and El Alsson, made it a tight game. Hussein Ashmawy (Y7B) finally managed to break through and score MES Cairo's only try of the game. The game finished in a 5-5 draw.

After resting for two games, BISC were up next against Cairo Rugby. Cairo Rugby had been working hard to develop their contact skills which showed in this game, where they plowed through on several occasions. BISC did not give up the fight and



tried to fight back, scoring in the last play. Unfortunately, this was not enough to win the game, with Cairo Rugby taking the win 26-5.

Next up was BISC and El Alsson. After BISC's dramatic loss, they came back fighting and scored just after kick-off. BISC fought well but ultimately El Alsson's fitness levels won them the game, with the score finishing at 10-5 to El Alsson.



With the final game looming and the points so close, MES Cairo needed to win their last game in order to finish first. It was a closely fought game, with equal possession for both teams.

With strong tackles from Mahmoud Aly (G7Y) and Hussein Ashmawy (Y7B), and two minutes to go, MES Cairo were drawing 5-5. Cairo Rugby managed to force MES Cairo into making an error, resulting in a penalty to Cairo Rugby. With this Cairo Rugby managed to push forward and score the winning try. The final score was 10-5 to



Cairo Rugby.

The MES Cairo squad has improved so much since their last fixture, implementing the coaching points and tactics they have worked on in training. Mahmoud Aly (G7Y) was awarded Player of the Tournament for his improved attitude and effort, as well as his excellent tackling. A big thank you goes to all the coaches and teachers who delivered the different activities in the morning, and to Callum Donkin and Andy Hainsworth for refereeing the tournament.

Overall standings of the day:

- 1st El Alsson (8 points)
- 2nd Cairo Rugby (7 points)
- 3rd MES Cairo (6 points)
- 4th BISC (3 points)

Ms L Young – Primary PE Teacher

BSME U11 GAMES - DUBAI

Cougars Shine through the Showers in Dubai



When the BSME Captains, Hamza Darwish (Y6V) and Amina El Mallah (Y5V), raised the MES Cairo flag and walked it through Kings School Al Barsha, it produced a sense of pride that they deserved after working hard all season. Following close behind the flag holders was the rest of our BSME squad. Looking at their faces in, we witnessed a rollercoaster of emotions including; apprehension, admiration, optimism and earnestness.



Once the flag was mounted in the MES Cairo camp, the nerves settled. We soon began our warm-ups and focussed on the games ahead.

The first day was all about Athletics with students across the board being successful. It was really good to see our students support each other both during, and away from, the competitive events. This positive attitude from all certainly helped us succeed! Medals were attained by Ahmed Rashed (Y5R), Omar Helmy (Y5G), Hana El Khesheh (Y5G), Zeina Saleh (Y5G) and Yasmine Hossam (Y6O).

After lunch, it was the swimmers' time to shine. They had a mammoth task because although our swimmers are extremely talented, we don't have a large swim team. However, they stood up to the task and each and every one of them gave their absolute best. Some of our swimmers swam themselves to absolute exhaustion proving they have a sporting mentality and determination that is difficult to teach! We finished second in the medals table and this proved to be our most successful sport.



Day Two kicked off with the same intensity as the first and it was time for our Football girls and Basketball boys to shine. Both teams started the day nervously, and it is fair to say that their performances were well within their limits. As the day developed,



so did their confidence and after lunch they both found their rhythm. Unfortunately, this rhythm was interrupted by an extremely unusual spot of rain. Basketball was delayed and as the students waited patiently, we were all in disbelief that we were being rained off in the Gulf! Luckily, we were able to rearrange the fixtures so that all were inside and we managed to finish in a respectable 11th place. The girls were not scared of a little rain, and they played on and managed to also finish in 11th place.

Day Three was soon upon us and spirits were high from the previous evening's entertainment; a screening of *Paddington 2*. The girls had Netball while it was the boys' turn for Football. As the Dubai weather returned to its scorching normality, our students were starting to not only realise the extremely high quality of the schools in the competition but actually made the other schools realise the extremely high quality of MES Cairo. The girls started off nervously. Our first stage in this knockout round was against our local arch enemies British International School Cairo (BISC). The girls were distraught as they had never beaten them before. However, after some encouragement from coaches and parents, as well as some excellent leadership from our captain, the girls went onto the court with a fierce determination. They ended up showing some true MES Cairo spirit and defeated BISC! The boys had a similar story in that they had also started with an underwhelming performance. They too dug deep and held their heads up high at the end of the day.



That evening, we attended the much-anticipated Awards Dinner which was hosted at the exquisite Dubai Polo and Equestrian Club. All the students from each of the sixteen schools wore their finest clothes and celebrated their successes over dinner. MES Cairo triumphed across many areas including the General Participation Award, the Netball Fair Play Award and the individual awards attained by Yasmine Hossam (Y6O), Hamza Darwish (Y6V), Zeina Saleh (Y5G), Ahmed Rashed (Y5R), Hana El Khesheh (Y5G) and Youssef Helmy (Y5G).

No visit to Dubai is complete without a trip to the Burj Khalifa, and this suitably polished off our weekend before flying back to Cairo. It's safe to say that the long weekend in Dubai was an extremely successful one for MES Cairo and our students have now set an exceptionally high bar for future MES Cairo teams. They demonstrated terrific sportsmanship, fair play, determination, behaviour and a high skill level. The staff, Ms O'Neil, Mr Gad and Ms Young, worked extremely hard this weekend and deserve a huge thank you on behalf of MES Cairo. Go, Cougars!

Mr C Carroll – Primary HOD for PE



PRIMARY SPORTS DAYS



some very quick times during the heats of both the 300m and 100m events, whilst others worked hard gaining team points for their House building 'Jenga' towers and playing 'Tic Tac Toe'.



Key Stage Two



18th February 2018 was busy and exciting within the Primary PE Department, as the Sports Days commenced with great enthusiasm starting with Year Five. Excellent teamwork and resilience was shown by all of the students

participating in the House games with many students taking risks in their individual events and pushing themselves beyond their limits.

With high standards set by Year Five, Year Six had a hard task to follow. Stepping up to the challenge, Year Six students set

Having spent the last five weeks practising the different individual events for the first time, the competition was intense between the Houses in Year Three! Records were being chased in all disciplines with some excellent 60m Hurdles times achieved in soaring temperatures. Meanwhile, the team events were continuing with well thought out tactics for 'Cops and Robbers'.

Year Four were the final Key Stage Two Year Group to take to the field and they did not disappoint. With outstanding athletic achievements seen right across the board, parents and teachers alike were incredibly impressed. Tremendous effort was witnessed in the field events with children producing some terrific throws in the shotput, ensuring it was a close competition!



Key Stage Two Sports Day Results

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
High Jump Girls				
1 st Place	Erin Nonis 3B	Kanzy Eid/Layan Allami 4V	Lilly Hussein 5B	Kenzy Abel Azia 6B
2 nd Place	Bana Ali 3B	Farida el Adl 4G	Guilia Sherif 5R	Yumi Star 6V
3 rd Place	Hayat Sahmoud 3V	Talia Sakr 4B	Haya El Barhamtoshy 5G	Giada Canelli 6O
High Jump Boys				
1 st Place	Belal Hamouda 3R	Yassin Sabra 4G	Ali Fahmy 5B	Moustafa El Masry 6V
2 nd Place	Adam Abdel Aziz 3Y	Ali Soliman 4B	Ahmed Rashed 5R	Sherif Erian 6Y
3 rd Place	Owain Underwood 3R	Hussein Mohamed 4R	Ali Kansoh 5R	Moustafa el Zayat 6G
Long Jump Girls				
1 st Place	Talia Shalaby 3G	Layla Sabry 4Y	Karma Abougabal 5B	Khadija Mashour 6R
2 nd Place	Alice Ingham 3R	Laila El O'Gail 4B	Malak Laban 5V	Carla Yassa 6Y
3 rd Place	Erin Nonis 3B	Habiba Mofteh 4R	Maya El Zuhairy 5V	Khadija Hamada 6B
Long Jump Boys				
1 st Place	Karim Kishk 3G	Marwan El Koussi 4R	Youssef Helmy 5G	Moustafa El-Masry 6V
2 nd Place	Youssef Osman 3B	Amir Matta 4Y	Hazem el Fadl 5G	Yehia Moussa 6O
3 rd Place	Mohamed Reda 3B	Selim Farahat 4O	Nadeem Al-Rakeeb 5Y	Youssef Sallam 6O
Shotput Girls				
1 st Place	Laila Hafez 3G	Azza Ashmawy 4R	Hala Khedr 5G	Jana Kassem 6R
2 nd Place	Lara Nagy 3O	Habiba Mofteh 4R	Tala Azzam 5V	Sherifa Badra 6V
3 rd Place	Leila Zaytoon 3Y	Zeyna Karim 4O	Sarah Gerges 5O	Hana Mahmoud 6B
Shotput Boys				
1 st Place	Karim Safi 3V	Muhammed Bekheit 4V	Ali el Din El Sayed 5V	Hamza Fawzy 6B
2 nd Place	Khalid Rashed 3G	Mostafa Khalil 4G	Mohamed Omar 5O	Karim Behairy 6V
3 rd Place	Seif Teira 3R	Youssef Hanafy 4R	Reda Mohamed 5R	Youssef Hatem 6V
60m/100m Girls				
1 st Place	Emilia Thiam 3G	Jamila Abdel-Hady 4R	Nadia Rashad 5Y	Yasmine Abdel Nasser 6O
2 nd Place	Kenzie Mourey 3V	Habiba Assassa 4O	Zeina Saleh 5G	Habiba Tag-El-Din 6R
3 rd Place	Juwayriya El-Masry 3R	Laila Lasheen 4B	Hanya Ehab 5V	Hana Mahmoud 6B

60m/100m Boys 1 st Place 2 nd Place 3 rd Place	Omar Soliman 3V Abdullah Hisham 3G Yehia Hesham 3Y	Ali Soliman 4B Adam El Shafie 4V Marwan El-Koussi 4R	Youssef Helmy 5G Ali Konsoh 5R Ashraf Koushouk 5O	Mustafa Maged 6Y Mahmoud El Walid 6V Yehia Moussa 6O
300m Girls 1 st Place 2 nd Place 3 rd Place	Kenzie Mourey 3V Juwayriya El-Masry 3R Laila El Saady 3R	Habiba Assassa 4O Laila El-Ogail 4B Nadia Eissa 4V	Hana Kheshen 5G Haya Elbarhamtoshy 5G Tia Darrag 5R	Yasmine Abdel Nasser 6O Amina Farag 6G Kenzy Abdel Aziz 6B
300m Boys 1 st Place 2 nd Place 3 rd Place	Omar Farag 3Y Omar Soliman 3V Adam Mohamed 3R	Hussein Sabry 4B Yassin Sabra 4G Seif Hisham 4Y	Ziad Sallab 5O Ahmed Ibrahim 5Y Aayan Ali 5R	Mahmoud El Walid 6V Hamza Fawzy 6B Adam Hammouda 6O
Hurdles Girls 1 st Place 2 nd Place 3 rd Place	Emilia Thiam 3G Laila Abdel Aziz 3Y Alice Ingham 3R	Jamila Abdel-Hady 4R Karma Elshafei 4Y Layla Sabry 4Y	Zeina Saleh 5G Maya El Zuhairy 5V Angelina Wael 5B	Amina Farag 6G Emily Sigalas 6B Hana Aglan 6Y
Hurdles Boys 1 st Place 2 nd Place 3 rd Place	Hassan Medhat 3V Adam Abdel Aziz 3Y Seif Hisham 3V	Ahmad Maher 4O Hussein Sabry 4B Omar Kouchouk 4V	Ahmed Rashed 5R Ahmed Khalil 5G Aayan Ali 5R	Yassin Soliman 6G Omar Haikal 6Y Sherif el Nagggar 6R
Overall Winners	1. Thoth 2. Anubis 3. Horus 4. Ra	1. Anubis 2. Horus 3. Ra 4. Thoth	1. Ra 2. Horus 3. Anubis 4. Thoth	1. Ra 2. Anubis 3. Horus 4. Thoth

Key Stage One Sports Day



Year One and Year Two have worked exceptionally hard preparing for their Sports Day, ensuring they played fair, respected the other teams and practiced different sporting skills. Each year group was spilt into four teams competing for points. Both Year One and Year Two worked extremely hard during the continuous relay – a new event this year! The obstacle course also proved a challenge with students having to concentrate carefully in order to overcome various obstacles.



Key Stage One Sports Day Results

Year 2			
1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place
Tigers	Dragons	Snakes	Pandas
Year 1			
1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place
Wizard of Oz	Alice in Wonderland	Aladdin	Hansel and Gretel

Foundation Stage Sports Day

Foundation Stage One children were very excited in the morning leading up to their Sports Day, with many students wearing their class coloured t-shirt and preparing to showcase the skills they had been learning in their PE lessons. Parents were also showing their enthusiasm bringing whistles, hooters and feather boas to cheer on their children!



Foundation Stage One students showed outstanding catching skills whilst using the kickflips and making the balls fly high into the sky. They also demonstrated how good they were at balancing and jumping during the obstacle course. The students finished the day with a fantastic 25m sprint!



Foundation Stage Two all showed excellent relationship skills and demonstrated good teamwork whilst participating in numerous activities. The children showed phenomenal hand to eye-coordination in the 'Target Throw' game as well as brilliant lifesaving skills during the 'Sharks and Lifeguards' parachute game. All students worked especially hard for the whole time and thoroughly deserved their Sports Day stickers!

Ms L Young - Primary PE Teacher

Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball



Our Junior Varsity girls team is made up of hardworking students who have played a lot of games this season. Due to the strength of the team, most of the girls also competed in the Varsity competition as well. Whilst taking on the challenge of playing on both teams, the girls stayed motivated and improved in every single match.

The team has enjoyed some fantastic results in their friendly matches against the Cairo American College (CAC) and the American International School (AIS), winning both games. Natalie Aziz (G11Y) had to guard the strongest player of the other teams and was still able to steal the ball and score herself. It is delightful watching her playing and improving and she has become our best defender. Although Malak El-Attar (Y9Y) is fairly new to the game of basketball, she has a great attitude, has learned new skills and has proven herself to be a vital member of the team.

MES Cairo hosted the CISSA tournament on Friday 16th March 2018. Unfortunately for us, Layla Dajani (Y9R), one of our strongest players, was injured in the game before the CISSA tournament and wasn't able to finish the season. We look forward to having Layla back for next season! The team started the CISSA tournament with a tough match against AIS. Both teams played great defence, making it impossible for team to create a comfortable lead. The last minutes of the game were extremely

exciting with MES Cairo leading by just one basket. AIS played clever in the crunch time and managed to steal the ball. Luckily, every single member of our team stayed focused during those last seconds and showed on the willingness to fight for the victory. AIS had just one more opportunity to score a basket to send the game into overtime but they missed, enabling us to grab the rebound to make sure we retained the lead and won the thrilling match by only two points.

The second match of the day was against the International School of Choueifat. It didn't take long to recognise that Choueifat was the strongest team of the tournament. It was not possible to defeat this team but as coach, I was amazed to see that MES Cairo never once gave up and got the most out of the game. All members of the team enjoyed plenty of court time and learned a lot playing against the experienced Choueifat team. In the half time break the new target was to score more and defend better in the second half of the match. Both of those targets were completed successfully and our team finished the difficult match with a positive outcome.

The last match of the day was against CAC who lost to AIS by only a few points in an earlier match. Our girls, led by our strong ball handler, Azza Fouly (G9Y), started the game focused and got a comfortable lead early on. CAC seemed to be tired from their last game and were not able to mount a comeback. Our team reached their maximum potential and finished the tournament in second place behind the International School of Choueifat. Well done to everyone who took part!



Ms K Wohlberg – Basketball Team Coach



BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

SENIORS LEAD MES CAIRO COUGARS TEAM TO SUCCESS!

During the December Varsity Boys' Basketball try-outs, several of our Seniors had the same goal, which was to complete their MES Cairo athletic careers with a successful basketball season. It was clear early on that the team had a high level of talent and the desire to achieve their goal.

Several friendly games were played in preparation for the CISSA tournament that was to be held in February. George Apikian (G12B), Ismail El Mahdy (G12R), Omar Dajani (G12Y), Ahmed Swellem (Y12B), Seif Taha (Y12B) and Ismail Rageh (DP11R) made up the Senior team that provided the example of how to work together on the court. All the Seniors played vital roles in the development of the team.

When the CISSA event started, the MES Cairo team was poised ready to make a strong impression in the event. After an overtime loss in the first game, the team showed their maturity by remaining positive and they went on to win three of the next four games to finish in third place. The scoring was led by George Apikian

and Ismail El Mahdy. The defensive specialists Seif Taha and Ahmed Swellem put the team first as they concentrated their efforts onto shutting down the other teams' scoring threats. Team contributions from Marwan Seoudi (Y12Y), Mabrouk Sayerdayer (G11B) and Khaled Sadek (G11R) also provided additional scoring power and hustle coming off the bench. The team effort was rounded off by the power play duo of Omar Dajani and Mohamed Babli (Y11R) physically taking over the rebounding.

It was a pleasure to coach these fine student athletes and witness their growth throughout the Basketball season. I wish all our Seniors the best of luck and look forward to those underclassmen returning to make their own positive mark on the MES Cairo Sports programme.

Mr E Newton – Secondary Head of Physical Education



Varsity Girls' BASKETBALL

MES Cairo Varsity Girls' Basketball team is a very young and talented team made up of mostly Junior Varsity players.



In our friendly matches we faced some strong opponents with the American International School (AIS) and the Cairo American College (CAC), teams who have played and trained together for several years. Our MES Cairo players were keen to learn and improve with every opportunity.



Modern English School Cairo competed at the CISSA tournament hosted by CAC on 17th February 2018 with five of our six players having played the Junior Varsity tournament the day before. Scholarship student, Lana Mahmoud (G12R), joined the five Junior Varsity girls to take part in the Varsity tournament. She had also spent the day before at the JV tournament supporting her teammates from the side line and helping at the scoring table. Lana was a hardworking teammate during training and she also took on the role of organising our defence.

Although Lobna Kebir (Y10R) and Lara Majid (Y9R) were injured at the beginning of the Basketball season, they showed at the CISSA tournaments that they are extremely hardworking and talented players.

Lobna never turned the ball over and saved plenty of balls before going out of bounds. Lara is a player who seems to never get tired. It doesn't matter how many games she has played, Lara stays focussed and energetic, pulling her teammates up in difficult game situations.

Because of the great effort and willingness to keep playing hard even when MES Cairo was down, the girls were able to collect an important experience on the Varsity Basketball level and ready for years to come.

Maram Hussein (Y9O) and Jana Farid (Y9R), two other very young but experienced Basketball players, were able to show their Basketball knowledge and led the team through difficult game situations.

In our last friendly match of the season we competed one more time against AIS. The game started well with Nouri Zarki (Y9O) again demonstrating her strength shooting three pointers. Even though we lost all our previous matches to AIS, the MES Cairo team showed no fear. They were ready to show what they have learned in the last few weeks. They won the first quarter and kept the score close until halftime. The last quarter of the game was another great example of the braveness of our girls.

I have really enjoyed working with this team and know that with such a great attitude, the MES Cairo Varsity girls have a promising Basketball future ahead!

Ms K Wohlberg - Basketball Coach





BREAK OUT!

CISSA Girls Junior Varsity Football Tournament

18 January 2018



As she looked at the wall so strong and tall, she was moved to curse, "nobody ever climbed that wall, but we will be the first!"

The imposing grey concrete surrounding Lara El-Tobgui (Y10G) imprisoned her body and held her spirit captive. Trapped at the CISSA Junior Varsity Girls Football Tournament as a leader of a failing team, her helplessness appeared insuperable. After a 7-0 defeat to hosts AIS Egypt, the team Lara led were resigned to their condemnation. If that was only the first match, it only seemed plausible that the humiliation of last place was a foregone conclusion. The reasons for such a poor performance were multiple. Her team was much younger than the opponents, less experienced, had limited practices behind them and had been suddenly depleted by injuries to major players. Those shackles were going to be hard to discard. If only they could secretly climb those walls to liberty, they could at least avoid prolonging the inevitable fate that awaited them. Lara poked the soil of the grassy pitch with her boot, but even in January it was too firm for tunnel digging. Perhaps they could rush the guards or distract

them with some of the leftover contraband donuts from their nutritious breakfast?

Lara looked at the remnants of her fellow detainees. They stared back at her forlorn, but with a trace of hope in their eyes, waiting for some cunning escape plan. The burden of responsibility weighed heavily on Lara's young shoulders. She simply had to save them from this pending misery. As she scanned across the faces before her, tiny neurons twitched within her mind and a fresh confidence gradually started to form within. She was reminded that although they had all been labelled losers by the authority figures present, she knew those characters better than any official. She knew they had talent and she knew how to utilise it. That was the answer. They would not finish last. They would play their way to freedom! Lara had formed The Escape Committee.



Eight highly skilled individuals, known perhaps for their unorthodox methods, but also for their mental toughness:

Amina Hamed (Y9O), also known as 'Fastfingers', had lightning reactions. Nothing slipped easily from her grasp.

Nadia 'The Minder' Megahed (Y10B) took no prisoners (excuse the pun). Trouble could be kept at arm's-length when she was on a job with you.

Kenzi 'Icebox' Waguhi (Y10B) was more composed than a safecracker. When the whistles or even sirens sounded and panic ensued, Icebox would remain as cool as a cucumber and complete her assigned role calmly and methodically.

Habiba 'Smash and Grab' Aly (G10G) had the most frightening reputation of the group. If she saw something she liked, (most often a football), she usually got it. Unfortunately, that sometimes meant bending the rules a little and giving those in the way a few bruises. Good job she was on the right side!



Hana 'Brains' Elbadri (Y10B) helped put the game plan together. She could also command her own section and make intelligent decisions instantaneously. Just what was needed if things started to go 'pear shaped' again.

Hannah 'Wheels' Abouhussein (Y10B) was the fastest getaway operator on her wing. If you wanted something delivered and stashed quick (especially if it was round and white), you got Wheels on the case. No questions asked.

Fatma 'Trigger' Morsy (Y9G) rarely missed an opportunity to finish a job properly. She had no misgivings about shooting and always hit the target, without remorse it might be added. If anyone was going to silence a few loudmouths in the way it would be 'Trigger'.

And, of course, then there was the boss herself, Lara 'The Mole' El-Tobgui (Y10G) also known as 'Big X' (nothing related to her uniform size). Lara was respected by friend and foe alike. When Big X spoke, a room fell silent and you could hear a pin drop. Although it was often picked up quickly again straight after. Useful items pins. No one quite knew exactly why she was also known as The Mole. Some say she had dug her way out of many a tricky situation, although to be fair, often after digging her way in, in the first place. Others said it was because she could pop up unexpected and deliver a surprise right under the noses of the enemy, undetected like. It remained to be clarified.

If the any member of the 'A-Team' failed then Lara had backup ready and waiting in the guise of: Farida 'The Ferrett' Zeidan (Y9B) who could squeeze through the tightest of gaps chasing something small and fast. Shahd 'The Cooler Queen' Abdelmaksoud (G10G) who was likely to be on a disciplinary, even before the action started. Always a good form of distraction. Lara 'The Lookout' Majid Y9R. Sharpest eyesight on the block for sure. Taya 'Rocky' Razek (G10R). Some thought 'Rocky' meant tough, but others swore it was because of the way she moved across the yard in a side to side fashion, due to an old action wound.

Despairingly, holed up in the infirmary were three who would definitely not make it out that day. These were Shada 'One Arm' El Sonni (G10G), Layla 'One Foot' Sadek (Y9B) and Layla 'No Voice' Dajani (Y9Y). If anything, this escapade would be dedicated to their memories too.

Their next opponents, Hayah International Academy, had proven formidable adversaries in two past friendly encounters that season, including a tense away draw of 0-0. MES Cairo had no room for failure on this final encounter between the two sides.



Victory was now the only option. Being flung into the dungeon for last place losers was inconceivable.

The two gangs began facing off in a contest some considered a matter of life and death. Others thought it more important than that. Teamwork and efficiency were paramount in ensuring the plan was correctly executed, (rather than the participants). Each cog in the machinery worked its little task independently but the whole strategy succeeded as anticipated. The break out was imminent.

Although Fatma was very closely guarded, her protagonists realised squeezing a 'Trigger' can be extremely lethal. A clean shot from Fatma accomplished the formerly unthinkable. With first blood drawn, confidence and bravado replaced uncertainty.

Yet even though light could be glimpsed at the end of the tunnel, a few more problems had to be eliminated on the way through. That is when The Mole saw her opportunity and those witnessing her lightning speed reaction and precision timing would know from that day forward the true meaning of Lara's other pseudonym. Strike two had been accomplished. It was the stuff of fairytales, but this fortress had one final portcullis to overcome. With the path almost clear ahead, Fatma delivered a final blow of such power and brilliance, the whole structure around her almost came tumbling down. The impact brought alarm and then a severe rebuke from her leader, "You're only supposed to blow the ruddy doors off!"

Yet then they both turned their heads towards each other and grinned. The path of escape was clear. They had made it. They ran and ran until their liberated hearts were the only sounds audible, pumping wildly and echoing in their minds. Lara looked at the grey walls again. This time from the vantage point of freedom. She composed herself and collected her teammates around her. After three clean strikes with impunity, she knew it was Hayah who would be confined to last place and MES Cairo held their heads higher than those walls, held aloft in recognition of a single but significant victory. And that meant they were free at last!

Mr S Perry – Junior Varsity Girls' Football Coach



NETBALL



Term Two Netball is well underway with some old and new faces. Our U13 and U15 teams are currently participating in a triangular league with Malvern College and New Cairo British International School (NCBIS) and have so far completed one tournament. The competition was fierce but our girls secured three wins, which is a clear reflection of their hard work and commitment.

As well as local tournaments MES Cairo travelled to Abu Dhabi for the BSME Tournament. The level of the Netball was extremely high and our girls had to work incredibly hard to hold their own on a court with such advanced players. Our

players demonstrated determination and passion for the game, their team and their school. Congratulations to all the girls who represented MES Cairo at the international competition; they were a pleasure to watch and coach.

Both myself and Ms Elsaadany look forward to developing further as a club and continuing to work with all of the girls who have been a part of MES Cairo Netball. We hope the year continues with many more successes and celebrations.

Miss L Shepherd – Netball Team Coach



JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL

The Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Team has had an outstanding season. The Cougars finished with three wins and two losses suffering their only two defeats of the season against a tough American International School (AIS) team. Two victories over Cairo American College (CAC) and a victory over Choueifat earned the team second place in the CISSA Tournament on 16th February. Khaled Sadek (G11R) scored the most points for the Cougars this season, Mohamed Bablii (Y11R) had the most rebounds and Abdallah Gabr (G11Y) led the team in steals.

Well done to all involved!

Mr B Houghton – Basketball Team Coach



SECONDARY SPORTS DAYS



We had sunny weather and great performances at this year's MES Cairo Secondary Sports' Days.

As the temperatures soared, so did many of our students' performances. The annual Secondary Sports' Days here at MES Cairo focused on track and field performances as well as team sports. All Secondary students were able to choose different events to participate in. Before the Sports Day, all students spent time in Physical Education classes practising their skills as we counted down to the big event.





There were spectacular performances by individual athletes and by teams on both days. The overall effort of the students was outstanding and a healthy competitive atmosphere added to the competitions. Day One witnessed the Year/Grade Ten through DP Twelve students compete against each other while day two focused on the Year/Grade Seven through Nine students.

Throughout the two-day competition there were fourteen new records set and a number of personal bests reached by our MES Cairo Secondary School athletes.



We would like to thank all the students for their hard work, the teachers for their support and flexibility leading up to the event and everyone else who came out to cheer our students on as they pushed themselves to the limit.

Mr E Newton – Secondary HOD for Physical Education

MES CAIRO STUDENTS TAKE ON THE SWISS ALPS!



A group of forty eager and excited students travelled to Crans Montana, Switzerland for a week of skiing, team-building and outdoor adventure. A large percentage of students had never skied before and some had never even experienced snow, so it promised to be a tremendous learning experience for everyone involved.



Modern English School Cairo. More than once the chaperones accompanying the students were given positive feedback about our group's exemplary behaviour.

During the reflective part of the journey, several students also expressed how much they had enjoyed the trip, were proud of themselves for facing the many challenges presented and for showing the determination to reach their individual goals.

Mr E Newton – Secondary HOD Physical Education

We were greeted with cold temperatures and a bounty of snow upon arrival at our beautiful chalet in Crans Montana. Both students and staff were very excited to be in the snow.

Once the unpacking was complete, it was time to get kitted out and hit the slopes. Students were quick to pick up the basics of the winter sport and were off with their groups down the mountain. When we weren't on the slopes we all took part in various entertaining activities which included trivia night, snowshoeing, sledding, snowman building, a trip to the bowling alley and team-building activities which kept us all occupied.



As impressive as our students' ability to learn how to ski was the way they all behaved throughout the trip. From the time we all met at the school, travelling through the airports, to staying at the Chalet in Crans Montana, all of our students handled themselves as true ambassadors of



MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)



It has been another successful year of Model UN conferences. MES Cairo students participated in two conferences this year; one in Prague, Czech Republic and the other in Saint Petersburg, Russia. They took part in an enactment of UN committees dealing with some of the major issues of the world today. Students investigated world problems and formed possible solutions through writing resolutions - all of which is done from the perspective of the country they represented.

Participation in these conferences encourages global understanding and allows students to develop life-long skills of risk taking, problem solving, expressing their views, and a willingness to step outside of their comfort zone to experience a new country and culture.

We are very pleased with this year's participants, their hard work and commitment, and we anticipate another successful experience next year!

Ms C Flake - MUN Coordinator

Alumni Student Perspective

Going on MUN conferences was definitely one of the most rewarding things I did during my time at MES Cairo. Besides the obvious skills you learn in terms of researching current issues and travelling to new places, working with students from all over the world really broadened my mind and helped prepare me for cooperating with people from other cultures here at Oxford University where I am now studying Medicine. MUN also gave me the confidence to speak in front of large numbers of people and be able to argue my point concisely and effectively with people from a range of backgrounds. My MUN experience sowed the seeds for now being able to discuss issues with world-leading academics in tutorials and also with very bright and articulate Oxford students over dinner; all things that are now part of my daily reality at university.

Nader Raafat (Class of 2015)



Cairo to Vienna

Senior Trip Celebration



On 23rd February our Senior MES Cairo students travelled to Vienna, Austria on their Senior trip. The trip provided students with the opportunity to spend five days with school friends reminiscing and celebrating the years they have spent together at MES Cairo.

During their time in Vienna, students experienced the winter weather as they participated in activities throughout the city. A guided tour of the city provided an historical and contemporary overview of this famous European city. Students spent time visiting Schönbrunn Palace and Conservatory, the Historical Centre and Prater Amusement Park. Highlights of the trip were an evening ice-skating outside at the Vienna Rathausplatz Ice Rink, making music at the Museum of Sound and a celebratory dinner on the final evening at the Hard Rock Café. In their free time, students gathered at restaurants, cafes, museums and shopping centres creating new experiences and celebrating their long standing bond.

Mr D McKoski – Vice Principal, American Section



MESConians – Where Are They Now?

Alumni News

HELMY EL SAEED (CLASS OF 2007)

Helmy continues to astound us with his constant desire to raise awareness for charities and causes close to his heart. He also likes to break records! His latest venture was to CROSS EGYPT ON FOOT, no less.

The idea to walk across Egypt came following Helmy's achievement of the Guinness World Record in the summer of 2017 for the fastest bicycle crossing of the European continent; a journey completed in under twenty-nine days.

Next, Helmy and a small team of three other runners embarked on their challenge to walk from Aswan to Cairo. This was the first of its kind in Egypt and a new record was set. The journey took twenty-four days, walking a total distance of 898.8km which is a massive 1,087,707 steps. Helmy and Jomana, a fellow team member, completed the full distance of nearly 900km.

What an experience it must have been, walking from the Aswan Dam all the way to Gezira Youth Centre in Zamalek. On the one hand, it was a journey of blisters on feet, sunburn and painful calves. On the other hand, it was a marvellous opportunity to make new friends along the way and to see the Southernmost part of this beautiful country in a whole new light.

Helmy couldn't believe the hospitality that the group encountered with tea and raw sugarcane being offered practically everywhere. The kindness of the people they met motivated the group to push

forward and make every step count.

When asked about the main challenges, Helmy said "there were the physical and mental obstacles that one had to overcome to successfully cross the country on foot but the main purpose of this journey was to raise awareness on issues such as women's rights, gender equality and family planning and these were by far the hardest challenges. We met people who were for the cause and people who were against it and this has enlightened me to understand the different cultural and social roots that we have in this country. It has inspired me to understand more, and I aim to do as much as I can to make my country the best it can possibly be.

Congratulations to those who successfully finished the challenge and to the supportive team who helped them to complete it.

They would like to thank the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports who supported this campaign throughout.

Helmy is now in the process of creating a brand to organise these activities so keep an eye out for more news about his project in future editions of the Messenger.

Ms C Boswell – Publications Officer





MALAK EL MASRY

Class of 2006

I graduated from Modern English School Cairo in the summer of 2006 and went on to study International Business at the British University in Egypt (BUE). I graduated from BUE in 2010 and wanted to pursue a career in the arts but there were not many options in that area at that time. Still, I never let go of my dream and always believed in it.

My first job was as a member of the Marketing Team at the British University and where I worked for the next two years. A huge turning point for me took place in 2013 when I was offered my dream job at Google Middle East and North Africa. I worked with Google for two years in their Outreach and Educational Programmes Team, where I ran some of the biggest programmes reaching youth and developers in the Middle East and North Africa. My career shifted again into consulting for student and youth programmes when I joined 'Ahead of the Curve'; with a focus on training young social entrepreneurs that want to make true impact in their communities. Throughout this time, I returned to Modern English School Cairo many times to help with painting murals and volunteering in the school library. This school is and always will be, my second home. I also make time to perform live music with my band, *Trio* and I teach Latin Dancing part-time at Adams Dance Studio.



In 2010 and in parallel to the progress of my career, I launched Fantasiam, an art platform to promote and sell my artwork and murals. In 2017, I expanded this project to turn it into a platform for all artists, art lovers and those eager to buy and sell art. We recently launched our space in New Cairo. This base operates as an art gallery, art co-working space and art school. I left my full-time job and career to focus on my dream of growing this space for artists in Egypt, young talents and art lovers. My dream is that it will become a major hub for young talent and art lovers alike.

Always hold onto your dreams and remember that nothing is more important than working on something you love and believe in.

You can find out more at the following links: <https://www.facebook.com/FantasiamArt> and <https://www.facebook.com/triobandeg/>



LIFE IN OXFORD, UK

Nader Raafat (Class of 2015)



My time in Oxford, England has certainly been an adventure! In the three years since I left MES Cairo, no two Oxford days have been the same; from the people I've met to the events I've attended to the things I've learned, it's been a (fun!) rollercoaster ride, and one I'm very grateful to have experienced.

Academically, I've had some unique opportunities to learn Medical Science from people at the forefront of the field. I have tutorials in groups of two or three (and sometimes even one-on-one) with the very same people who are publishing the cutting-edge research in the field that I am learning about. In addition, I've had the opportunity to do some research myself, including a five-week project in Thailand. This gave me the opportunity to learn the 'ins and outs' of the scientific method and taught me a very healthy scepticism of the published results one sees in journals, now that I've had the 'behind-the-scenes' experience.

But life in Oxford (contrary to the myths) is about so much more than academics! Some of the extracurricular highlights of my time in Oxford have included the opportunity to work on a very ambitious student production of *Phantom of the Opera*, with a budget of about £14,000 and a crew of over forty people. It was a great way to continue my involvement in theatre, a position



generated by my involvement at MES Cairo. I have also had the wonderful experience of running the Athens marathon (the original marathon course)



and fundraising almost £1500 for Cancer Research in the process. Let it be said that Oxford students also know how to have fun beyond sports and theatre, with the Christ Church Commemoration Ball (basically a very very fancy prom all in tailcoats and bow-ties) being another highlight of my time there.

Finally, I think one of the things I've enjoyed most is the people I've met at Oxford. They are not only very bright, but also very passionate about what they do, be it academic or otherwise, and that makes for some very interesting conversations!

Being exposed to people from a very wide range of cultures and backgrounds has really opened my eyes to new ideas and helped me break down a lot of stereotypes. With thirteen Prime Ministers among the Christ Church alumni, it really isn't a stretch to say that I may have shared dinner with future leaders of their fields/countries. Not a bad perk to have a potential prime minister as a friend on Facebook!



MES CAIRO ACHIEVERS

Fagr (Y12B) and Farah Mostafa (Y12R)

Show-jumping Stars of Tomorrow



Over the recent half-term break, I had the pleasure of spending time at Kings Ranch, King Mariout at a national show-jumping competition with two wonderfully talented MES Cairo students. Twins Fagr (Y12B) and Farah Mostafa (Y12R) have always been athletic, beginning their sports careers in the highly competitive sport of gymnastics, where they represented Egypt in numerous international competitions as well as competing nationally for years. The twins were extremely successful gymnasts, but their competitive and daring characters led them to make a drastic change and move into the Equestrian sport, where both their mother and older sister were already established riders.



They have made impressive progress and are now taking part in highly competitive events, both locally and internationally. In February the girls competed in the *Junior Riders World Cup Qualifier Arab Ladies Cup* in the United Arab Emirates and spent two weeks in Sharjah getting acquainted with the horses they were going to compete with. They then competed against riders from all over the region. Farah managed to gain first place, a huge success for her personally, for her club and for Egypt and a welcome reward for all her efforts.

The girls, even though identical twins who share the same passion, have developed their own unique riding styles, which are equally impressive and successful. They show skill, talent, grace and boldness as they approach difficult fences and tackle tricky course designs. They are a testament to their family, school and country and are expected to continue to represent Egypt in future competitions.

Well done, Fagr and Farah. We are very proud of you and we know how hard you have worked and continue to do so whilst studying for your A levels and applying for universities in Egypt and abroad. **Ms Deena Abu Hassan – Year One Team Leader**



Farida Barakat (Y2B)

Gymnastics Star

At such a young age, Farida is already a keen and dedicated gymnast. In January at just seven years old, Farida competed in a gymnastics competition with her club in Cairo, taking home a Gold medal.

Well done Farida. Keep up the hard work!

Ahmed Rashed (Y5R)

Egyptian National Champion in Squash



Ahmed started his sporting career as a budding gymnast before moving across to squash at the age of seven years. He started showing potential in the sport by the age of nine years when he began competing at local tournaments. In April 2017, Ahmed won the Egyptian Nationwide Tournament for U11s at the age of ten.

Squash requires much dedication and Ahmed practises six days a week for up to 3 hours each time. All his hard work has resulted in

Ahmed becoming a member of the Egyptian National Squash Team. Ranked as the Number One Egyptian Squash Player in the U11 age group, Ahmed qualified for the British Junior Open. This is the first time in its history that the British Junior Open has held an U11 competition and Ahmed now holds the title for the very first 'U11 Champion' at this tournament beating forty-four other talented Squash players to this title.

Well done Ahmed. We wish you every success in the coming years as you continue to excel in your chosen sport.



Ms C Boswell – Publications Officer



MES CAIRO'S VERY OWN IRONWOMAN – MS GEORGINA DEAN!



Ironman 70.3 in Colombo, Sri Lanka took place on 25th February 2018. Ms Georgina Dean, a Year Four teacher in our Primary Department, took part in the race as

one of a group of thirteen individuals representing Egypt. Two years ago, Ms Dean watched athletes in the Budapest Ironman 70.3 and decided there and then that she was up for the challenge!

Ms Dean must have trained very hard over the past two years. The Ironman 70.3 in Sri Lanka is a demanding event consisting of; a 1.2-mile (1.9 km) swim in the Indian Ocean, a 56-mile (90 km) bike ride and a 13.1-mile (21.1 km) run around the harbour. The "70.3" refers to the total distance in miles (113.0 km) covered in the race. The Ironman 70.3 series culminates each year with a World Championship competition, for which competitors qualify during the 70.3 series in the 12 months prior to the championship race.

The Egyptian Ambassador hosted a 'welcome' for the team before the race and staff from the Embassy came along on

the day to cheer the group on and congratulate them at the finish line.

In challenging weather conditions, 33-degree heat, 73% humidity and with an injured ankle, Ms Dean achieved her goal and finished the race with a time of 7hrs 2-minutes.

With one Ironman 70.3 now under her belt, she is training hard for her 'Full Ironman' in 2019!

Well done, Ms Dean! We can't wait to hear about your 'Full Ironman' triumph!

Ms C Boswell – Publications Officer



THE MES CAIRO FAMILY CELEBRATES NEW BIRTHS!



Lujain Abou Elela

Ahmed Abou Elela and his wife, Lobna became very proud parents when they welcomed baby Lujain into the world on Friday 22nd December 2017 at 10.00am weighing a healthy 3.0kg. Proud dad, Ahmed is enjoying spending time with his adorable little girl.

Clara Maria Ailincăi

Madalina and Gheorge Ailincăi welcomed a new addition to their family when Clara Maria was born in Romania at 11.29am on Monday 1st April 2018.



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR TEACHERS



On 18th February 2018, we welcomed two visitors from the Community First Academy Trust, whose teacher training centre is considered by the Department for Education as 'Ofsted Outstanding'. The schools within the trust are located in a part of England near Manchester and several of our teachers enjoyed the opportunity to visit the trust as a Professional Development opportunity last summer.

The visit was a great opportunity to share ideas on how to continually secure outstanding teaching and learning as well as a chance to keep up to date with current educational practice in the UK. Our visitors enjoyed spending some time in both Primary and

Secondary classrooms and seeing how our students are benefitting from a range of teaching approaches to promote progress. There was also an opportunity for engaging in professional dialogue about mentoring, coaching and developing reflective practice.

We look forward to welcoming more staff from England here in Cairo and to having other MES Cairo teachers visit the UK again in the future.

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



British Embassy Carol Concert



and El Alsson all sent students to perform, which made a total of approximately one hundred students this year, led by MES Cairo.

The Concert was opened by the British Ambassador, Mr John Casson. It was then over to the students to sing a number of traditional Christmas Carols, such as 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' and 'O Come All Ye Faithful' along with some seasonal songs like 'The Shepherd's Calypso' and 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday'. The whole concert was finished off with 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' accompanied by a band made up of staff from all the schools.

As ever, our students did us proud with both their level of performance and their exemplary behaviour.

Many thanks to Mr Harper, Mr Cullen and Ms Fiddy for their help and support throughout the afternoon and evening.

Mr J Tomlinson – Primary Head of Music



As Christmas approached, a number of students from Years Four, Five and Six travelled to the British Embassy, Cairo to help lead the annual Christmas Carol Concert.

Keeping with tradition, they were joined by students from four other international schools. British International School Cairo, Maadi British International School, New Cairo British International School



SEASONAL CONCERT



This year's Seasonal Concert opened with the Staff Choir singing traditional Carols, as students, parents and staff took their seats. Soon the attention of the audience was drawn to a stage set in the Pine Forests of Lapland, close to the North Pole, the home of Santa Claus!

On stage, the parents of two extremely excited children were observed expressing their joy that their children (Danny Zaher Y3R and Mariam Attalla Y3G) were finally in bed. However, their peace was short-lived as the children came screeching downstairs proclaiming that they were too excited to sleep and requested a bedtime story. Mum (Yumi Star Y6V) ordered them straight back to bed but Dad (Daniel El Masarany Y6R) relented and began his favourite childhood story of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.



The story began with the Key Stage One students entering the auditorium through the audience dressed in an array of Christmas colours. Five snowmen set the scene for the introduction of Rudolph (Ella Tomlinson FS2B and Talia Attalia Y2B), by his parents, Mr and Mrs Donner (Adam Hady Y5V and Amelia Ingham Y6R), to Santa (Mr Billy Masuck). However, Mr and Mrs Donner's excitement turned to dismay when Rudolph looked up and his nose glowed red! Quickly, Rudolph was fitted with a false nose and the problem was solved. But it all went wrong at the reindeer games, an event which prepared the young reindeers to pull Santa's sleigh. While Rudolph was showing off his running

and jumping, his nose fell off, revealing his own glowing red nose. Straight away, he was rejected by all the other reindeers except one reindeer, Clarice (Phoebe Williams Y2B), who said she actually liked his nose. Nevertheless, Santa was upset and walked away saying that Rudolph would never pull his sleigh.

Meanwhile back at the toy factory, the little Elves were busy getting the toys ready for Santa's sack. All the elves were happy in their work except for one little elf, Hermie (Amira Higgs Y2B); he shocked everyone by declaring that he wanted to be a dentist. "A Dentist?" exclaimed the head elf (Chris Marcos Y2R)! Just like Rudolph, Hermie felt rejected by everyone except one elf who had a secret too; she wanted to be a vet. Rudolph and Hermie left their homes feeling very sad and rejected because they were different from everyone else and, therefore, did not fit in.



Christmas Eve arrived, along with a huge snowstorm; the worst that had ever been. Santa declared that he was unable to deliver the presents, as he would not be able to see his way through the blizzard. The reindeers had a good idea and suggested that if they could find Rudolph, he could guide the sleigh with his bright red nose. After searching through the snow storm, Rudolph was found and he duly saved the day.





Of course, Santa in our Seasonal Concert was not the real Santa; it was Mr Billy playing the part. So, where was the real Santa? One of the adult elves spread a little elf dust and from the back of the theatre, to the delight of the students, the real Santa, resplendent with heavy sack, appeared with a small gift for everyone.

Back in the living room and with the story of Rudolph completed, the children were still not sleepy. Naturally, they were so



pleased to see their grandmother (Karen Youssef Y6G) arrive who agreed to share her favourite story with them; the very first Christmas story. Grandma's story began with Mary

(Angelina Girguis Y5B) and Joseph (Taymour Wakid Y4G) making their way to Bethlehem. With the theatre in darkness, the Key Stage Two Choir entered singing, O little Town of Bethlehem and simultaneously lit up the stage with candles. Mary and Joseph asked the Choir members if there was any room at the Inn? Finally, they found an Inn Keeper (Jolina Adel Y5R) willing to take them to a stable and it was that very place that the special baby was born.

Far away in the East, a new star was seen in the sky and three wise people decided to follow it. As the choir shared their song, We Three Kings, the wise people (Pierre Shenouda Y6O, Marcel Habeish Y6G and Christiano Habib Y3B) carried their gifts towards the stable. Out in the hills around Bethlehem, there were shepherds (Alber Alber Y5V, Sarah Gerges Y5O and Amir Matta Y4Y) looking after their sheep. A host of Angels (Lara Thabet Y5V, Laila Malek Y3V, Karma Kirolos Y4V, Joyce Merhom Y4V and Sophie Rayner Y3V) appeared singing, Hark the Herald, and brought good news to the shepherds. As the shepherds rushed to find the baby, a lively Shepherds Calypso song encouraged

them along their way. The kings presented their rich gifts and the shepherds brought a sheep. However, there was one who made his way to the baby, to the sound of the soulful song, Little Drummer Boy (Zain Shalaan Y3R), who had nothing in the world to give. It was the drummer boy who demonstrated the real meaning of giving; that it is not the value but the thought, by giving the only thing he had... his drum.

The Key Stage Two Choir completed their programme with a joyous rendition of Joy to the World and back in the family house, the parents were finally left in peace with sleeping children. The choir rehearsed their programme of songs both at home and in school. They sang beautifully and delivered the story of the nativity with a very special message of what it means to give.



It was an amazing concert, full of joy, with students from Foundation Stage through to Year/Grade/DP Twelve, along with a number of teachers, sharing in the performance. Everyone that took part spent weeks practising and although it was hard work, the students mastered their lines, participated, with diligence and enthusiasm, during the rehearsals, acted quite brilliantly on the stage and those wearing costumes looked fantastic.

In the Second part of the concert, we were thrilled by the brilliant voices of the Secondary and Staff Choirs. The CAScade Choir (IBDP) regaled us with an excellent performance of Feliz Navidad,



the Staff Choir/ CAScade performed Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and the Staff Choir sang their version of Masters in This Hall. The American High School Choir treated us to their renditions

of Winter Song (featuring soloist Sandra Massoud G12Y), There's Still My Joy (featuring soloist Mariam Abdallah G11B) and Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas. The sound the choirs produced was magnificent, creating a powerful, roof-raising climax to a wonderful concert that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Thank you to Mr B Masuck, Mr D Mulligan, Mr J Tomlinson, Ms M Glancy, Ms A Holmes, Ms J Boukatayya, Mr D Tomlin, Mr K Cullen and Mr J Harper for all their hard work in making sure this year's Seasonal Concert was spectacular.

Ms T Nissan – Primary Deputy Headteacher



MESMERISED





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

Our Mission

Leadership through Education: Caring, Challenging, Inspiring

We believe in:

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

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