

MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO - MAGAZINE

# MESSENGER



EDITION NO. 60 DECEMBER 2018

**MAKING EVERY DAY MATTER**



**Graduation, 2018 Results, Curriculum News, Sportsdesk, Meet our New Teachers, IBDP CAS Trip to Aswan and so much more!**

# CONTENTS

Whole School Principal Foreword	3	Foundation Stage One	56
Graduation Ceremony	4	Foundation Stage Two	57
Pink Day - Breast Cancer Awareness Month	6	Year One	58
MESConian News	8	Year Two	59
British Section Results	10	Year Three Concert - Secrets of the Sands	60
IBDP Results	11	Year Four	61
American Section Results	12	Year Five	62
Senior Student Leaders	13	Year Six Leavers' Day	63
IBDP News	18	Year Six Production	64
UK Universities Update	21	Primary School Council	65
Secondary School Council	22	MES Cairo Welcomes New Teachers	66
Grade Seven and Eight Field Trips	22	Staff Professional Development	77
Year Six to Year Seven Transition Day	24	Secondary Pioneers	79
Year Seven News	25	Primary Pioneers	81
Secondary Maths Focus	29	Primary ASA Programme	82
Year Eight Industry Day	30	Secondary ASA Programme	83
Secondary English Focus	31	International Award	84
Grade Seven to Nine Back to School Nights	34	NHS/NJHS Induction Ceremony	85
Expressive Arts	35	Secondary House News	86
E-Safety Workshop	43	IBDP CAS Trip	88
MES Cairo Achievers	44	Learning Development/Gifted and Talented	91
Barnum Spoiler	45	MESConian News – Where are the now?	93
Peripatetic Music	46	Halloween Spooktacular	94
Secondary Sportsdesk	47	Remembrance Day	95
Primary Sportsdesk	53	New Births	95



# WHOLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FOREWORD

Make Every Day Matter! That has been my mantra since school began this academic year; students and teachers at MES Cairo hear me say it often. The adults amongst us realise that life is short; the children in our care take some convincing. The beauty of youth is that there always seems to be a tomorrow and the concept of Carpe Diem (seizing the day) seems unnecessary when you assume that there is always the future to do what you don't feel inclined to do now. In journeying from childhood to adulthood we come to the realisation that tomorrow will be even better if we embrace a commitment to doing what can be done today.

At MES Cairo we pack so much into a school day and there are extraordinary opportunities to take advantage of. From the arrival of students early morning to their time of departure at 3.00pm, 4.30pm or later depending upon the events calendared for that particular day, our students are cared for, challenged and inspired in so many different ways. The most difficult thing for many students is to manage time so that everything they want to achieve in a day can be achieved!

My challenge to all students (all people, in fact!) is to reflect at the end of each day: What did you do? How did you grow? What did you learn? Consider how the day 'that was' changed you or your life for the better. If you are feeling satisfied and tired respond to that with a plan for a slower pace the next day; if you are feeling dissatisfied with your accomplishments, then plan to achieve more in the days which follow.

Making the most of every day starts with being present. That means more than just regular attendance and fulfilling the stated requirement of days spent at school. It means engagement. To make every day matter you must really experience it, not live vicariously through the experiences of others alone. By taking risks, by volunteering, by leading, our students learn far more than they do when simply told what it was like by someone else who did it. By participating in their learning, by committing to an ASA, by extending their enquiry into things that interest them they become more intelligent and interesting people. And that is our aspiration for all MES Cairo students.

Our MESsenger magazine serves to celebrate the students who strive to make the most of every day. They are featured in articles and photos published here because they were 'there' in the moment and engaged in the event. If you find yourself within these pages, be proud of your achievements; if you cannot then set the challenge to participate and engage: make every day matter.

**Mrs Nicola Singleton - Whole School Principal**



# MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

## 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JOINT AMERICAN/BRITISH and IBDP GRADUATION CEREMONY

### CLASS OF 2018

**JUNE 2018**

MES Cairo's Graduation Ceremony 2018 started with a gripping group performance of the poem *The Journey* by Jalal Al-Din Rumi. The moving performance was directed by Jonathan Todd (Dean of Students, Grade Nine and Ten) and performed by MES Cairo students, who recited their lines with passion as they set a tone of pride and highlighted the theme of new horizons for the remainder of the ceremony ahead.



The guests were greeted with a warm welcome from Mrs Nicola Singleton (Whole School Principal). As is tradition at MES Cairo, the Class of 2018 entered the arena heads held high, led by their Principal and Headteacher and accompanied by Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*.



Guests were led in the singing of the National Anthem of the Arab Republic of Egypt by the High School Choir. This was followed by a beautiful Quran Reading given by Omar Sadek (Graduating Senior).

An atmosphere of pride and anticipation continued to build as the High School Choir entertained us with a rendition of the MES Cairo

School Song *To MES Be True* (by Daniel Tomlin and Ghada Dajani). This was followed by the High School Choir giving a heart-warming performance of the popular song *This is Me* from the musical film: 'The Greatest Showman'.

Mrs Sawsan Dajani (Chairman of the Board) addressed the Class of 2018 in an inspirational speech that encouraged the students to always be proud of their country and heritage: "While I wish for you to find your own paths and to soar to previously unattainable heights, I also wish for you to remain



anchored in yourself and be proud of who you are, of your families and of your culture". She reminded the Class of 2018 that 'home' may now seem restrictive but all the rules and the strictures, "those are the very things which help stabilise you when you are at your greatest elevation. They will support and centre you and allow you to find your way in life without

feeling lost or alone". Mrs Dajani also reminded the students of the importance of performing selfless service as they have always done at MES Cairo. "From helping someone in need to offering a simple smile or friendly word... these things will bring more happiness and more gratification than you can imagine and the memory of it, stays with you, seemingly forever."

Mrs Dajani's words elevated our spirits and every single member of the audience was stirred by her motivational advice. After concluding her remarks, she introduced our Guest of Honour and speaker, "the esteemed and accomplished, His Excellency Mr Tarek Amer, Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt. Mr Amer is a proud AUCian and while giving a speech at his alma mater recently, he advised





students to take a stand and have a clear path and direction when it comes to ones' principles toward the community at large. His words leave a mark on all who hear them: "We are here to serve people; we are not here to serve ourselves. You cannot be afraid to voice your opinion. Community always comes first."



Mr Amer congratulated the Class of 2018 warmly and his highly inspirational words had an especially authentic meaning, as he himself is a parent of the Class of 2018. He encouraged the graduating students to go out into the world and to gain as much varied experience of life as possible, whilst always remembering to honour self, family, community and country.

The excitement continued to build as we were entertained by a powerful performance of *You Will Be Found* (by Pasek and Paul) sung by the High School Choir and Staff Choir. The giant screens that flagged the stage showed an emotive video of the Class of 2018. The video contrasted images of them as infants with images of each student as a young adult. There was hardly a dry eye in the house as parents, grandparents and teachers contemplated the tremendous growth of these young people and how much they had grown to reach this final stage in their MES Cairo journey.

This uplifting moment was followed by further inspiration when we were addressed by graduating Seniors Laila Gamaleldin (American Section)



and Lana El Seesi (IBDP Section). The students spoke with a sophisticated clarity and maturity that was way beyond their years, as they motivated their peers to go out into the world and make a positive difference.

Perhaps the loveliest moment of the Ceremony came next, when we were entertained by the Primary Choir and Carol Atta (G11R), singing a beautiful song about Egypt: "Misr El-Laty Fe Khater" (by Ahmed Ramy and Riad Sonbaty).

Ms Ghada Dajani (Managing Director) announced each student's name with great pride as she conducted the Presentation of High School Diploma and Leaving Certificates. During the presentation, one student was surprised and delighted to be presented with The European Council of International Schools (ECIS) award for outstanding achievement: Omar Hesham Sadek (British Section).

As the final student crossed the stage, anticipation and excitement had reached peak levels. Mrs Nicola Singleton took to the lectern again to give her closing remarks. Proudly, she invited the Class of 2018 to stand to attention. Finally, they received the signal to throw their caps high up into the night sky. The sound of Vivaldi's Four Seasons filled the arena and as the caps came down to light across the graduation stage, our Class of 2018 joined their families and teachers to celebrate one of the proudest moments of their lives.

**Ms S Sheehan - Assistant Headteacher, IBDP Coordinator**





# PINK DAY

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The month of October is regarded as Breast Cancer awareness month around the world. Different days during the month are adopted as *PINK* days in different countries with pink ribbons being the symbol associated with this particular form of Cancer.



MES Cairo collaborated with the Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt (BCFE) to raise funds to support their hard work in the areas of research, prevention/early detection education and support of breast cancer patients. The fundraising took the form of a *Pink Day Pack* which included an event cookie, symbolic ribbon pin, event t-shirt and a strawberry milk that students and staff could pre-order. Other merchandise was available for purchase in the run up to Pink Day with students and staff acquiring ribbons and wristbands.



In addition to fundraising specific to Breast Cancer, as a school we raised awareness with all students in age-appropriate ways. Our younger students in Primary focused on health, fitness and well-being with our Year Six Pioneers doing an outstanding job encouraging Primary students to live a healthy lifestyle through a morning *wake and shake* and by offering a number of break time activities. Our Foundation Stage One team of teachers and TLAs looked fantastically pink in their handcrafted Crayola Crayon costumes and our Year Six teachers, not to be outdone, came to school dressed as very pink flamingos! Our Secondary students learned about the science of Cancer and the importance of early detection and prevention (where possible).







All profits made from the sale of the themed items were donated in full to the Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt on behalf of the MES Cairo community. Representatives from the Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt came into school and were delighted to receive a cheque for 110,000LE presented by our Chairman of the Board, Mrs Sawsan Dajani, Ms Ghada Dajani and some of our Primary Pioneers led activities throughout Primary on Pink Day. 110,000LE was raised by MES Cairo, an amount that will make a big difference in support of their national campaign to educate women about prevention and the services they provide to those who are diagnosed.



**Ms C Boswell - Publications Officer**

## Foundation Stage Two get into the Spirit of Pink Day

Our younger students and staff enjoyed an exciting array of activities focusing on healthy bodies and minds. They started the day with a *wake and shake* led by our very able Year Six Pioneers. The next activity was a trip to the kitchen where the students made a delicious fruit salad and learned about healthy and unhealthy foods. They took part in a relaxing Yoga session learning the importance of a healthy mind and good sleep routines before finally taking part in a *Catch the Carrot* race with Ms Sara from FS2Y playing the part of the carrot! For most of the students, this was their favourite activity of the day. They were very excited to show off their sporting prowess and catch the carrot.

**Ms S MacDonald - Foundation Stage Two Year Leader**





# THE MES CAIRO FAMILY



*At MES Cairo a family ethos is essential to our school's philosophy and culture. Despite being a family of thousands, we work very hard to maintain personal connections and ensure that everyone is appreciated for their individual talents and capabilities.*

*Sometimes, our family-centeredness is philosophical and abstract, such as when we talk about the responsibilities older students have to set a good example for their younger 'brothers and sisters' in Primary, or how we foster a healthy sense of friendly rivalry through our 'House System'.*

*Other times, our aim to achieve a sense of 'family' within the extended MES Cairo community is very literal, such as in the number of actual siblings and cousins we have on roll, the alumni who are now enrolling their children in our school, and amongst our staff families.*

*The importance of family was revisited in spectacular style in mid-October, when two MES Cairo families, once independent of each other but united through their shared MES Cairo experience, were brought together...*



## A very real MES Cairo Love Story!

In late September I received a message from Hussein Houta (Class of 2012), requesting that I call him at home in the UK to discuss a 'personal matter'. Over the years I have maintained fond memories of Hussein when he was a student at MES Cairo. Always the one in his year group to push difficult agendas and rarely ever satisfied with the explanation he was given whenever I (and logic and reason!) had to tell him 'no' over a good idea he had to improve the school! Even when with us as a student it was obvious that he was clever. An entrepreneur, a deep thinker, an innovator and someone with the ability to put virtually any plan in to action, including the introduction of Rugby to our ASA offer despite Ms Ghada's resistance!

On that same day, I had a chance encounter with Tamara Azmy in Year Nine, younger sister of MES Cairo alumnus from the same graduating class as Hussein: Farah Azmy. Through the alumni network I had heard that Farah had successfully completed her university studies in Cairo and was working for Proctor and Gamble. She too was a student of great promise whilst at MES Cairo, particularly on the football pitch through her determination and conviction, but also in the classroom where she rose to the challenge of the Diploma Programme in her final two years as a student with us. I heard from an excited Tamara that Hussein wanted to speak to me and I learned that he had something special he needed the school's help with.







Excitement took over and my mind pieced two and two (or rather one and one) together. I recalled that Hussein and Farah had been good friends during their school years and that Farah's beaming smile grew broader whenever I saw her in Hussein's company. He had headed off to study in the UK post-graduation and she had remained in Egypt yet, I was to learn, they had maintained close contact over the years. Hussein and I connected, and plans were unveiled. He wanted to ask Farah to marry him on the steps to our school's Multi-purpose Hall amongst family and friends.

And so, during the early evening of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018, with an immense amount of joy, pride and delight, we played a small part in the most romantic event in our school's history.

Farah had no idea of plans. Under the guise that she was dropping her younger sister to school for a musical rehearsal, Farah farewelled Tamara at Gate Four. Thirty minutes later Farah received a call from me telling her that her sister had had an unfortunate accident at school and requesting that she collect her and take her to hospital with our school doctor.

Farah returned to school almost immediately and I met her at Gate One; she was distressed and concerned about her sister and I felt extremely cruel embellishing the fabricated story and causing further worry. We walked into the reception and out the exit towards the Multi-purpose Hall. Strategically placed on the floor was an upturned photograph of Hussein and Farah at their school graduation which I picked up and commented on as being an unusual coincidence. Farah was perplexed at the sight of the photograph and asked if black magic was at play as she tried to process how her unplanned visit to school could occur at the same time as an old photograph of her happened to find its way along her path. And then we turned the corner. Farah was greeted by the magical site of a thousand fairy lights, hundreds of photographic memories and an aisle of beautiful flowers. Sister, Tamara serenaded Hussein and Farah as he softly shared thoughts of his adoration, respect and love before descending on to one knee and asking her to marry him. Tears flowed as dozens of close friends and family, including MES Cairo alumni poured out of the Multi-purpose Hall entrance to celebrate with the happy couple.

The days that followed were a whirlwind of family celebrations and wedding planning before Hussein headed back to the UK. He found time to visit school again, this time to thank Mrs Dajani and Ghada for their extensive support of his plans and welcoming him back to school for such a significant event. In Hussein's words: "MES Cairo holds a special place in our hearts and there is nowhere on earth I would have rather asked for her hand in marriage than here where Farah and I met and where we both feel so at home."

**Mrs N Singleton - Whole School Principal**





# BRITISH SECTION EXTERNAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

Students and staff are celebrating after another excellent year of external examination results.

Firstly, congratulations to our English as a First Language students and Mathematics IGCSE students who outperformed their counterparts in the UK.

A particular mention should go to the following students who each achieved outstanding individual results. Firstly, **Nour Zaki (Y11B)**, who passed nine IGCSEs at A\* and A grades whilst still participating in the wider school curriculum being an integral player of MES Cairo's Varsity Football team, an MUN representative at the MUN conference and also found time to join the school's annual ski trip.

Special mention also goes out to **Hagar Badawy (DP11Y)** and **Maya Raafat (Y11Y)** who both secured nine IGCSE passes, eight of which were A\* and As.

Other notable achievements included **Yasseen El Adl (DP11R)**, **Ahmed Mohamed Ismail (DP11R)**, **Aly Ahmed Khalifa (Y11Y)** and **Nour El-Ezabi (DP11R)** who passed eight IGCSEs of which seven were awarded a pass at A\*/A grade. Congratulations to all!

Once again these are a fantastic set of results for our students who have worked hard alongside their teachers during the year to meet their individual targets. Our focus is on the individual student and it is a tribute to so many of our student body who exceed their targets and who can be confident that they have done their best.

Our students' hard work and positive attitudes have paid off and these results will stand them in good stead as they embrace the challenges ahead and navigate the next all important two years of their learning journey.

AS students too should be proud of their results. Congratulations to **Abdallah Youssef Mahmoud (Y12B)**, who passed four AS levels at A grade and to **Mira Zaki (Y12B)**, **Ismail Ahmed Rizkana (Y12R)**, **Nour Elcoptan (Y12B)**, **Karim Tarek Ramadan (Y12R)** and **Farah Hasan Kabesh (Y12Y)** who were awarded three AS levels at A grade. Subjects include

Information Technology, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Studies, Economics, Literature, Psychology, and History.

Further Mathematics has been the latest addition to our A Level curriculum options. The programme is growing and we look forward to the numbers increasing next year as the curriculum content changes.

However, one student does stand out this year, **Yousef Moustafa (Y12R)**. Yousef, a gifted Mathematician passed A Level Mathematics at the end of Year Ten. Yousef has now passed four A levels after the completion of Year Eleven - A\* Computer Science A\* Physics, A Further Mathematics. In addition to his A\* grade in Mathematics last year and aspirations to attend MIT or Cambridge University, we wish him well as he continues to study MIT Mathematics courses online.

Congratulations go to the following students who achieved at least three A\*/A at A Level: **Karim El-Bouri**, **Omar Sadek**, **Mohamed Hossam Hammad**, **Aisha Morsy**, **Omar Marouf**, **Seifeldin Abdelhamid Taha**, **Ahmed Mohamed Ismail**, **Nay Assassa**, **Sherif Toma** and **Yasser Dabees**.

Congratulations also go out to the staff and students of eleven subject areas which achieved a 100% Pass rate at A Level.

These are an outstanding set of results. I would like to thank our students for their hard work, enthusiasm, kindness, maturity and sense of fun that enriched our school community. We wish them every success as they embark on their university courses.

**Mrs L Talbot - Headteacher, British Section**



Yousef Moustafa  
(Y12R)



Farah Hasan Kabesh  
(Y12Y)



Ismail Hazim Rizkana  
(Y12R)



Karim Tarek Ramadan  
(Y12R)



Mira Emad Zaki  
(Y12B)



Nour Elwy Elcoptan  
(Y12B)



Nour Zaki (Y11B)



Maya Raafat (Y11Y)



Hagar Badawy  
(DP11Y)



Abdallah Youssef  
Mahmoud (Y12B)





## MES CAIRO'S INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SECTION CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

The IBDP Programme continues to gain momentum globally and the year that the IB celebrates 50 years of delivering "education for a better world", over 160,000 students receive their Diploma Programme (DP) results, joining a community of more than 1.7 million lifelong learners. This year, IB students around the world achieved an average diploma score of 29 points. May of 2018 saw MES Cairo students take the IBDP exams for the eleventh year. There were 17 students in the May cohort. Over 50% scored over 30 points, with a class average of 32 points overall. When compared with the global average, these results place MES Cairo at +3 points above the world average score.



Our highest scorers this year were Lana El Seesi (IBDP scholarship student 2017-18) and Nabil Lotfi, each scoring an impressive 38 points. This score is considered by the Qualifications and Assessment Authority in the UK to be higher than 5A grades at A-level or equivalent and is typically only achieved by fewer than 8% of IB students worldwide. We are delighted with all of our students' achievements, as each student rose well above their baseline test predictions. This means that our DP students are receiving a top-quality education and are being supported to do their very best - every step of the way. Credit must be given to our dedicated team of MES Cairo IBDP teachers who worked hard to make sure the Class of 2018 did their very best, as always. Our subject scores were higher than the world average scores in 17 subject areas, which is a phenomenal achievement!

The majority of our IBDP 2018 graduates have headed off to top universities in the UK, Canada, USA and Egypt. We wish them all the very best of luck in their future careers.



Lana El Seesi  
(Class of 2018)



Nabil Lotfi  
(Class of 2018)

Modern English School Cairo has been offering the International Baccalaureate IB Diploma Programme since 2006. The programme is designed to give students a broad, well-rounded international education and develop the skills needed for success at university and beyond.

On results day in July 2018, Dr Siva Kumari, Director General of the IB said: "I wholeheartedly congratulate the May 2018 graduates. They are to be highly commended for their hard work, their drive and commitment. Research suggests that an IB diploma is the best preparation for further education and for future careers. IB graduates show continued curiosity and critical thinking throughout their lives. These are the skills of the future, as both universities and employers attest. IB graduates are highly prepared to contribute to their own communities and, increasingly, to help find solutions to the broader challenges facing the world. I wish this year's graduates all the best for the future and for making a better world through education".

Congratulations to the MES Cairo IBDP Class of 2018!

**Ms S Sheehan – Assistant Headteacher/IBDP Coordinator**





# AMERICAN SECTION EXTERNAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

## AP and University Acceptance

Internationally there are over 21,000 institutions offering Advanced Placement (AP) courses, culminating in over 2.8 million students taking 5.1 million AP examinations. Students can start taking AP exams as soon as they are academically ready, and some schools offer AP courses in Grade Eight. Due to Ministry requirements and those of the US Diploma, schools in Egypt begin offering AP courses in Grade Ten.

There are 22 schools offering the AP Programme in Egypt with 646 exams taken during this last academic year. During the 2017-18 academic year, 65 MES Cairo students confronted the challenge and enrolled in 118 college level classes and took the subsequent College Board examinations. 62% of MES Cairo students scored 3.0 or higher as a means average on all tests taken.

MES Cairo offered 15 different AP courses during the 2017-18 academic year. MES Cairo students scored higher than the Egyptian average in 11 of the 15 courses. MES Cairo's mean average was greater than the Egyptian and Global averages in the following subjects: Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, Computer Science Principles, English Language and Composition, Macroeconomics, and Physics II.

Fifteen MES Cairo students were recognised internationally for their performance on their AP examinations earning the titles of AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honors, AP Scholar with Distinction, and AP International Diploma. Those that will be attending universities affiliated with the United States will be eligible for scholarship funds for their performance on the AP examinations.

**AP Scholars:** took 3 or more AP examinations and scored 3.0 or higher:

**Omar Abou Bakr, Omar Abou El Nour, Abdallah Gabr, Marihan Hamdoun, Sarah Kamel, Abdel Wahab Kouta, Nuur Mourey and Alia Sabbour**

\*\* MES Cairo AP Scholars average scores = 3.30

**AP Scholars with Honors:** took 4 or more AP examinations and scored 3.25 or higher: **Zeina Badawy, Maya Fahmy and Lara Salem**

\*\* MES Cairo AP Scholars with Honors average scores = 3.83

**AP Scholars with Distinction:** took 5 or more AP examinations and scored 3.5 or higher: **Laila Gamaleldin, Ahmed Ibrahim, Sandra Massoud and Mohamed Taymour**

\*\* MES Cairo AP Scholars with Distinction average score = 4.22

**AP International Diploma:** took 5 or more AP examinations in three or more subject areas and scored 3 or higher: **Laila Gamaleldin**

\*\* MES Cairo AP International Diploma average score = 4.57

The American Section graduates have enrolled in some of the top schools in the United States, UK, and Europe. Universities in the United States and Canada that American Section students were accepted to in the Fall of 2017 include: Brown University, New York University, University of Toronto, University of Connecticut, and San Diego State University.

Some of the UK and European universities that our graduates are attending are: King's College, Surrey University, Sussex University, University of Reading, Hamburg University, and University of Leeds.

**Ms C Flake - Dean of Students, Grades Eleven and Twelve, American Section**



Nuur Mourey (G12G)



Omar Abou Bakr (G11R)



Omar Abouel-Nour (G12Y)



Sandra Massoud (G12Y)



Sarah Kamel (G11R)



Zeina Badawy (G11R)



Abdallah Gabr (G11Y)



Abdel-Wahab Kouta (G12B)



Ahmed Ibrahim (G12R)



Alia Sabbour (G12R)



Laila Gamaleldin (G12G)



Lara Salem (G12Y)



Marihan Hamdoun (G12B)



Maya Fahmy (G11R)



Mohamed Taymour (G12R)



# SENIOR STUDENT LEADERS

## American Section

### Khaled Sadek (G12Y)

#### What was your greatest academic achievement?

As the Academic Scholarship recipient for the American Section in the year 2018-2019, I was able to attain this great achievement through dedicating myself to school and sports as well as prioritising my Advanced Placement Studies.

#### What is your greatest extra-curricular achievement?

I would say my top athletic achievement was receiving the "Most Valuable Player" award (MVP) in Varsity Basketball. However, in terms of extra-curricular, embarking on the International Award trip in Cyprus and being granted the Silver Award was by far the most celebrated accomplishment. It was the most intensely painful trip I've ever been on! Completing the journey successfully evoked an unmatched state of just awkwardly smiling and not being able to express any emotion other than happiness.

#### Who inspires you?

My father inspires me to be optimistic and to think outside the box. He taught me many traits, of which leadership is the most important. He always knows what to do and how to deal with life in general, which pushes me to be like him more and more. I aspire to reach my father's level of success one day, since he built himself brick by brick. He was always unconditionally supportive of my choices, and I hope I could do the same for my children one day.

#### What advice do you have to give to the MES Cairo leaders of the future?

To confront the crisis of ethics and integrity in our world today. From my experiences, and from hearing from leaders I've worked with, integrity is the most valuable asset anyone will ever have: a powerful idea, influenced by our time at MES Cairo. As a leader they will need to be ethical. They will have to set goals for themselves and attain them, even under excruciating circumstances.

Great leaders will unleash people's potential. They will actively look for ways to give you exposure to different kinds of people in the school. They will mentor you, give you the tough feedback when you need it, and they will always be in your corner. These are the things they need to be looking to achieve and they will have to keep in mind that while

students at school may possess strong leadership attributes themselves, they will either be amplified by a great leader, or suppressed by a weak or mediocre leader.

#### If you could have one super power, what would you like it to be and why?

If I could have one super power, it would be "intangibility". "Intangibility" is the ability to phase through solid matter without harm. It would be significant because you could walk through walls and never be locked out of your house or car because a key wouldn't be necessary. However, it would come in handy at school especially, since you could avoid crowds in breaks and on your way to class!



## Omar Abubakr (G12Y)

### What was your childhood dream?

My childhood dream was to end all poverty. As I have matured, I have discovered that the world is not as black and white as I made it out to be. Yet the essence of that dream still remains, I hope to see a future where all children have the necessary education and access to all the resources they would need to succeed; a society that is equitable, where opportunities cannot be demolished by war, violence, disaster or corruption.

### What is your greatest academic achievement?

My greatest academic achievement was getting a 5 in AP Microeconomics. I also received an Academic Excellence in Social Studies Award for excelling in my Economics class. This achievement is important to me since I have decided to major in Economics. I also participated in the 2016 World Mathematics Team Championships in South Korea.



### What is your greatest extra-curricular achievement?

Completing the hiking expedition in Cyprus as part of the Silver International Award was certainly my most challenging endeavour. But my most valued extra-curricular achievement was getting into the National Honor Society (NHS). I love to help my surrounding community and NHS provides me with more opportunities to do so. I also like to be of service to my community through Outreach, Senior Mentoring, and other volunteer work outside of school. I am also proud to have been part of the Stage Crew in a number of productions and I have actively participated in the Model United Nations (MUN).

### What inspires you?



I am inspired by compassion and affection. Wherever I am I always aim to make new friends and meet new people and develop meaningful connections. As a result, I take part in leadership roles and seek opportunities to interact with individuals and groups of people, whether it's academically, in my extracurriculars, or socially. My will to inspire and help others has allowed me to develop leadership skills and has given me a purpose. I believe everyone has their own unique character, I embrace the different personalities of others that form my surrounding environment.

### Who inspires you?

I draw inspiration from the different people that surround me. My friends inspire me to reach my full potential. My older brother has always unconditionally supported my goals, he inspires me to do what I love and strive towards happiness. The students I know from Outreach inspire me to have a positive outlook on life. Even my teachers inspire me. Mr Roodvoets, my AP World History teacher in Grade Eleven, always seems to know something about every topic I could possibly think of. He inspires me to broaden my knowledge and to keep educating myself.

### What advice do you have to give to the MES Cairo leaders of the future?

I would tell them that perseverance is key. As a leader you will always experience many stressful situations. It's important not to let that stress

overcome you but rather to harness that energy and put it into something productive. Never give up on a task or a goal, no matter how stressful the situation might be, because everything works out eventually if you put in the effort. Learning from mistakes and dealing with stress is the key to growth.

### If you could have one super power, what would you like it to be and why?

If I could have one super power, I would have telekinesis. Not only would I be able to fly, but the ability to levitate matter would make daily struggles much easier. Such a power would allow me to multi-task and be much more productive in my daily life. It's a power that is fitting for those who always keep themselves busy!



## British Section

### Mira Zaki (Y12B)

#### What is your greatest academic achievement?

One of my academic achievements was receiving the Best Across 4 Subjects Cambridge award. It stands out because this award is prestigious, and the achievement is across the whole country. It was a positive indication that my hard work paid off. I aimed high, proved my success and ticked that award off my list. Another achievement is being voted the British Section Scholarship winner for this year.

#### What is your greatest extra-curricular achievement?

I have always enjoyed sport and that is why I persevered to make it into the Basketball team every year since Key Stage Three. I wasn't necessarily the Captain or the most valuable player, but I am proud of my dedication to the sport. I also qualified as an Athletics Mentor which I am really enjoying this year. I get to coach young athletes and actually give back to my community through something I enjoy doing.



#### What and who inspires you?

I find inspiration in a challenge. Any success in my life has been a challenge. I try to turn every negative or demotivating comment into a challenge of sorts and I never give up. Walt Disney inspires me as Kansas City Star fired him because they thought he lacked imagination and had no good ideas.

Intead of giving up, Walt accepted the challenge and converted this failure into a major turning point in his life. As we can see now it all started with a mouse!

#### What advice do you have to give to the MES Cairo leaders of the future?

My advice would be to always seek to inspire and motivate other students. Leaders are responsible for keeping students on track and setting a good example to the younger ones, not only through speeches but also through their actions too. Most importantly, they should never underestimate the importance of their role. The help they provide to others is a form of appreciation of our wonderful MES Cairo.

#### If you could have one super power, what would you like it to be and why?

I would fly! It would be great to travel around the world and not get stuck in traffic jams on a daily basis. How cool it would be not to be bound by gravity!

### Mohamed Babli (Y12R)

#### What was your childhood dream?

As a child, my dream was to become an aeronautical engineer and to build a house out of Lego bricks.

#### What is your greatest academic achievement?

Besides winning multiple academic awards at school such as the *My Graduate Profile Award*, I am most proud of my effort to pursue my passion for computers. I have taken a number of courses in HTML, CSS, Unity and Unreal Engine, software that helps create and design websites and code and develop video games.

#### What is your greatest extra-curricular achievement?

I am honoured to have been awarded *Most Inspirational Athlete*, *Most Improved Athlete* and also *Most Valuable Player* in Volleyball and Rugby throughout my Team Cougar career. I have also participated in the International Award Programme achieving the Bronze and Silver Awards.

#### What inspires you?

I am inspired by problem-solving and finding solutions.

#### What advice do you have to give to the MES Cairo leaders of the future?

Whatever problems you come up against, there will always be a solution.

#### If you could have one super power, what would you like it to be and why?

Omni-linguicism so that I would be able to communicate with people from all around the world.



## IBDP Section

### Khaled Megahed (DP12Y)

#### What is your childhood dream?

I honestly don't remember. I guess that as a child I was mainly living in the moment, day by day.

#### What is your greatest academic achievement?

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018, I received news that I would completely alter the course of my Senior year. I was overjoyed with the honour of being selected as the IBDP Scholarship student of 2019. However, with it came a responsibility, one that I felt I could not be any more prepared for. The path towards this day was one that was riddled with challenges, all of which proved to be rewarding both in terms of broadening my holistic approach to education and building my character. My hard work has paid off several times helping me attain excellent results. I am now working hard to maintain my IBDP scores and am aiming for a huge overall score.

#### What is your greatest extra-curricular achievement?

My involvement in MES Cairo goes beyond the classroom walls. I have participated in several engaging activities throughout my years at MES Cairo which have helped me aspire towards my goals. I was a member of the environmental committee representing Iran in MUN St. Petersburg, a member of the National Honour Society and am also part of the Student Mentors. In terms of sport, I've been a part of the Football, Volleyball and Rugby teams and have received awards ranging from the Sportsmanship Award to the Most Valuable Player Award. Having participated in Outreach for the past three years and having been involved in two residential trips to both Aswan and Fayoum where we renovated houses of those in need, I believe my involvement within the Egyptian community has further shaped the person I am today. The international award (Bronze & Silver) was yet another activity that has helped me to continue to develop myself up until today and have allowed me exercise empathy and compassion.



#### What inspires you?

My future. What I will be able to do, and what I may contribute to society.

#### Who inspires you?

I cannot overstate my gratitude to my parents and friends who have inspired me along the way, and have pushed me toward my successes. Whatever the future may hold for me, it pleases me to know that I can always look back at all the support and inspiration I've been given along the way.

#### What advice do you have to give to the MES Cairo leaders of the future?

Just be positive and keep working. Don't let anyone bring you down or tell you that your dreams and aspirations are impossible and imaginative. Most things seem impossible until they're actually done.

#### If you could have one super power, what would you like it to be and why?

To be able to come to school with a beard.





## Omar El Fiky (DP12Y)



From the many hours I spent absorbing textbooks and notes, page by page, to the many more I spent committing to extra-curricular activities, I have become the person I am proud to present today. I have proven that I have not wasted my opportunities by obtaining 6A\*s and 3As in my IGCSE and also by pursuing challenging sports and pushing both my mental and physical limits. In return I was nominated for the NHS, where I can aid my community and secure its betterment.

MES Cairo has also provided me with the opportunity to discover my characteristics of leadership and initiative through programmes such as the International Award and Varsity Volleyball. Now it has become my duty to give back to MES Cairo and shape it for the better just as it did to me. I do so by upholding my responsibilities of being a student mentor for the younger students still exploring their own strengths, and also by leading the student council among the other student leaders. I have set an example for the next generation and I ask them... No... I challenge them to beat it! I want them to aim higher than I ever could, and I will support them with this task. The role of being the International Baccalaureate Senior student leader of MES Cairo and student mentor is preparing me to take on the world.

### What is your childhood dream?

I always wanted to invent something that would benefit the world. Since I was a child I always felt powerless due to the fact that I always was unable to shape the world to benefit everyone in need and maybe even make someone's day a little better.

### What is your greatest academic achievement?

Obtaining 6A\*s and 3As in my IGCSEs

### What is your greatest extra-curricular achievement?

I have participated in Outreach and NHS service to benefit my country and make the community a better place. Service is a big part of my life due to the principles I followed since childhood and that service is the best way to show that your grateful to your community.

### What inspires you?

Happiness inspires me, seeing people being happy and enjoying them selves provides me with a sense of security, which allows me to think more creatively and almost forget about realistic aspects of life.

### Who inspires you?

Batman inspires me since he depicts flaws, as a real person would, however he is unlike other people he does not set a limit to his capabilities as anyone else would. He takes it as his duty to surpass any limits and never surrendered. I believe that he's a good inspiration to all of us since life's challenges will be thrown at us but we should never give up and always fight back.

### What advice do you have to give to the MES Cairo leaders of the future?

Make sure you listen to everyone's ideas and thoughts since the quietest person in a room could provide an idea that could change your perspective on any matter, make sure you include everyone.

### If you could have one super power, what would you like it to be and why?

I would like to have the ability of teleportation so I would be able to visit the Eiffel Tower in a second and then then the Grand Canyon in the next.







# Focus on Group 3: Individuals and Societies

MES Cairo's IBDP students develop Learner Profile attributes while learning in Group 3

## Business Management

The Business Management course is designed to develop students' knowledge and understanding of business management theories, as well as their ability to apply a range of tools and techniques.

DP11 Business Management students have made a very positive start to their studies and have shown good progress in the first Unit of the syllabus Unit 1: Business Organisation and Environment. Students have shown a special interest in corporate social responsibility and have studied how ethical considerations towards society, environment and workforce are now prominent elements of successful businesses objectives. Moreover, they have explored why and how a severely autocratic style is no longer appropriate; a more **caring** approach is the way of the future.

DP12 Students are now working on Unit 2: Human Resource Management and have only Marketing to complete after this, which is testament to their hardworking attitude in DP11, as three units of the syllabus were completed. Mr Rogers and I are looking forward to marking all students' final Internal Assessment submissions. With 25% of the qualification's marks available, students must really **reflect** on formative teacher feedback given on their drafts and use their **thinking** skills to successfully **communicate** their ideas for their **inquiry** based Internal Assessment.



## Economics

Economics is the study of peoples' choices. It helps to explain human behaviour as individuals and as a society. How do we get the most of what we want or need, given that we have limited resources?

In DP11 Economics this term we have covered the basics of supply and demand and are now venturing into elasticities. The students have taken well to the functions of both supply and demand and are clipping along through the elasticities of demand calculations. Their settling-in assessment was a first exposure to the IB tests. They are developing a clear understanding of the course and its requirements.



In DP12 Economics, students covered the foundations of economics, including vital concepts of micro and macroeconomics. This term the students have applied these concepts to International Economics and investigated free trade and protectionism, exchange rates, balance of payments and economic integration. The students have really engaged in this topic as they can now apply their 'economics brain' to current issues going on in the world, including a study of Egypt and its exchange rate and the Brexit dilemma facing the UK and the European Union. Students will soon be completing their final Internal Assessment on this unit.

**Mr C Stock - Head of IBDP Group 3 Commercial Studies, Mr J Rogers - IBDP Commercial Studies and Mr S Morris - IBDP Economics**

# DP11 PSYCHOLOGISTS GO SPEED DATING!



Once again, DP11 students first foray into the world of Psychology began with them 'speed dating' at the annual 'Psychologist mocktail party'. Many students are learning Psychology for the first time in their lives, and what better way to start their adventure than finding out exactly who Psychologists are and what they do.

Each student was assigned a specific Psychologist that they were likely to come across within the two-year course. These Psychologists were leaders in their fields who have investigated behaviours linked to everything from memory to genetics, the brain to obedience, child development to learning. The class had to research their psychologist in terms of their name, age, date of birth as well as the key beliefs, concepts and theories that underpin their work. They also had to look into the piece of research the psychologist was most famous for and why.

Upon entering the speed dating venue, students were greeted with snacks, drinks, ambient music and banners. Psychologists sat in pairs and each had two minutes to tell one another about themselves; from Freud's theories of personality to Skinners theories on conditioning. Loftus and her research on the reliability of memory, to Broca and his pioneering research into localisation of function in the brain. A wealth of psychological concepts, theories and studies were discussed. Once the first two minutes were up, students moved around the room to be introduced to another psychologist. Students worked collaboratively using excellent communication skills to ensure they imparted their new-found knowledge upon one another.

To wrap up the activity, students had to decide which psychologists they had met were most like the psychologist they had researched themselves. Through this activity, they were able to distinguish between the various psychological viewpoints that exist in attempting to explain human behaviour. Students could clearly see that some psychologists were more biological in their approach to understanding human behaviour whereas others were more social. Other psychologists emphasised the importance of society and culture on behaviour. Everyone left the party knowing they had a fellow psychologist that was similar to themselves. Only Freud was left to his own devices!



**Ms J Rainford - Head of Humanities, British Section**





# INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME JOBALIKE EVENT



In November, MES Cairo hosted over 150 IB teachers from all over Egypt at our annual International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Jobalike event.

IB teachers arrived at the Secondary atrium to be greeted by refreshments and the delightful sound of DP11 student musicians singing and playing a selection of pieces on clarinet, guitar and piano. After a warm welcome by Ms Singleton (Whole School Principal), visitors were guided to their first workshop by volunteer DP11 students, who were fine ambassadors for the school throughout the event. In the first session, IB teachers attended presentations on Core topics such as: "The importance of TOK Knowledge Frameworks in Designing EE Research Questions" (Inas Ahmed from Nefertari and MES Cairo Class of 1996), "Incorporating TOK Questions into Lesson Planning" (Timothy Patton from AIS East), "Inspiring Critical Exploration" (Shirley Wang from Narmer), "Identifying and Mapping Concepts" (Dr Tatiana Kolesnikova from MES Cairo), "CAS" (Susie Belal from NCBIS), "What is the MYP?" (Menna Shawky from Leaders) and "The World Studies and Interdisciplinary Essays" (Brendan Rainford from MES Cairo).

Teachers then met in IB subject groups to focus on syllabus developments and subject-specific areas of interest. The workshops were led by IB examiners and expert teachers from a variety of schools. New connections were made and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to engage in professional development. The meetings stimulated new ideas and were purposeful and well-organised.

We would like to thank all those who volunteered to lead sessions and workshops. Many thanks also to our DP11 students who were extremely mature and helpful throughout the event. An extra special 'thank you' goes to those presenting teachers who had never visited MES Cairo before yet willingly volunteered to be put on the spotlight in a completely new environment. Showing true IB spirit – these leaders took a risk and rose to the challenge. Your courage has definitely paid off!

**Ms S Sheehan - Assistant Headteacher/IBDP Coordinator**



# DP12 VISIT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO (AUC)



Our International Baccalaureate IB DP12 students were invited to visit the Library at The American University in Cairo (AUC) for their final Extended Essay research session. Our students are researching a range of diverse subjects such as; Mathematics in Physics, United Nations Peacekeeping Policy, developments in Science and a range of playwrights, writers and artists. A large number of our students have chosen to write about Business or Economics. They were all

grateful for this opportunity to access the wealth of university resources at AUC as a supplement to the research they are undertaking in our excellent school library. They were reminded that IB graduates are offered certain class exemptions and bonuses if they choose to take a degree at AUC.



## UK TAKE OVER AS MES CAIRO STUDENTS ARRIVE FOR TOP UNIVERSITIES!

In October, sixty percent of the British Section arrived in the UK to read for degrees in top universities, which is our highest number of students choosing the UK university option and having the highly competitive grades to achieve this. They were happily joined by colleagues from the American and IB Sections, again proving that at MES Cairo we specialise in giving students the tools to gain the place of their choice. Excellence and hard work in any Section results in success in the UK!

We are very proud of Aisha Morsy, the British Section Scholarship winner, who is now reading for Law at London School of Economics, which is ranked third in this subject by the Times Good University guide. University College London is an exceptional university for Economics and is now home to Omar Maarouf.

IB DP students have done us proud again this year and Ali Attia is now studying Politics at Warwick University (ranked in the top 10 UK Universities). From the American Section, 29% of all students secured places in the UK and we are delighted that Omar Mohamed Hassan is now studying at Leeds University (ranked 13<sup>th</sup>).

A notable success is Omar Sadek who has been offered a place at Brighton and Sussex for Medicine, one of very few places available for all International students. Well done Omar! Equally impressive are the places gained for Law and for Medical subjects, all highly competitive and requiring top grades.

Bath University continues to offer places to our students and clearly appreciates the quality of our students who have already begun to read for degrees in Engineering and Business. The range of different types of Engineering demonstrate that MES Cairo students are planning for the future and are ready to be part of global diversity and improved technology. This year, the range includes, Mechatronics, Automotive and Civil Engineering.

We feel that special mention should go to Nay Assassa who had a particularly upsetting loss during her examinations, but none the less, managed both an A\* in English Literature A Level and to secure her place at York university to read for an English degree.

MES Cairo students make the effort to research and plan effectively, which means that places are offered for truly diverse subjects, from Psychology to Fashion and Design, Computer Science to English and the traditional Business, Law, Economics and Medicine. We are about to begin our Plan 4 Grad journey with Year Eight students to ensure that they in their turn will be able to aim high and win the place of their choice.

Once again, our alumni have made us very proud and we look forward to their return and support with younger students.

**Ms S Clingan - Deputy Headteacher, British Section**





# WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENT COUNCIL FOR 2018/2019



Secondary students interested in becoming Student Council representatives campaigned for their positions by using creative ways to engage with their peers. Candidates used inspirational videos, posters and speeches to influence voting. Elected candidates are already demonstrating a strong desire to contribute to the wider school life and are working closely with our Senior Leaders coordinating a number of school events for this coming year.

Congratulations to the following Secondary students who had a successful campaign and are the new Student Council representatives for 2018/2019:

## **Year/Grade Seven**

Khadija Awad (Y7Y), Laila Reda (Y7R), Hamza El-Khatib (Y7G) and Selim Younes (Y7Y).

## **Year/Grade Eight**

Nour Reyad (Y8B), Hassan Serry (Y8B), Salma Desouki (Y8R) and Omar Amin (Y8G).

## **Year/Grade Nine**

Laila Raphael (Y9B), Merna El-Bassiouny (Y9Y), Laurina Salama (G9B) and Lina Helal (Y9Y).

## **Year/Grade Ten**

Ammar Abdelwahab (G10R), Nour Darrag (G10R), Nadine Helmy (Y10O) and Mariam Torky (G10R).

## **Year/Grade/DP Eleven**

Khadiga Afifi (DP11Y), Nour El Adly (DP11R), Yassine Afifi (G11Y) and Hagar Badawy (DP11Y).

**Mr J Keast - Student Leadership Coordinator**

# GRADE SEVEN AND GRADE EIGHT FIELD TRIPS

In sixty minutes, can you solve clues, open locked doors, escape, capture AND work together? These skills were put to the test when Grade Seven students entered the fast-paced escape rooms at 'TRAPPED Egypt'. Our newest additions to the Secondary American Section family were full of excitement and anticipation as the staff explained their mission and led them down the darkened hallways one at a time. What has become an annual beginning of the year trip didn't disappoint as collaboration and cooperation quickly became the keys to success (and escape)!



Similar skills are used in the classroom every day. Adapting to a new schedule and building can be challenging but Grade Seven students have learned the value of positive communication when it comes to navigating the hallways of the Secondary Building and NOT being late for lessons. Our Grade Seven teachers have been quite impressed with how quickly students have settled in and started to make new friends in the classes. Not only this, but it became clear during this field trip just how motivated this year's Grade Seven cohort are to learn, discover, and achieve their very best, regardless of task or difficulty.

The Grade Seven team has high hopes for our students and we are always on the lookout to reward positive behaviour like dependability, respect, integrity, effort, and readiness with merits whenever we see actions that warrant praise. We have seen a lot of respect for common areas shown during break times as students check their tables and pick up rubbish without having to be asked. Our 'Student of the Month' winners have also demonstrated a high level of dependability during lessons by helping their classmates with difficult tasks and asking for extra work to revise. Well done, Grade Seven. Keep up the great work!

While Grade Seven found themselves locked in a room, Grade Eight were bouncing high and ziplining away at 'The Field', Maadi. As the first class to visit 'The Field' from MES Cairo, students were quick to begin playing football on the full-size pitch or test their nerves on the high ropes course. Grade Eight students were encouraging each other to conquer their fears and take risks in a variety of activities. New students were able to meet their classmates and begin to make connections. Grade Eight teachers saw students' competitive side as they raced up and down inflatable slides or battled each other in sumo suits. Students had a high-energy day and started the school year on a positive note. Then it was down to business as they began their final year in Middle School. They were looking forward to the rest of the academic and extracurricular opportunities of Grade Eight including *Week Without Walls*.

**Ms S Fowler - Dean of Students, Grades Seven and Eight**





# A Day in the Life of a Secondary Student

## Year Six to Year Seven Transition Day



Early June was the day that the Secondary British Section welcomed ninety-three wide-eyed and budding Primary students to the Secondary school by way of Transition Day.

Starting in the theatre, students were introduced to the Year Seven team of senior leaders and teachers organising the exciting efforts of the day. Students listened eagerly to new ventures in Secondary; the possession of planners and lockers and the team of teachers who would be guiding them through 'A Day in the Life of Secondary'. In a poetic touch, students had the chance to exit via the Secondary doors of the atrium and begin their day on a different side of campus.



Homeroom activities were launched by going through the Student Planner, an MES Cairo student prized possession where students can plan their day, work towards targets, provide themselves reminders and accumulate merits through positive actions and excellent participation. Students were also navigated through a Year Seven passport activity following on from the Planner orientation, answering questions and completing a scavenger hunt based on the Secondary experience and the new surroundings. Adding to the varied activities, students wrote letters to their future selves, describing their attitudes about entering Secondary school in hopes of opening these letters just before graduation in 2024!



Secondary lessons on offer that day varied, with the Humanities Department creating future historians and reporters who accumulated clues from different sources to piece the story of Pompeii together, in order to write a newspaper article. Design and Technology students clambered up to W1 and found themselves in the newly discovered territory of the workshop, using tools and wood to create their very own headphone holders. Back in the Secondary building, goggles were donned and test tubes utilised in Science as students experimented for the very first time. The newly introduced Global Perspectives teachers

outlined the current theme of Tradition, Identity and Culture to the Year Six students who learned about their role as responsible global citizens.



The rotation of activity throughout the day had the Secondary building in a buzz of activity and a cacophony of interest as Senior Mentors led the future Year Seven students around the school, exploring the breadth of Yard Six, the literature pillar of the Secondary building known as the Learning Media Centre and the offices of people that are here to help.

With so much to see, the students left at the end of the day beaming with happiness and buzzing with excitement as to what September would bring. A great day was had by all.

**Ms Sally Elsaadany – Assistant Headteacher, Years Seven-Eight, British Section**



# Year Seven Global Perspectives Taster Session

What is the currency of Japan? What is the traditional cuisine of Scotland? What does the flag of Ecuador look like? All these questions and more were posed to Year Seven students recently when they whet their appetites receiving a taster session of Global Perspectives which has been introduced into Key Stage Three this academic year.

The aim of Global Perspectives is to enhance learning through the introduction and development of key skills: collaboration, communication, evaluation, research, analysis and reflection all of which are needed for students to truly excel in all subjects at MES Cairo and later in the wider world. Year Seven students start with Tradition, Identity and Culture embraced by the Humanities and Art Departments. In a bid to get the ball rolling, students came to the theatre for a briefing before separating into their individual Houses and getting to work.



If the current population of the world was only one hundred people, what would their role in society be? Students were shown a video and began to put their role into context. "When you imagine the world as one hundred people, it really shows how lucky we are at MES Cairo; we have access to internet, clean water, a functioning toilet!" said one student upon reflection.

"If the world were made up of one hundred people, we are actually part of a minority, because only three would speak Arabic and five would speak English, that means we have something rare!" another student mentioned.

"We make up a quarter of the population!" truly getting to grips with the idea that they as students under the age of twenty-five, have many things in common with others around the world. "It could be something as simple as living in the same continent," explained one student.

In fact, when students were divided into the four Secondary Houses and separated into different locations around school, they began to understand that food, currencies, traditions, dress and language aren't the only factors that affect one's identity.

By breaking into groups, students worked on understanding the personal impact of their family's role in Cairo, sharing stories of traditions occurring over birthdays and New Year, developing further into their local impact of living in a vibrant and bustling city like Cairo, finally getting to understand specific countries and creating a poster or digital presentations of their research and understanding.





The collaboration witnessed, and the work produced by the new Year Seven students really was a treat to behold, whilst their creativity shone through during their highly decorative and truly detailed efforts. As the day wound down and students completed their research and presentations, they evaluated their individual efforts as part of a team:

"Mostly everything went well, because we worked as a team and produced a great video about Spain!" commented Adam Atef (Y7R) representing Kheper House.

Edjo's Abdelkader Abdel-Gabbar (Y7R) said, "I am proud of my country because we have a lot of traditions, but I want Egypt to have a street party like Scotland does!"

Aya Hashim (Y7R) from Amun considered, "Learning about Slovenia taught me how different, yet similar other cultures are".

Finally, Sarah Seif-El-Nasr (Y7G) of Selket understood that

"Although Egypt doesn't celebrate similarly to Japan, the lanterns and fireworks are a spectacular event there!"

As all projects were submitted and feedback given, the Houses have been left wondering who came out with the most informative and exciting presentations...

**1st place - Amun, 2nd place - Kheper, 3rd place - Selket and 4th place - Edjo.**

Congratulations to all students and teachers involved in such a culturally enlightening and festive introduction to Global Perspectives and we look forward to more showcase events to end the termly units.

**Ms S Elsaadany – Assistant Headteacher, Years Seven-Eight, British Section**





# YEAR SEVEN VISIT ISLAMIC CAIRO



The first of many Year Seven trips started in Islamic Cairo, where all students had opportunities to walk Muizz Street. Students visited in two groups and experienced sights, sounds and smells of what their historic city has to offer.

As part of Tradition, Culture and Identity, students approached the age-old gates of Bab Al-Futuh, built in 1087 AD, to embark upon the cobbles of Muizz Street. We started in Beit El Suhaymi which is a complex design of arabesque wood with intricate carvings, wide open courtyards, a well and two floors for entertainment. The main building served as a reception area; downstairs known as 'salamlek' for the gentlemen, while 'haramlek' was the upstairs area for the females visiting the location during the Fatimid period in Cairo. As students entered through the smaller wooden doors, the open courtyard welcomed them in a vast seating area and the wide-eyed stares clearly depicted how breathtaking and different this location is. Set back from Muizz Street, it could only be described as an oasis, far removed from the hustle and bustle of what Muizz street traffic and merchanting would have offered in the past. Students spent a length of time in this area, taking in the different textures, exploring the gardens hosting tall palms trees and colourful stained glass in the stone gazebo at the back of the garden. "Knowing we have such beautiful traditions and a historic building makes me very happy", said one student, who spent time sketching a chosen focal point, with Ms Lee's guidance.



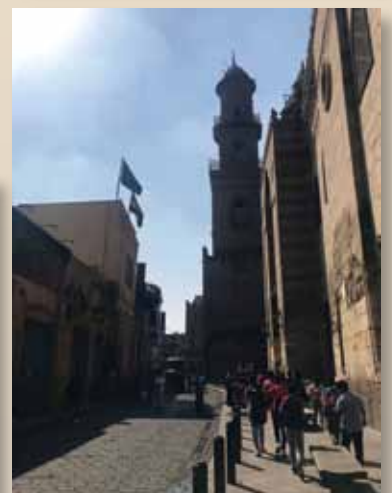
Not only was the Art Department involved in practising the skills of knowledge and understanding from Global Perspectives through sketching chosen scenes, but also, Ms Hodgkinson and the Humanities Department implemented the important skill of field sketching, an effective way of

recording observations made during field work. The Arabic department also posed some intriguing questions to the students, in the form of a scavenger hunt, in order to understand the history of the area, supported by Mr Ahmed Elashiry and Mr Mohamed Elshahat. Ms Ghalwash and Ms Elsaadany encouraged students to take in all sensual experiences in order to enhance their own descriptive writing for English. Smells of spices, bright colours and patterns were observed, clattering of metal and street calls of vendors were heard, whilst smooth wooden and marble textures were felt, contrasting with the rough stone used to form the main buildings lining the streets and leading all the way down to Khan el Khalili.

The second part of the day was enjoyed after lunch in calm and serenity, as students entered the Qalawan Complex; made up of an open-air madrasa, a hospital and a mausoleum. Students learned that the complex was built by the Sultan Al-Nasir Muhammad Ibn Qalawun in the 1280s, who was buried in the area which was intended originally to be a mosque and not a mausoleum. It is considered the second most beautiful mausoleum in the world and succeeded only by the Taj Mahal in India. Ms Hainsworth and Mr Kasmani from the Maths Department, encouraged students to use their artistic eye and graph paper attached to their booklets, to draw simple geometric patterns, which could be observed upon every surface and in various shapes, sizes and repetition. Students took these skills back to school and carried out more geometric drawings in class.

With the introduction of Global Perspectives, students have truly learned to embrace their own traditions and those of their culture, by living or being a 'Cairean', whilst also understanding and respecting that there are differing identities throughout the school and also the country. Through further exploration this term, students will continue to build upon the skills introduced and by the end of the term, present information in a variety of media to showcase their interpretations of the topic. We look forward to seeing the creativity and understanding of this theme and are happy to see so many young Secondary students embracing diversity by being challenged to go beyond!

**Ms S Elsaadany – Assistant Headteacher,  
Years Seven-Eight, British Section**



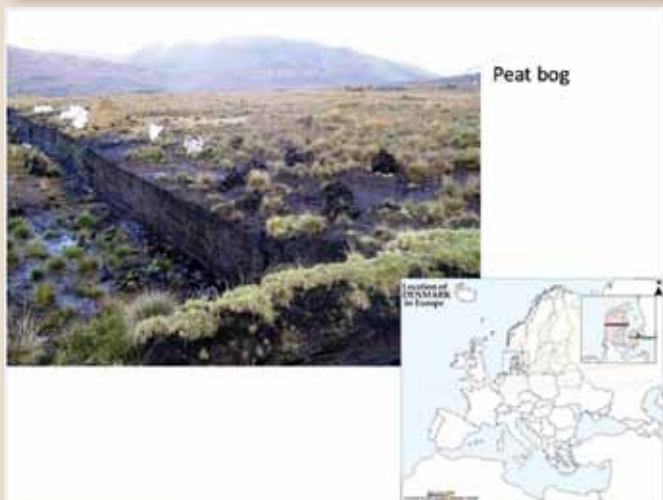


# TRADITION, CULTURE AND IDENTITY

## YEAR SEVEN HUMANITIES

Tradition, Culture and Identity is the Global Perspectives focus for Term One. It is embedded into all that we teach and all that students learn. As well as the knowledge students have been acquiring in both History and Geography, a lot of the focus has been on developing the students' key transferable skills which they can then use across all the subjects they study. Skills relating to research, analysis, evaluation, reflection, collaboration and communication.

In History, students have been focusing on locating, organising and presenting a variety of information. Primary and secondary source material has been analysed and students have learnt how to infer from the information presented to them. In the first half of Term One, students became historical detectives attempting to solve the mysterious death of the *Tollund man*. A well-preserved body found in a peat bog in Holland in 1950. The *Tollund man* was found buried with an iron ring around his neck wearing nothing but a rope belt and head cap. By analysing a variety of primary and secondary source material, students had to infer as to how the *Tollund man* died. Was he murdered, sacrificed, an accident or was it suicide? Students had to investigate common traditions during the time of his death and explain how the culture and traditions of the time may have contributed to his death.



In Geography, students have been focussing on map skills. Students have developed their skills in locating and describing places on a map using compass points, four and six figure grid references,

scale and distance as well as height and relief. Students are also able to identify and describe the human and physical features of places including Egypt and Cairo and compare it to other areas of the world. To consolidate their skills learnt across the unit, students then made 3D salt dough models of Egypt with a corresponding explanation as to the various geographical features that their salt model contains.

Students in Humanities, across both Geography and History, are now also engaged in their four-week homework assignment. The Cairo project incorporates content and skills drawn from both Geography and History and integrates all elements of Global perspectives to encourage



students to reflect and draw upon all of their classroom learning so far. The project will culminate in each student producing an individual 'Guide to Cairo' piece of academic coursework.



The Humanities Department are excited to see the work that Year Seven students will produce in this project as we have been so impressed with the quality of work they have produced so far. Their readiness

for learning, participation in class activities and discussion and the responsibility towards their learning that they have showcased, inside and outside of the classroom, has not gone unnoticed!

**Ms J Rainford - Head of Humanities, British Section**

## Secondary Maths Focus

# MES Cairo Takes First Place in the BSME Cairo Interschools Mathematics Challenge



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018, five young MES Cairo British Section mathematicians - Hania El Shalakany (Y7Y) and Omar Ashraf Mohammed (Y7G), both last year's Year Seven, along with Ali Misarah Abdel-Hady (Y8R), Saleem El Hady (Y8R) and Habiba Akmal Khalil (Y8Y), all last year's Year Eight, represented MES Cairo in the first BSME (British Schools in the Middle East) Cairo Interschool Mathematics Challenge. The event was hosted by MES Cairo and our MES Cairo teams competed against teams from other Cairo international schools.



The first event of the day was the team relay. In groups of three, students answered up to thirty challenging questions. This event had an extra dimension in that one member of the team had to run around a relay course to collect the questions and hand them in when they were completed.

The second event was the individual round. Students worked individually to answer another thirty questions, many of which well and truly tested the students' mathematical ability and had them applying their knowledge to some very tricky problems. Although the task was "individual", students' scores were added to the total for their team.

At 12.00 noon, all the competing students gathered in the Secondary Library to hear the results. Congratulations to El Alsson whose teams took both third and second place. We were delighted that our MES Cairo Year Eight team took first place in the competition.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers and students who attended this event. The students represented their schools extremely well, during the competitions and during the social time between events.

Any student who is interested in representing MES Cairo in any future Mathematics events should sign up to the *Mathematical Challenge* after school activity.

**Mr S Rayner - HOD Maths, British Section**

## MES@MES2018



The MES@MES House Competition towards the end of last year included all three Secondary core subjects: Maths, English and Science. Year Seven students took part in various events, practising the skills they had learnt over the year and earning valuable points for their House.

Students in Science participated in a Kahoot Challenge, based around speed and time calculations and consolidating what they have learned about the topic. They then had a competition to produce a paper plane that would travel the furthest distance on the field and finally they ended the Physics component with an Inter-House graph drawing activity.

We then moved onto Biology with students designing their own species and habitat as well as competing against each other in a Socrative quiz based around feeding relationships.



In English, Year Seven students practised the key skills of Key Stage Three English with the aim of making the post-exam period meaningful and challenging. Their first task was to identify and correct the misspellings in a list of the most commonly misspelt words. Students then had to correct the common errors in a piece of writing. A third task challenged the students to punctuate a short piece of direct speech. The fourth challenge required students to identify twenty key words, the metalanguage of English studies, like *metaphor* or *paragraph* from a slightly off-beat description. For the fifth and final challenge, students either held a debate in class on a topic based on Andy Mulligan's novel *Trash* or did

a set of library tasks designed to reinforce reading and research skills.

In Maths, students were faced with six challenges. They looked for shapes and symmetry in the school environment, along with practising their skills of estimation, as they followed the Maths Trail, finding hidden clues. Each clue led to the next, and eventually to a secret message. A second challenge was to solve a puzzle designed by the well-known American puzzle designer, Sam Loyd. The students had to cut a square into five pieces and then use these pieces to make other shapes such as a trapezium, a rectangle and a plus sign. This was not as easy as it sounds! Students then went out to explore the school again, collecting numbers and using them to evaluate and write mathematical formulas. More number work was involved in the "1234" challenge, where the students had to make all the numbers from one to thirty using basic mathematical operations and only one each of the numbers one, two, three and four. In the final challenge, students used the internet to research and discover new mathematical ideas. This activity introduced some mathematical concepts that the students will meet again later in school at IGCSE and perhaps at A level.

All the students did very well and showed a lot of enthusiasm. The final results were: Kheper (fourth place), Amun (third place), Selket (second place) and Edjo (first place).

**Mr S Rayner – HOD Maths, British Section and Mr G Brecke - Science, British Section**





# YEAR EIGHT INDUSTRY DAY



On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, Year Eight students participated in Industry Day which was organised by the Commercial Studies Department.

Session One saw students reflect on their careers, test information and also investigate the job descriptions and person specifications of several other careers.

In Session Two, students were asked to devise a plan to increase the tourism industry in Egypt. Several innovative ideas were produced and the overall winner was Salma Assal (Y8G) from Edjo House.

Students participating in Session Three enjoyed producing a marketing campaign to create a product

which could be sold but had to also relate to a current film. Well done to Selket House and Mariam Zekry (Y8Y), Sarah Toma (Y8R), Seif El Rashed (Y8R) and Mohamed Desouki (Y8Y) for winning with their *Incredibles 2* product innovation.

Students enjoyed the day and now have an insight into Commercial Studies IGCSE Option subjects.

**Mr C Stock - HOD Commercial Studies, British Section**





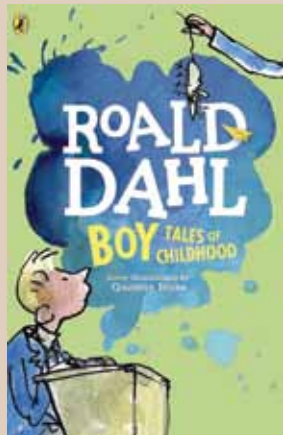
# SECONDARY ENGLISH FOCUS

## English in the British Section

This term we welcomed three new teachers to our existing team; Mr Howlett, Ms Dowler and Mr Collins. They have all enjoyed getting to know and love our British Section English students.

### Year Seven

Students have been reading 'Boy', an autobiography of Roald Dahl's life and 'The Great Mouse Plot'. Students have enjoyed reading about the fun, exciting and gruesome events from Roald Dahl's own childhood. They have been working in groups to rewrite prose into drama script form with characters, dialogue, stage directions, and even props which they performed in class.



### Year Eight



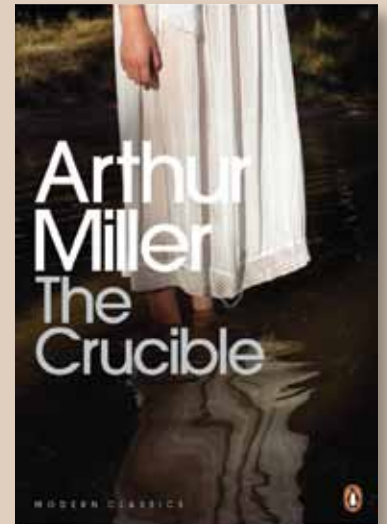
Students have been reading the very popular 'Holes' by Louis Sachar which is filled with magical realism, mystery and adventure. Classes have looked at how Sachar has crafted his story with

interwoven narratives, dry humour and flashbacks. They have also explored the central themes of destiny versus free choice, punishment and redemption.



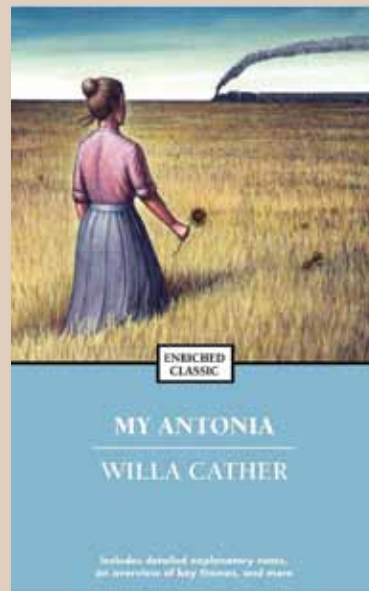
### Year Nine

IGCSE English Language classes have been reading short stories from a selection of authors, including Oscar Wilde and Edgar Allan Poe. They have been learning how to extract implicit and explicit meaning from texts, identifying writer's techniques and considering how they affect the reader. The students have then had a go at recreating the techniques they have found in the style of the writer studied. They have also been discovering ways to improve their written expression through the use of careful punctuation and imagery.



The new cohort of Year Nine IGCSE English Literature students has made an excellent start to the course. So far, they have read a drama text - Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'. This year we have twelve students on the course who have already demonstrated fine acting skills, bringing the fear and paranoia of the opening act of the play to life. They have made a fantastic start to what promises to be a very engaging year.

### Year Ten



English Literature students have been reading Willa Cather's 'My Antonia'. Having already sat practice papers and delivered their first round of presentations, the students have shown themselves to be mature articulate literary critics. They have also been getting to grips with the course structure and exam questions in preparation for the IGCSE exams. This has included looking at tips and tricks for approaching exam papers. Subsequent to this, the students have had some practice transforming



text types - in particular, turning a passage about the 'golden era' of stunt performing into a persuasive speech. They have also been creating examiner's advice leaflets which is a way for them to understand how they will be assessed in their own exams.

## AS English

Students have been reading 'Philadelphia here I come' by Irish dramatist Brian Friel. They have been exploring the possibilities presented by the dramatic convention of a divided role. The Year Twelve A-Level class are working on 'The Glass Menagerie' which is a memory play by Tennessee Williams. They have been learning how a playwright uses his or her own experiences to inform their work.

## Access to the Library

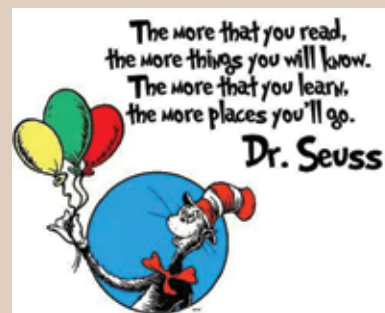
All Key Stage Three classes regularly visit our superb school library with their teacher in order to check out new books and use the

facility to do research. All classes across the department are also using our Online Learning Platform, Google Classroom, to support and extend learning that occurs in classrooms. Our number one piece of advice for any student wishing to do well in English is to read, read and read some more.

As popular children's author Dr Seuss once wisely wrote...

We look forward to seeing how far all our students can 'go' in English this year!

**Mrs J Cole, Assistant Headteacher, British Section**



## English in the American Section

### Grade Seven

Students are currently learning about the different literary elements by reading short stories by authors like Shirley Jackson, Gary Soto, and Jack London. As they read, they are also learning to annotate important parts, connect the story to themselves, and identify new vocabulary. They are also learning to write OEA paragraphs by using textual evidence in support of their opinion. **Mr H Hess**



### Grade Eight



The class completely devoured the novel *The Giver* written by Lois Lowry. The students had an opportunity to compare and contrast their community versus Jonas' "utopic" society. Students worked together in class to identify the concepts of utopias versus dystopias. This assignment led to a debate of why the idea of utopia was created and how utopia relates to current societies around the world. The discussion then focused on the role that each person plays in their community and how that affects the community. Most importantly, the class was able to comprehend the concepts of living a perfect life in an imperfect world. **Ms R Edmond**

### Grade Nine

The Grade Nine Honors class were apprehensive at first but took on the challenge of working in groups to lead a lesson in class on the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. The student-led classroom gave the students an opportunity to learn from their peers while working together to understand how the author used allegory, satire and irony to express his opinion of the Russian Revolution. In addition, the class worked to analyse the relationship between freedom and responsibility along with the relationship between coercion and abuse of power. **Ms R Edmond and Mr H Hess**



The students are currently reading John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. They started with a journey back into the 1930s learning about the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl in America. We did a gallery walk looking at the effects of the Great Depression and engaged in an impactful discussion about 'Teens Riding the Rails'. The students have been learning new words using the Wordly-Wise 3000 series. Lastly the students are using NoRedInk.com. The website offers lots

of grammar practice for the students to improve their writing skills.

**Ms A Hawthorne and Ms R Edmond**

### Grade Ten

Grade Ten Honors students are currently reading *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. The class has explored various themes in relation to the novel. We also completed a wonderful Survivor activity asking the question could we live on an island in the middle of the ocean? Students are also developing their vocabulary skills

by using various study apps to prepare for their bi-weekly tests. Students practice daily journal writing, exploring a variety for writing themes and prompts. **Ms A Hawthorne**

The students are currently reading a play by Sophocles: *Antigone*, a story about a woman whose pride leads to her tragic downfall. To get a better understanding of the play's setting, students worked in groups to give presentations on Ancient Greek life and culture. One aspect of Greek drama is the wearing of the masks, and students were asked to not only show off their knowledge but also show off their creative side, as well. **Ms M Allen**

## Grade Eleven



Honor students are reading Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and analysing its five themes. In addition to identifying the themes of the play, students are working on crafting more concise thesis statements and understanding how to break down their complex thesis into independent topic sentences. **Ms M Allen**

## Grade Eleven



We began the year with a study of the foundations of American culture and literature and compared that culture in its similarities and differences to that of Egypt. We started with texts grounded in the Native American oral tradition and then moved through a series of literary and philosophical periods including the colonial period, the enlightenment, the romantics, the Harlem Renaissance and the modern period. We eased into the year with a series of short works;

myths, poems, and essays by writers as diverse as the Iroquois tribe, Benjamin Franklin, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston. We will then move on to longer works as we explore the modern period through the jazz age classic, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and into the post-World War II period with Arthur Miller's critique of unfettered capitalism in *The Death of a Salesman*. In Term Three we leave the genre of



American literature to explore the influences of William Shakespeare by reading his oft-quoted *MacBeth*. Students explore topics such as personal success, coming of age, ambition, family relationships and responsibilities. **Ms N Croix**

## Grade Twelve

The Honors class is currently reading the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. The story takes place in Afghanistan. The students completed cultural presentations on the country of Afghanistan. The presentations gave the students a better understanding about the political, cultural, and traditions of the characters in the story. We have explored various topics from *The Kite Runner* in Socratic seminars. The students write every day in their journals analysing real life questions about life during and after High School.

**Ms A Hawthorne**

In English 4 classes, students frequently responded in journals to difficult and thought-provoking quotes by famous writers and thinkers. They explored concepts such as utopia, colonialism and its effects, human rights, individual identity and society, guilt and redemption. The major works through which we explored these themes included, George Orwell's *Shooting an Elephant*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and a series of speeches by winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, including Desmond Tutu of South Africa. Students will complete a research unit in which they prepare and present an area of concern for human rights in a country of their choosing. We explore all of these themes through our reading, journal and essay assignments, webquests, Socratic seminars, and both formal and informal class discussions. There is always lively dialogue and some thoughtful insights by the students throughout the year. **Ms N Croix**



## AP Language and Composition

This year we will be examining a variety of non-fiction texts and essay types. The students began their study of rhetorical analysis by examining visual works with the unit culminating in their writing an essay examining the rhetorical effects of an award-winning photograph of their choosing. We will then move on to rhetorical examinations of speeches and essays by a diverse range of writers including Queen Elizabeth I, John F. Kennedy, Henry David Thoreau and the remarkably and tragically talented David Foster Wallace. The class is preparing for the AP Language exam both by studying the rhetorical devices and strategies used by other writers and by examining their own and their classmates writing. They practice the essay types that appear on the exam; synthesis, rhetorical analysis and argument. All in all, it has been and will continue to be a year full of powerful language and fascinating discussions. **Ms N Croix**

## AP Literature and Composition

Currently, AP English Literature and Composition students are working on analysing the features of fifteen forms of poetry so that they can analyse unseen poetry for Paper One of the final AP exam. In addition to analysing the features of each form of poetry, students are managing their time in organising their essays and writing them within the recommended 40-minute timeframe. **Ms M Allen**



# American Section Parents Go Back to School

## Grade Seven



As per tradition at MES Cairo, Back to School Night was full of questions and anticipation as parents were introduced to the American Section Middle School Team! Grade Seven parents were welcomed by Ms Dodie Pfeil, Principal and Mr David McKoski, Vice Principal. Both myself and the Grade Seven Team Leader, Mr Hans Hess presented the cornerstones of Grade Seven including CHAMPS and *Week Without Walls*. Parents were also able to get a glimpse into the new schedule their students are following this year including new electives like Drama, Art, Music and DT. Parents were quickly put to the test with a copy of their child's schedule as they navigated their way to the Maths, Science, English and Social Studies classrooms to meet teachers. Ms Sculley, Maths Teacher introduced parents to Khan Academy which is an online resource used in Maths class. Mr Hess, English Teacher emphasised the importance of reading daily and how students will have the opportunity to access ReadTheory.com to improve their reading comprehension and Lexile Scores this year. Mr Hayes and I, in our capacity as Social Studies Teachers, revealed the Ancient World students will be exploring this year including Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. The Secondary Atrium was full of student work created in Drama, Art, Music and DT for parents to see just what skills we will work on throughout the year.

## Grade Eight

Parents were welcomed to the first ever Back to School Night for Grade Eight! The focus and purpose of this evening was looking ahead to what the last year of Middle School is all about: getting ready! Expectations have increased, and lessons have taken on a new level of challenge. Parents were introduced to the Grade Eight Team as they followed a class schedule and were given the opportunity to ask questions about the curriculum, MAP tests and Individual Graduation Plan Meetings. A unique portion of this evening included the Electives tables! Parents were able to browse the variety of Elective options that are offered beginning in Grade Nine. Teachers of Computer Animations, Theatre, Instrumental Music and Advanced PE, to name a few,



were available to answer questions and explain the skills offered in their class.

## Ms S Fowler - Dean of Students, Grades Seven and Eight Grade Nine

As the new school year began another cohort of students embarked on their journey through the American High School Diploma at MES Cairo. Like the transition from Primary School to Middle School, moving into the High School is a challenging, and sometimes frightening experience. To help the students settle into the demands and rewards of the High School Diploma, we invite their parents to visit the school and experience a condensed version of 'a day in the life of a ninth grader' at our Grade Nine Back to School event.

After a brief presentation in the school's theatre outlining the major aspects of the American High School, parents followed a timetable of 'classes' where they got to meet their children's teachers and learn how each class would be run and what they could do as parents to support their child's learning.

As ever, it was a wonderful afternoon where parents and teachers discussed instructional and assessment styles and expectations. Contact details were exchanged and a new team was formed – parents and teachers working together for the benefit of the Grade Nine students. For parents who were unable to attend the afternoon, the presentation from the theatre has been posted on the school website.

## Mr J Todd – Dean of Students, Grades Nine and Ten



# ARTBEAT

## YEAR SEVEN ART

The Global Perspectives theme for Year Seven this term is Tradition, Culture and Identity. Students began a 'Me and My Community' project by creating a typeface design of their own names. To prepare for this, students studied the history of type and other forms of writing by learning about Illuminated manuscripts and comparing different font designs.

**Ms L Lee - Art Teacher**



Abdelkader Abdel-Gabbar Y7R



Adam Atef Y7R



Adam Hammouda Y7R



Aya El Digair Y7R



Farouk Abdel Salam Y7G



Maryam Saleh Y7G



Seif El Gazzar Y7R



Youssef Shoukry Y7R

## YEAR EIGHT ART

This term Year Eight students are working on personal survival maps which fits with the Global Perspective topic of Language and Communication. They are exploring what threatens and supports them in the journey through their lives every day. The focus is on balance in composition, scale and proportion and developing their skills using mixed media.

**Ms L Lee - Art Teacher**



Seleem Tamara Y8R



Salma Desouki Y8R



Salma Assal Y8G



Fatema Kamal Y8R



Malak Hanafy Y8G



Omar Mohammed Y8G



# ARTBEAT

## YEAR NINE ART

The theme in Year Nine is Still Life and Symbolism in Art. The focus is building on skills from Key Stage Three in a variety of different media and working from primary sources.

**Ms L Lee - Art Teacher**



Chantal Labib Y9Y



Hana El Fikky Y9Y



Hana El Fikky Y9Y



Sara Ramadan Y9R



Maya Salam Y9Y



Salma Abu-Al-Magd Y9G

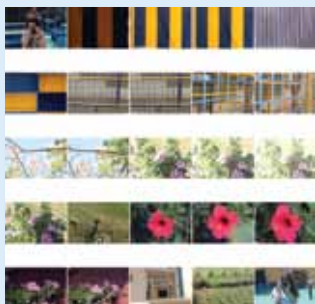


Sara Ramadan Y9R

## YEAR NINE PHOTOGRAPHY

Year Nine students have eagerly started their Photography course by discovering how to make a light painting and exploring projects such as Face Your Pockets where they combined a self-portrait with the contents of their pockets. Students are learning technical skills for photography such as the three elements of photography, shutter speed, aperture and ISO, along with depth of field.

**Ms J Bennett - HOD Expressive Arts (British and IB Sections)**



Martin Youssef Y9G



Amina Mostafa Y9B



Lily Bowley Y9G



Lily Bowley Y9G/Martin Youssef Y9G



Laila Abdulfattah Y9G



Lily Bowley Y9G



Laila Abdulfattah Y9G

# ARTBEAT

## YEAR TEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Students chose varied themes for their photos from leaf, petal and root patterns to twilight and out of the blue. Students are now working on their IGCSE exam work and creating photographs to accompany their historical and critical essay.

**Ms J Bennett - HOD Expressive Arts (British and IB Sections)**



Malak El-Attar Y10Y



Adam Oates Y10Y



Joy Halim Y10B



Layla Sadek Y10B



Youssef El Refaie Y10B



Maya El-Diwany Y10G



Seif Marghany Y10O

## YEAR ELEVEN ART

Hana El Morshedy (Y11B) has been building her portfolio using a variety of different media and selecting imagery relating to her chosen theme.

**Ms L Lee - Art Teacher**



Hana El Morshedy Y11B



Hana El Morshedy Y11B



Hana El Morshedy Y11B



Hana El Morshedy Y11B



# ARTBEAT

## IBDP VISUAL ART

IBDP students are currently creating a body of work for their Exhibitions in April 2019. It is a very busy time for DP12 students as they bring all their ideas together and produce their final pieces. They are committed students and are very positive and enthusiastic.

**Ms J Bennett - HOD Expressive Arts (British and IB Sections)**



Mariam Ramadan DP12R



Mennatallah El Shebli DP12Y



Fatema Abulkhair DP12Y



Hagar Ibrahim DP12R



Lara El Ghannam DP12R

## Digital Art and Design



Diya'a Hamdy G9B



Salma Abou Taleb G11B

questions about what is real, what is not, and how to be more critical viewers.

**Ms C Comerford - Art Teacher**

Students worked on a project called  $1 + 1 = 3$ . The objective is to seamlessly combine two different (or similar) digital images in Photoshop to create an *ah hah* reaction from the audience. For the composition to succeed the images have to have the same perspective and same light. Students created a moment of fakery within an atmosphere of realism, while learning how to use the software application Photoshop. It also provides an opportunity to discuss how nearly every photo we see today passes through Photoshop.

It raises



Kirmina Sadek G11R



Abdulaziz El Shaarani G9R



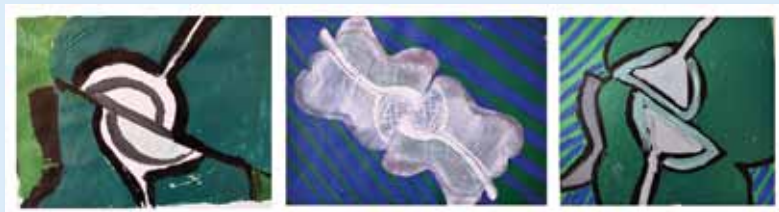
Karim Ebeid G9B



# ARTBEAT

## GRADE NINE, TEN AND ELEVEN ART

Students have drawn from organic forms such as beetroot and bananas. From their studies they have selected areas for focus and through scaling the students have created abstract compositions. In order to create non-representational art, the students have focused on the elements of art and depicted shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks.



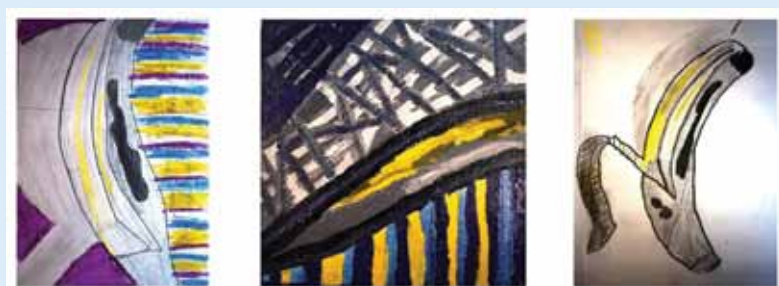
Zeiad Ahmed G10R



Kenda Chamssi G10R



Hana Afifi G10R



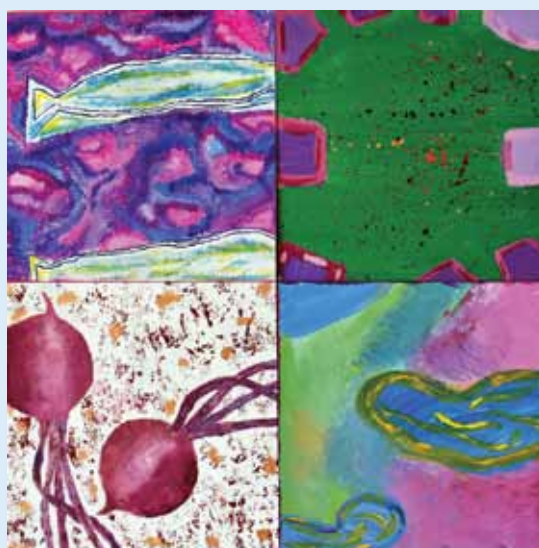
Ziad El Aany G9B



Fahad Baghaffar G9Y, Karma Youssef G9Y, Azza Fouly G10R, Ziad Al Anny G9B, Zeina El Ogail G9R, Omar El Khatib G9B



Feras Baghafar G10Y, Mariam Aglan G9Y, Farah Ahmed G9B, Farida Abou El Ela G11B, Kenda Chamssi G10R



Hana Afifi G10R, Shad Hassanien G10Y



# ARTBEAT

## PRE AP ART AND ART III



Rawan El Khatib G12Y



Omar Abou Bakr G12Y



Leina Abdelwahab G11R

Ms S Kelley - Art and Photography Teacher

## GRADE ELEVEN AND TWELVE PHOTOGRAPHY



Malak Shahin G12R



Nancy Azazy G12Y



Rawan Abdel-Wahid G11Y



Gana El Kassas G12R



Zeina Badawy G12Y



Ismail Taymour G12Y



Magdy Oraby G12Y



Nada Iskander G12Y



Rowan Abdel-Wahid G11Y

Ms S Kelley - Art and Photography Teacher

# MUSIC IN THE AMERICAN SECTION

## EXPRESSIVE ARTS



Welcome to a new year of Music in the Secondary American Section Music Department! This year there has been a focus on using technology to supplement traditional methods of learning music, in addition to using digital ways to create new music.

**Grade Seven** students began the year by studying traditional ways to notate and read music. We used drums to practise rhythms we created. Once students finished this project, we moved on to a new project where they are currently creating a score to supplement a movie scene of their choice. The music from the original scene was created, and using GarageBand, the students are creating music for the background. The students must be able to describe why they chose the music tracks they picked to accompany the movie scene.

**Grade Eight** students have also focused on reviewing traditional music notation - including reading pitches on, above, and below the treble clef, and reading simple rhythmic notation. Students have used their electronic devices to access websites where they can practice reading pitches on a regular basis. Students have been using this information to help them sing appropriately as we work on our class choral selections. We collaborate together to sing - even if it is very hard work!

**American Section High School Choir** students are preparing for the Seasonal Concert in December by practising their music during and after class time. Students recently completed a major assignment where they had to record themselves singing their choral part. Choral singing can be very difficult - especially when there are multiple rhythms and pitches being performed by other groups. Using technology, students have been able to access Google Classroom where they can listen to and sing along with their individual voice part.

**American Section Instrumental Methods** students have completed multiple units at this point in the year. Students have

worked on keyboard and guitar - learning a song for both instruments and presenting it as a major assignment. Once these were completed, students began working on GarageBand. Students picked two songs of their choice (one piece written prior to 1900 and one piece written after 1900). The students were required to remix the two songs focusing on aligning tempo, key signatures, and creating smooth transitions between changes within their songs.

In addition to these class-specific activities, all students in the Music Department have been focusing on analysing recorded music. Students have been required to make discrete decisions concerning the appropriateness of music for the classroom. Students analyse the effect music has on their emotions as an individual and then articulate their feelings and use correct music vocabulary to discuss what is happening during music recordings.

**Mr J Harper - Expressive Arts, American Section**





# DRAMA IN THE BRITISH SECTION

## EXPRESSIVE ARTS

This school year has brought exciting developments to the Expressive Arts Department. In the British Section, new collaborative units of learning have been created for Music and Drama that have emerged from the Global Perspectives concepts, which allows students to connect their arts experiences to real world skills and knowledge, truly enabling an holistic learning adventure for all.

Another change has been the introduction of the carousel system which allows students to engage in subjects twice a week for half of the year. This is much more beneficial for students as they are able to sustain momentum in their projects and skills development and empowers them to delve deeper when using higher order thinking for creativity, problem solving and risk taking, all of which contribute to them attaining the MES graduate profile attributes.

### Year Seven



Unit One saw students exploring the idea of Tradition, Culture and Identity. In both Music and Drama there was a strong commitment to developing emotional intelligence asking how different sounds and rhythm patterns from around the world affect our moods and the way we communicate with each other. The performance challenges were communicating an emotion nonverbally, wearing a mask, and how that could change dynamically in response to the percussive music being played for them by peers. Research into masked theatre traditions allowed students to teach each other about Noh, Bianlian, Neutral, Commedia dell'arte, Greek and Topeng masked theatre traditions.

### Year Eight

Students saw Music and Drama combined through solfege. The 'do re mi' scale was developed into physical action with students exploring vertical space and levels in order to create a visual aesthetic, creating harmony and interesting tableaux with their peers.



This unit was based upon the Language and Communication Global Perspective which was observed from many perspectives with the ultimate goal being trio comedy performances, where three 'servant' stock characters had to work together to create harmonised sounds using touch bells for fear of being punished by

their master Magnifico. Other nonverbal communication tools were Kodaly sign language in music and Gromelot, the language of the Minions and Commedia dell'arte.

### Year Nine

Performances at the beginning of the year were all immediate as students explored improvisation techniques through the games and activities of Viola Spolin. Often the themes ended in hilarity when characters who couldn't sing auditioned for jobs, actors walked through invisible fish tanks and through mature and intelligent interpretation of nonverbal cues which allowed stories to develop naturally.

### Year Ten

Students utilised their prior knowledge of Commedia dell'arte to devise two very clever group pieces based upon Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. In "Not so fair Verona", students explored the idea of the star-crossed lovers being revived from death and suddenly realising that they really didn't like selfish people who took poison without sharing. The other play was a spin-off called "For the love of Rosaline", apparently Romeo hadn't been the only



young man to be bewitched by that elusive young lady, whose parents were desperate to find her a husband. Both plays have been scripted and will be performed again, filmed and sent to Cambridge for their IGCSE qualification later this year.

**Ms R Hanlon – Expressive Arts, Drama Teacher**

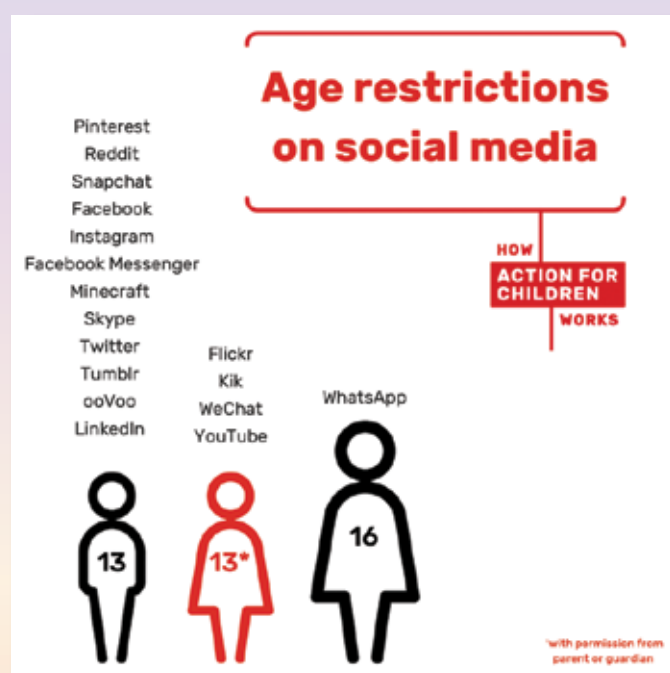
# E-SAFETY WORKSHOP – ‘PARENTS AS PARTNERS’

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018, MES Cairo held a *Parents as Partners* workshop for our Secondary parents; the goal being to work with parents on keeping our students safe online. We live in a digital world where our students are using technology in their everyday lives for communication, socialising, shopping and playing games. We as a school want to work alongside our parents to support the students and keep them safe.

## What is e-Safety?

e-Safety is about how to use technology safely. Sometimes it can be easy to forget that the rules that apply in the real world also apply in the online world. If a message is something that we wouldn't say to someone's face, then we shouldn't be saying it onscreen either. There is a real person with feelings behind the screen and children need to be reminded of this.

## What are students doing online?



Social media is what our children are most interested in. They can go online almost anywhere and comment on pictures, upload pictures, chat to each other, play games with people and “check in” to locations.

## How can you as parents keep them safe online?

- Restrict usage and take away mobile devices from children at night time. Children have a tendency to pretend that they are asleep and message friends, play games, scroll through social media. Parents should make the decision as to how often children can use their device.
- Have the e-Safety conversation early and often.
- Have strict rules for going online and stick to them.
- Show children how to explore online content safely.
- What do they do if they see something inappropriate?
- Know who your child is interacting with online.
- Check your child's device regularly and ensure that all content is appropriate.

- Discuss their online reputation.
- Use filters to restrict and monitor use.
- Ensure your child's settings are the strictest they can be on all their social media accounts.
- Tell them what to do if something inappropriate happens online.

If you are interested in this topic and would like to know more, please have a look at the following websites:

**For parental controls:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zus67CFhems>

**NSPCC:** <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

**Think you know:** <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

**Ms S Taha - HOD for Design and Technology**

## GOOGLE CLASSROOM UPDATE

Google has made many significant updates to Google Classroom for this academic year. Some of the updates which impact on both teaching staff and students include:

- New Classwork page - teachers and students have a new classwork page. Teachers can post assignments and questions on the page, as well as group them into modules with topics.
- Control notifications by class - teachers and students can turn notifications off for any class.

This year we started using Google Classroom's Guardian Email Summaries. When guardians join Classroom, they receive regular, automatic email summaries for each of their students. Guardians choose the frequency of the emails, daily or weekly and can unsubscribe at any time.



Guardian email summaries include:

- Missing work - work that's late at the time the email was sent.
- Upcoming work - work that's due today and tomorrow (for daily emails) or work that's due in the upcoming week (for weekly emails).
- Class activity - announcements, assignments and questions recently posted by teachers.

**Mr T Naggar - Secondary Online Learning Coordinator**



# MES CAIRO ACHIEVERS

## Drawing Success for Rokaya El Ghannam (Y3G)



Congratulations to Rokaya on being awarded first prize in an Art competition to promote Mexican culture. Rokaya is seen receiving her certificate of recognition from the Mexican Ambassador, Jose Octavio Tripp at the Embassy of Mexico in Cairo.

## Gymnastics Success for Karma Elshafei (Y5G)



Congratulations to Karma Elshafei (Y5G) and her team-mates in the Egyptian Gymnastics Team who achieved Second Place at the Slovenian International Gymnastics Tournament recently.

## Swimming Triumph for Mostafa Samad (Y10R)

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Mostafa took part in the Open Water National Tournament which took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The tournament was challenging consisting of a 5km swim in open



water. This is the first time that Mostafa has completed in this category of race and distance. Mostafa initially entered the race purely for the experience but after training for four hours a day in the run-up to the race, Mostafa took Third Place in the competition and, as a result of this placing, Mostafa has earned a place on the Egyptian National Swimming Team and he is in early preparations for the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020.

## MES Cairo Students Succeed at the Sahl Hasheesh Endurance Festival



Congratulations to Nadia Tantawi (Y6V) and Hassan Tantawi (Y2V), Jomana Helal (G11R) and Jayda Helal (G8Y),



**Saged El Shawaf (Y8G) and Adam Rayan (G7R)** for completing the Sahl Hasheesh Endurance Festival this November.

Such success takes dedication, commitment and grit; extraordinary achievements by some of our awesome MES Cairo students!

**Congratulations to all our MES Cairo Achievers.**

**Ms C Boswell - Publications Officer**



**'Barnum'**  
**Coming to MES Cairo**  
**in March 2019**

## Whole School Production

Many years before the world was told the story of P. T. Barnum in the magical movie "The Greatest Showman" the impresario was celebrated in a Broadway show entitled "Barnum". MES Cairo will be entering the circus world in March 2019 as we stage Barnum as our Whole School Production, involving students and staff from across the entire school.

With the cast of actors, singers, dancers and circus acts already in rehearsal and the set design group researching and creating at their after-school-activity every week we are very excited to bring the "big top musical" to our school stage.

The show follows P.T. Barnum from his early days as the creator of a museum of wonders, through his brush with politics and up to the formation of his famous three-ring circus with James Bailey.

With the spectacle MES Cairo audiences have come to expect, Barnum is sure to be an exciting and thrilling show. Keep an eye out for how to secure tickets in 2019.

**Mr J Todd – Dean of Students, Grades Nine and Ten, American Section**



# Peripatetic Music Department



As you approach the Secondary Peripatetic Music Department's hallways, you can just, barely make out the sound of an operatic mezzo-soprano reaching the top of her scale, then climbing carefully back down. Stepping closer, you hear the echo - another voice - ascending the scale to the top, then back down. Then again, the first voice moving up the next scale.

You move along and the buzz of a trumpet playing a song you know you've heard before blends with the rocking back-beat of the drum set across the hall. Opening the door to the Peripatetic wing, the sounds suddenly amplify and coalesce. On all sides, the windows of the practice room doors frame MES Cairo students of all ages diligently rehearsing their various instruments under the attentive guidance of a Peripatetic Music staff member. On the practice room boards, musical staves and symbols, composer biographies, and teaching aids are iterations of the lessons taught in each room.

The Peripatetic Music rooms are by no means ordinary classrooms. Behind each of those doors, one of Egypt's most accomplished musicians works one-on-one with an MES Cairo student musician. Over two hundred students take a weekly respite from their regular class schedule to study with their private Music teacher in our Peripatetic Music rooms.

Peripatetic Music students are more than just musically talented; Music students develop holistic advantages across all academic domains. Music performance fosters skills in sensory perception, motor control, visual acuity, pattern recognition, and memory. Repeated scientific studies verify that musical development carries with it, life-long sensory and cognitive benefits.

Our Peripatetic Music teachers follow the Trinity College London curriculum, developing each student according to internationally-recognised musical standards and preparing their students for internationally-recognised Music exams.

So, as you stand in the Peripatetic Music hallway, washed in the cacophonous blend of student musicians and their teachers, what you are hearing is MES Cairo's hardworking students developing themselves as musicians, academics and international citizens.

For more exciting information about the Peripatetic Music Department, or to request enrolment, please contact Mr Peck at school.

**Mr T Peck - Peripatetic Music Coordinator**





# NETBALL

The Netball season is well underway with another great turn out of students attending tryouts for the U13, U15 and U18 teams. Ms Elsaadany and I had the difficult task of deciding on the three squads for the upcoming season. The standard of both the returning players and new players was high and everyone was keen to impress. Additionally, this year we have introduced Captaincy; our Team Captains demonstrate positive thinking, enthusiasm, commitment and leadership. Congratulations to Sara Masarany (Y8Y) U13, Azza Fouly (G10R) U15 and Zeina Abdel Rehim (Y10O) U18 on their selection.

Although Netball is played in lots of countries around the world, it is still a very new sport to Egypt and each year it is growing and becoming a more favoured sport for some of our students. We are therefore excited to announce that this season, our MES Cairo Netball team will be competing in Cairo's first Schools' Netball League whereby each team will play in one home and away match against each school. The schools involved are New Cairo British International School (NCBIS), Malvern College and Cairo American College (CAC).

The competition so far has been tough, especially for our U13 Team who had their first tournament straight after tryouts and before any team training took place. The girls took this in their stride and came together as a team and as a club to encourage, support and motivate one another. All three teams are doing extremely well with our U15 team currently going undefeated.

*Keep up the good work.*

**Ms L Shepherd – Secondary Netball Coach**



Sara Masarany Y8Y



Azza Fouly G10R



Zeina Abdel Rehim Y10O





# JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

The MES Cairo Junior Varsity Girls' Volleyball Team experienced a season highlighted by improved skills and outstanding teamwork. We are extremely proud of them and the work ethic they display both in practices and matches. We were led by the athletically gifted Azza Fouly (G10R) who scored the most service points for the team in the CISSA Tournament and the great defensive work of Shahd El Ghamry (G9R) and Zein Rashad (G9Y). Newcomer Miriam Guirgis (G9R) also made an incredible difference with her offensive skills.

After a slow start in the CISSA Tournament, the team finished with two hard fought victories over Cairo American College and

American International School, to earn a third-place trophy.

The team was also voted as the recipients of the 'Sportsmanship Award'. This award is indicative of the team's positive attitude and ability to stay focused in the face of adversity. The future of MES Cairo Girls' Volleyball looks bright indeed!

**Mr D Reim - Team Coach**



# VARSITY BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM RAISE THE BAR

The 2018 Varsity Boys' Volleyball Team came into the Term One season looking to improve on a successful 2017 campaign. With a roster filled with Seniors, the experience was already firmly in place. In addition to the Seniors, Yassin Afifi (G11Y) and John Magdy (G11Y) rounded out a team steeped in talent. The team had terrific chemistry from the

start of the season. Not only did they work well on the court but they genuinely enjoyed seeing their teammates have success. The work ethic was also an asset to this group. A great example was on display when they came together as a team and chose to practise an extra day during the week in order to improve.

The team was led by Senior Team Captain, Ismail Rizkana (Y12R). Ismail is a natural as Team Captain, not only taking the lead on the court but also serving as the person who organised extra events and communicated with the team about all things tied to the Volleyball season. Other key contributors were Karim Salama (Y12R) who was our top setter and one of our best servers, Abdelrahman Abdelhakim (Y12B), one our top front-line players and Youssef Selim (Y12R) who was an all-around talent on the court. Seniors, Mahmoud Abou-Taleb (Y12R) Joseph Elhawary (Y12G) and newcomers to the team, John Assad (Y12Y) and Karim Ramadan (Y12R), rounded out a starting line-up that gave MES Cairo a chance to win every time they stepped on the court.

I have truly enjoyed coaching these players and I am extremely proud of them as athletes and young men. They are set to do great things in the future.

**Mr E Newton - Athletics Director and Team Coach**



# VARSITY GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM SHOW GREAT IMPROVEMENT

The Varsity Girls' Volleyball Team has shown a vast improvement throughout the 2018 season. This was due in large part to players' hard work and dedication to the game. Our female Cougars competed at a high level in both their friendly matches and the CISSA Tournament.

The season started with a hard fought three set loss to Cairo American College. The team then rallied to win a friendly match against the International School of Choueifat. Playing some of their best volleyball of the season, the team took the match in two straight sets. Led by great play and solid leadership from Team Captain, Miriam Aly (G12B) and Kenzy Wadood (G12B), our Cougars were in control of the match throughout its entirety. During the CISSA Volleyball



Tournament, the girls played several extremely competitive teams. Each game played was hard fought and very close until the end. Although we didn't earn the place we were hoping for, MES Cairo did a fantastic job competing to the best of their ability and meeting each challenge with a positive attitude.

A few highlights of the tournament were the excellent serving by Jumana Khafagi (DP12Y) and terrific defence from Rawan El Khatib (G12Y) and Hanna Breitingner (DP11R). Another great surprise was the overall solid play of Mariam Gurguis (G9B). One of the great moments of the whole season was receiving several positive comments from opposing coaches about how much the team has improved over the past year. The members of the MES Cairo Varsity Girls' Volleyball Team should be extremely proud of their achievements this season.

**Mr E Newton - Athletics Director and Team Coach**

## JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS' FOOTBALL



This is my first year coaching the Junior Varsity Girls' Football Team and I am very much looking forward to a productive year. I would like to pay tribute to Mr Perry, who until this year, coached the team for a number of years. His passion for the game and his methodic and tactical approaches really helped the players develop

their skills, technique and understanding of being good football players and part of a team.



The level of commitment on the training ground and in the game is captivating. The coaching staff and the team are launching a new vision and philosophy for the game as we firmly believe in a culture of community. Our team is not led by the most talented players but by the commitment, solidarity and the sacrifices of all players. 'All for One and One for All' is our motto. The sense of trust that is building amongst the team, the contentment on the pitch and the level of dedication, responsibility and reliability during games are clear indicators that we are on the path to being successful.

**Mr O Thiam - Team Coach**



# VARSITY BOYS' FOOTBALL 2018/19

There were some big changes to the Senior Varsity players with only Mohammed Osman (Y12Y) remaining from last year's squad and now becoming a fitting Captain to lead the squad this year.

The highly anticipated trials began in September with over seventy students trying out for the eighteen available spots. The trials were very competitive with all students aiming to prove why they should be in the squad. The main intention this year was to develop a technically talented team with individuals who had the ability to control and retain possession of the ball during pressured situations. With this in mind, the squad was made up of a variety of age groups varying from Year/Grade Twelve down to Year/Grade Nine students.

### MES Cairo Tournament

The season began with a tournament hosted by MES Cairo which involved Hayah International Academy (HIA) and New Cairo British International School NCBIS). The team adapted exceptionally well considering we had only had two training sessions prior to our first set of games. We fought hard in our first game against HIA but could not get the break of the ball and were unlucky to lose the game. The second game saw us dominate against NCBIS creating multiple chances and playing some fantastic football. A superb strike from Ibrahim Etman (Y12Y) from outside the area sealed a 2-1 victory and our first win of the season.



### Special Mentions

I would like to take this opportunity to give special mention to three individuals who really impressed this season. These students always trained with great intensity and a professional attitude. Not only did they dominate their position on the pitch the acted as role models for others, always leading by example and playing with great composure and confidence.

### CISSA Tournament

The Varsity 2018 CISSA Tournament was hosted by International School of Choueifat and after a fantastic season we had high hopes that we could go on to win the competition. We had a great start beating Choueifat 5-1, controlling the game from start to finish which was really impressive to watch. This gave us great confidence moving forward to our next game against HIA where we drew a 1-1 thanks to a Yehia Tamara (Y11G) goal. It was a great performance which showed great character and resilience especially in defence.



Mohamed Osman Y12Y  
(Captain)



Ziad Fahmy DP11R



Ameen Mettawa DP11R

Next up was American International School (AIS). The team were beginning to tire after two games with little break and unfortunately could not pick up any points losing the game 1-0 to a strong AIS team.

After one win, a draw and a loss, it was all to play for moving into the final game against CAC, due to the fact they were yet to lose a game.



MES Cairo needed to beat them in order to win the tournament. We started slowly with a lot of tired legs on the pitch conceding a penalty early on and going down 1-0. However, the boys' continued to push forward in search of an equaliser and it came late in the first half when Youssef Ashmawy (Y11B) converted from a cross. The team pushed and pushed but unfortunately could not find the winning goal and CAC went on to win the tournament with MES Cairo being placed 2nd overall.

A dramatic end to a tremendous season. I am immensely proud of the efforts and commitment of all the students, not only during this tournament but throughout the whole season.

**Mr G Loftus – Varsity Football Head Coach**

# VARSITY GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The girls turned out in force for the Varsity Girls' Football try-outs this year. There were so many talented players that we could have fielded three teams! The season got underway and the Varsity team demonstrated why they deserved to be part of the squad, turning up to training with a positive attitude and a commitment to working hard throughout their training sessions.

Leila El Taweel (DP12R) was appointed Captain and Amina El Hamawy (G10R), Vice-Captain. Both Leila and Amina certainly demonstrated their capacity and suitability within these roles. They competently communicated with the team passing on information such as fixture schedules, team information and any other business required to ensure the team was organised and prepared. Additionally, they offered constructive and positive feedback during the games and throughout training the support they guided the team.



Our first game saw a 2-0 loss to International School of Choueifat (ISC). The score line did not reflect the performance. MES Cairo had the majority of possession and dominated the play in the opponent's half for much of the game. However, Choueifat had a very strong attacker and given the opportunity, she highlighted why she was their danger player, slotting two goals against the resilient goalkeeper Azza Fouly (G10R). It was a great performance and the team took a lot from this game.

The second game was against Cairo American College (CAC). MES Cairo had some players missing, however they fought well against a very organised, disciplined and physically strong team. MES Cairo let four goals slip by but worked extremely hard and had a supportive and positive attitude throughout.

The MES Cairo girls had little time for preparation before the big CISSA Tournament at CAC with only two games and three training sessions. Again, they had a positive attitude throughout and there was not a single player that gave up or shunted any blame. The Captain and Vice-Captain, kept the team positive and the half-time/full-time team talks

maintained the spirit of the team even though we suffered a loss in all of the games. The girls were supportive towards the other teams and maintained a dignified approach to the values of a sporting spirit. The final game looked promising as we went 1-0 up thanks to a delightful goal from Layla Sadek (Y10B), however MES Cairo could not hold off the pressure and conceded two goals to lose 2-1.

A huge "well done" to all of the girls who participated for their positivity, regardless of winning or losing. A final mention for the goalkeeper Azza Fouly (G10R) who was approached by two different coaches from professional women's football clubs. She has been offered to train with them and potentially to have a shot at playing a high level of football in Egypt. This is extremely positive and highlights the potential for success that can be available for hardworking and committed individuals.

Well done to all the girls. I look forward to continuing training and working with all of you, including our new team members.

**Mr J Keast - Team Coach**





# Athletic Mentors



We welcome twenty enthusiastic and dedicated Athletic Mentors onboard this year. These students have been carefully selected through an interview process and to their credit have grasped this leadership opportunity with both hands.

The mentors have started taking part in a number of seminars led by Mr Loftus from the PE Department. The skills accumulated during these sessions allow mentors to develop their knowledge and understanding for coaching and leading younger students at MES Cairo and beyond. The contribution and impact the mentors have made so

far has really helped to develop both Primary and Secondary MES Cairo Cougar members, as mentors spread their wealth of knowledge and passion in their chosen sports.

This programme encourages students to get involved in initiatives outside of MES Cairo too when a group of eager students helped out with Sports Day at the Gulf English School (GES). The mentors led, demonstrated and encouraged GES students to participate in all the activities.

What a great start to their year!

**Mr G Loftus-Bird - Secondary PE Department**



## STAFF TOUCH RUGBY - REPORT ON A WONDERFUL YEAR!

The MES Cairo Staff Touch Rugby Team rounded off a fine season in June 2018 by beating all-comers to retain the Touch Rugby Championship Trophy as Champion School of Cairo in 2017/18, with victories against British International School Cairo (7-3) and Maadi British International School (7-1).



All the hard months of training and early Friday mornings were worth it, as the squad swept away all opposition with some excellent free flowing rugby. The squad combines a mix of age and experience as well as several players learning the game and one or two older members who are in their prime.

Whilst winning is always a great feeling, what was most satisfying was the way that the team played so well together in defence and attack.

**The victorious squad members are:**

Mr Andrew, Miss Nina, Mr Joey, Miss Lucy, Miss Shenna, Mr Callum, Mr Morris alongside our traditional guest players Coach Matthew and Miss Elana who have been integral players every Friday morning.

*You don't have to be good to play, but you have to play to be good.*

**Mr A Hainsworth - Team Member**





# PRIMARY SPORTS LEADERS COURSE

During Primary PE over a five-week period in May/June, forty Year Six students completed a Sports Leaders Course.

Our budding Sports Leaders worked hard; learning what it takes to be a good leader, developing their confidence and planning a thirty-minute lesson to teach to Foundation Stage One students. Our leaders put their knowledge into practice with each group of leaders teaching eight Foundation Stage One children. Our younger students really enjoyed the different and imaginative games that the leaders developed for them. Our leaders were rewarded with excellent sportsmanship, effort and good behaviour being displayed by the younger students throughout the session.

Well done to all our Sports Leaders for this great achievement.

**Mr C Carroll - HOD Primary Physical Education**



## U11 BOYS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October saw British International School Cairo (BISC) host the U11 Boys' Football Tournament to get this year's Cougar Programme underway.

Resilience best describes this magnificent performance from the Year Five and Six Cougars. After twice trailing to New Cairo British International School in the semi-final of the plate competition, the Cougars had to dig deep to win a thrilling penalty shootout and to set up a final with Schultz School of Alexandria.

In the final, the Cougars were just not getting the bounce of the ball and went in at half time 1-0 down. Team Captain Ali El Din Kansoh

(Y6R) rallied the troops and provided an inspiring team-talk to the players. It clearly worked as the MES Cairo side were on the front foot for much of the second half. As in the first half, however, there was no luck in front of the goal. With time running out, up stepped the Team Captain to poke home a cross from second half substitute Seif Delawarali (Y5B). With only seconds left on the clock, Omar Ezzat (Y5B) sprinted down the left-hand side of the pitch (with his laces untied) dribbling past three players to cross the ball into Seif Delawarali's path. Seif's skilful run then ended with a right-footed shot that flew into the top corner and sparked pandemonium among the MES Cairo parents and staff. It was a fitting end to an excellent day. Go Cougars!

**Mr T McDermott - Boys' Football Coach**





## PRIMARY COUGARS!



I am so proud to have seen the Cougar Programme develop year after year. This year over two hundred students battled it out to try and earn their place in one of the Cougar squads. The students that triumphed and became Cougars have been training hard once a week with their dedicated coaches.

I would like to congratulate those students who have made the BSME team. The BSME competition, which is the most anticipated sports event of our calendar year, will be held in Abu Dhabi in March 2019.

Our Team Cougar Boys' and Girls' Football teams played matches against Maadi British International School (MBIS) on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Both our students and those from MBIS displayed great respect by holding a minute's silence before play as a mark of deference for the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War 1 and to pay their respects to

the estimated 37 million people who died during this conflict. Team Cougar Boys' won their match 7-0 and the Girls' won with a 10-0 win.

To keep up to date with the Cougar Programme, and for dates and times for training and fixtures, match reports and photos, please visit our Cougars Google site which can

be accessed via the school website or alternatively check out the display board near the Primary playground. Go, Cougars!

**Mr C Carroll - HOD Primary Physical Education**



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN PRIMARY PE?

### Foundation Stage

All Foundation Stage One and Two classes have settled in well to PE so far this year. They have worked hard at following instructions and playing games as a team. In Term One, students have been developing their spatial awareness as well as exploring different ways in which they can move around. They have also been using the balance boards and space hoppers to work on their balance and coordination. Over the next couple of lessons, students will be developing their knowledge and understanding of flight and balance in a gymnastics setting.



### Key Stage One



Key Stage One students have been participating in games and activities to help them improve their agility, balance and coordination. They have experimented with different ways to manipulate a ball with their hands as well as practising throwing and catching. In other games, students have been in situations where they have had to develop their teamwork skills by being respectful and listening to each other to complete tasks. Some classes have started

swimming lessons where the focus is on developing their strokes in order to keep themselves safe around the water.

### Key Stage Two

Key Stage Two students have begun the year with swimming, gymnastics and with a sport that prepares them for Inter-House competitions. All students have been improving their water



confidence and stroke development within their swimming lessons as well as learning about water polo for the older students. Students have been developing their balancing skills as well as rolls and movement within gymnastics along with using apparatus to perform different movements. For inter-house sport preparations, Year Three have been learning the skills and rules of Benchball and Year Four have been further developing their knowledge and understanding of football. Year Five and Year Six have both been learning new sports with Handball and Tag Rugby.

### Key Stage Two Sports Stars of the Month



This year in PE, students are nominated once a month for Sports Star of the Month. A student from each class is chosen and presented by the PE Department and Assistant Head with a badge, which is to be sown onto their uniform. The students are chosen for a variety of reasons including; excellent sportsmanship, athletic ability, improvement in behaviour and effort within lessons.

### September Sports Stars of the Month

YEAR THREE	YEAR FOUR	YEAR FIVE	YEAR SIX
Ali Ibraheem (Y3B)	Karma Hassan (Y4B)	Zeina Mazloum-Motawei (Y5B)	Ingy Ibrahim (Y6B)
Chloe Cranston (Y3G)	Freddie Abadir (Y4G)	Karma El Shafei (Y5G)	Omar Mira (Y6G)
Abdelrahman El Tawil (Y3O)	Aly Dahy (Y4O)	Hussein Abdelkarim (Y5O)	Reda Mohamed (Y6O)
Maya Hussain (Y3R)	Alia El Zuheiry (Y4R)	Teymour El-Helw (Y5R)	Layla Marei (Y6R)
Mohab Salem (Y3V)	Mourad Al Jammal (Y4V)	Farida Sabra (Y5V)	Maya El Zuheiry (Y6V)
Julia Sultan (Y3Y)	Safura Modi (Y4Y)	Abdullah El-Ahl (Y5Y)	Tamara Mostafa (Y6Y)



# OUR NEW STUDENTS ARE SETTLING INTO FOUNDATION STAGE ONE

It is always a big transition for children as they move from nursery into Foundation Stage One at MES Cairo, and this year was no exception. The children had staggered starts, with groups of children starting on three different days. This was to give the children and their parents a chance to talk to the teachers and settle in within a smaller group setting. The children had opportunities to meet their class teachers in small groups, meet the Pod TLAs; Ms Yasmine and Ms Yara and also find out where they would be eating lunch each day, playing outside and many of the other day-to-day routines that they would be following throughout the course of the academic year.

We are very lucky at MES Cairo to have such stimulating and exciting environments in which to work and play. The children can choose to work and play in the classroom or the central pod area and they also have access to our outdoor learning yard four times each week.



Maria Montessori said “Adults admire their environment; they can remember it and think about it – but a child absorbs it. The things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul. He incarnates in himself all in the world about him that his eyes see and his ears hear.”

Our teachers make sure that each of the learning areas are as stimulating and inviting as they possibly can be for our children to work and learn in, ensuring outstanding progress. We encourage children to explore and experiment with resources, developing their curiosity and independence. We teach children where to find things and support them in tidying up. Resources are stored in accessible containers that are clearly labelled that the children can independently access.

Outdoor learning is also an immensely important part of our curriculum and comes with many benefits to learning. It offers a rich, multi-sensory environment that is meaningful, stimulating and motivating for all and allows children to move more freely, encouraging them to take more risks, develop their health, strength and coordination and gives them the opportunity to experience nature. Relationships are also different outdoors with those children who are quiet indoors are often less inhibited outdoors. Working on large scale activities also provides our children with the opportunity to cooperate, negotiate and collaborate.

As we move further into the academic year, it is lovely to see the children beginning to settle in Foundation Stage One. They are clear about their daily routines and expectations and are building friendships with their classmates and relationships with their teachers.

I hope that the children will look back in years to come as they move through their education at MES Cairo with nostalgia at the learning, relationships and friendships that were developed and fostered during their time in Foundation Stage One.

**Ms L Kiernan – Foundation Stage One Year Leader**





# FOUNDATION STAGE TWO ARE LOVING LEARNING IN THEIR NEW POD!

Foundation Stage Two children have experienced lots of change so far this year. They have successfully made the transition from Foundation Stage One to Two and they are eagerly embracing the academic challenges that go with maturing into older students.



The extended day is another positive change for the children and they are enjoying their time at school and the excitement of travelling home with their older siblings. We are very proud of how quickly and easily the children have adapted and are taking these changes in their stride.

The new Pod layout brings lots of excitement too. Foundation Stage Two teachers have spent a long time redesigning the Pod to maximise the learning experiences at school by introducing new areas. There is now a focus on developing childrens' communication skills as well as their gross and fine motor skills through activities such as messy play, large scale construction, den making and weaving.

We are very lucky to have two very experienced TLAs working with the children in the Pod; Ms Mariam Miller and Ms Mirette Mohsen who alongside the Foundation Stage Two teachers and TLAs are working hard to extend learning in a fun and creative way. Another focus in the Pod is collaborative learning with children being

encouraged to develop new friendships and extend their skill sets with children from other classes.

We are all excited to see what the rest of the year brings and wait with anticipation at all the amazing things we know our children can achieve.

**Ms S Macdonald – Foundation Stage Two Year Leader**





# Year One Students Enjoy a Fantastic Start to the Year

Year One children have had a great time getting settled in to their new pod and classrooms. They have been getting used to new routines and they're not the only ones! 'Charlie the Camel' made an appearance in one of our pod assemblies. Charlie is a true MES Cairo learner with a resilience and enthusiasm for making new relationships and a risk-taking nature. Charlie's inquisitive mind led him to go exploring the school. This resulted in him getting lost and requiring the resourcefulness of the Year One students to find him. The students had great fun using their investigative skills to explore the school in their search for Charlie. They created maps in the process to help guide him back.



Charlie was finally found in the swimming pool. However, after reflecting on his adventure he has decided that he now wants to go exploring further afield and discover the delights outside of MES Cairo! Our students were fully immersed in finding out all about Egypt and the different areas to support and encourage Charlie's enthusiasm, looking at some of the most prominent places and



sights in and around Cairo. This resulted in some fantastic projects being produced both in the classroom and at home.

Our topic was linked to a story which we read: 'Sailing down the Nile'. Just like the children in the story, we sailed down the Nile discovering the wonderful places to visit in Egypt, creating some fantastic pieces of writing about what could be seen along the way. The topic ended with a bang when Year One Red had their incredible assembly showcasing all the fantastic learning they had been doing. They performed the story for all the parents with a bit of help from Super Resourceful, Super Resilient, Super Risk-Taker, Super Relationships and Super Reflective!

**Ms R Searles - Year One Blue Teacher**





# YEAR TWO IS OFF TO AN EXCITING START!



We have had an exciting start to life in Year Two with students enjoying our topic on the Great Fire of London. All the students have settled into their classes with their new teachers and TLAs and there has been a variety of activities taking place over the first term.

We looked at the great plague at the beginning of term to lead us on to our topic as the Great Fire of London eradicated the plague in London. We have then spent this term exploring the Great Fire of London in lots of different ways, looking at how it was different then to now, building structures such as Tower Bridge during our pod time, comparing the houses back then and looking at why they burnt so easily. We also looked at the fact that the Fire Service in England was created because of the Great Fire of London and even received a video from Miss Bennett's sister who is a real firefighter in England.

In English, we have looked at different genres. Our first genre was books by one author and we chose to focus on the work of Oliver Jeffers. We particularly looked at his books *Lost and Found*, *Way Back Home*, *Up and Down* and *How to Catch a Star*. We changed different parts of the story, explored different ways authors write and



the techniques they use and looked at how characters might be feeling in different parts of the story. With *How to Catch a Star*, we acted out the story, learnt it off by heart, made puppets to retell the story and then wrote our own stories about this story changing the characters and objects.

We have then moved on to non-chronological reports. We started with a video from a scientist who asked us to write a report about an animal. We have then looked at different fact-files of animals, looking at the different features of the text type and cutting texts up to organise them into the correct features. We are now in the process of writing our own fact files about different animals.

In Maths, we have been working through different parts of the curriculum. We have looked at number and place value, focusing on which numbers are bigger as well as counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. We have learnt how to add and subtract 2-digit numbers using a 100 square. We then moved onto shape and have explored 2D and 3D shapes. We have learnt the properties of both of these and had a fun lesson sorting shapes by these properties.

In Science, in the first half term, we learnt all about animals and their habitats. We looked at different types of habitats and what animals live in these habitats. We then looked at how these animals are adapted to their habitats. We had fun working in groups to present posters on different habitats. We also enjoyed going on a minibeast hunt around school, looking at the different habitats we have within our school and what lives there.

It has been a fun and eventful start to Year Two with lots of exciting learning taking place. We look forward to more exciting learning over the year, especially as we move into our China topic in Term Two.

**Ms R Bennett – Year Two Year Leader**







# SECRETS OF THE SANDS



## Year Three Concert

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October saw our Year Three students engaging parents in their Year Three Concert when they took the audience back in time to Ancient Egypt. 'Secrets of the Sands' was a singing spectacle, full of a variety of catchy tunes that are still being hummed in classes and around the Year Three Pod! Coupled with some snazzy actions, the Year Three cohort were entertaining and on point.

The process began with a round of auditioning in week one of the school year. We had lots of budding actors and actresses eager to claim the part of the explorer for their class. The first round of auditions were held in front of each class and finalists voted for by their peers. Finalists then went on to the second round of auditions in front of Ms Jane and Ms Deena, who found it very difficult to choose the winning person.

Throughout rehearsals, the students showed commitment and were enthusiastic when learning the new songs and actions. Students worked incredibly well as a team and responded positively to feedback.

Our Year Three explorers discovered the tomb of the great 'Atum' and with a special guest performance from Mr Delaney, 'Atum', and the story of his descendants came to life! Each class performed a song bringing the different gods and goddesses to our stage. Despite some technical difficulties on the day, like true professional performers, they remained calm and composed throughout the show, leaving the audience suitably impressed and their teachers incredibly proud.

**Ms D Abu-Hassan - Year Three Year Leader**





# YEAR FOUR INSIGHT



It has been an incredibly exciting first term in Year Four and it is hard to believe that it is already so close to coming to an end. Our classes have been kept busy with a wide variety of learning experiences that have been caring, challenging and inspiring each and every student.

Our topic this term has been the Romans which has energised the students to produce some fascinating learning in which we have been challenged to use skills from all our lessons, not just history, to take part in different activities. Turning Roman Gods and Goddesses into 'Top Trump' cards has been a particularly enjoyable activity for many students in Year Four as it has given us the opportunity to display some of our excellent skills with ICT. Who is the strongest between Mars and Neptune? Is Diana more intelligent than Apollo? These were just some of the questions that caused some fierce debate!

We have also been very excited to learn about how the Romans actually came to Egypt! The story of Pharaoh Cleopatra, Mark Antony and Octavian was very interesting and produced some wonderful writing. Did you know that the Romans called Egypt 'Aegyptus'? We didn't until this term!

Our English learning took a surprise turn when the Year Four 'Team of the Week' trophy mysteriously vanished! Luckily, we had just started to learn about how to write a fantastic newspaper article. I was very concerned and had to explain what had happened, sharing the evidence in assembly and then we were off investigating. Students have worked exceptionally hard in their writing lessons this term and with the added motivation of finding our missing trophy, students were particularly keen to do well!



In Science, students have been focussing on sound. While we have all enjoyed learning about how sounds are made and how the ear works, we found a study into Alexander Graham Bell particularly interesting. Alexander Graham Bell was the inventor of the first practical telephone, although his telephone is very different from the mobile phones that we use today. It certainly made an interesting comparison and experiment!

As Term One comes to an end, we look back on all of the learning that has happened so far. I feel very proud as a Year Leader when I see the outstanding progress that Year Four has made in such a short period of time. It's not over yet though! We have an exciting topic to look forward to next term in 'Spain' and I cannot wait to see students challenged and inspired to try their best and be successful.

**Mr D Paget - Year Four Year Leader**





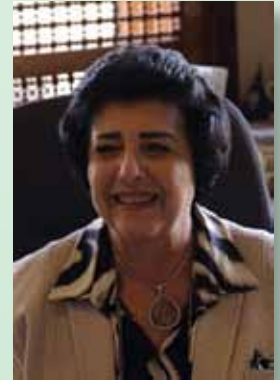
# YEAR FIVE ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT PIONEERING INDIVIDUALS



This term students in Year Five have been finding out lots of information about Pioneers. The definition of a pioneer is a person/group that originates or helps to open up a new line of thought. This can be a new method or a technological development.

The six famous people selected for Year Five are Marco Polo, James Cook, Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks, Mrs Dajani and Stephen Hawking.

Each of the people selected have ultimately made a huge impact on many lives and they serve as a source of inspiration for us all to



follow. As you enter the Year Five pod, you will immediately travel along a time-line depicting their achievements.

The students have made models of James Cook's famous ship Endeavour, the aeroplane in which Amelia Earhart would have flown, the historic yellow and green Cleveland bus in which Rosa Parks transformed History and they have even tried to recreate black holes related to Stephen Hawking's theories.



Whilst studying the history of Gulf English School, students in Year Five Blue invited Mrs Talbot, Secondary Headteacher, British Section to speak to them about her experience working at the school and how plans were adapted or changed due to unforeseen circumstances. The students were able

to gain an understanding of how Mrs Dajani was a pioneer in her quest to provide children with a quality education whilst establishing schools in Kuwait and Egypt.

**Ms P Wright – Year Five Blue Teacher**





# YEAR SIX LEAVERS' DAY



At the end of the summer term, Year Six students enjoyed their very own Leavers' Day to celebrate their time in Primary and to say goodbye before moving onwards and upwards to Secondary.

In the lead up to this day, students were asked if they were interested in being part of the planning committee. If they were, they then had to write a letter to me explaining why they wanted to join the committee and give some ideas as to how they might contribute. I looked through the letters and selected a committee of students from across the year group to plan the day. This committee met regularly and with my guidance, planned a successful day. They split themselves into sub committees with each group responsible for organising a different part of the day.



The committee agreed on a similar format to the previous year, with different activities taking place in the Year Six pod in the morning and then a movie in the theatre in the afternoon. A photographer came into school to take lots of photos of students.

Morning activities were devised and run by the committee who made posters to advertise the different activities.

In the afternoon everyone moved to the theatre to watch a film in our very own cinema. Students had the opportunity to choose from a short list of films with 'Black Panther' being the clear winner. It was enjoyed by all on the big screen and ended our fantastic and poignant Leavers' Day.

This was a lovely way to end the Primary years. Well done to those students who formed the committee and organised the whole day, especially Omar Haikal (previously Y6Y) and Yumi Star (previously Y6V) for giving up a lot of break times to make a leavers' sign that featured in all the photos on the day.

**Ms R Bennett - Year Six Year Leader (2017-2018)**





# Charlie and The Chocolate Factory

## Year Six Production



Year Six chose to base their production on the Roald Dahl book *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. Students have been learning all about Brazil and have tracked the journey of the cocoa bean through all stages until it ends up as a chocolate bar in our stores. They even had the chance to visit a real chocolate factory so what better story to link with their topic!

Following months of hard work including weekend rehearsals, Year Six students took to the stage on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to showcase their hard work in their interpretation of *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*.

This comedic and fantastical show includes over twenty songs and follows young Charlie Bucket who wins a golden ticket to the weird and wonderful Wonka Chocolate Factory. It's the chance of a lifetime to feast on the candy he's always dreamed of. Charlie and his Grandpa Joe

join a small group of contest winners who get to tour the magical and mysterious factory of eccentric candy maker, Willy Wonka. But beyond the gates, astonishment awaits, as down the sugary corridors, and amongst the incredible edible delights, the five lucky winners discover not everything is as sweet as it seems. Willy Wonka, aided by his diminutive Oompa Loompa workers, has a hidden motivation for the tour, one that he will reveal only after the children in the group show their true colours.

Well done to all of the Year Six students on a spectacular production! The set, music, brightly coloured costumes and student performances were excellent.

**Ms C Boswell – Publications Officer**





# School Council Election Fever in Key Stage Two



Year 6 Student Council



Year 5 Student Council



Year 4 Student Council

There was great excitement this year at MES Cairo when the new School Council elections were announced! For the first time the votes would take place for students who wanted to be in the School Council only. The process began with an assembly in each pod in Key Stage Two.

Year Three and Four students were asked to create a poster encouraging other students to vote for them. The posters were designed at home and parents were encouraged to help if they wanted to. Some students used fun jingles on the posters whilst others had photos of Egyptian and musical icons to try and encourage others to vote for them. Some of the students also had some interesting pledges if they were voted in.



Year 3 Student Council



In Years Five and Six, students were asked to write their own manifesto, in preparation for the School Council roles in Secondary. This involved writing down some of their ideas for the role and explaining what personal qualities they possess which would make them the perfect person for the job.

There were lots of questions during and after the assembly and the students were thrilled to learn they could vote for whoever they wanted to, within their own year group, based on who created the work and what they believed they would bring to the role. Some students even decided to create several posters and small election style flyers to remind everyone to vote for them!

Over the course of a week, each of the classes in Years Three and Four were taken around the school to look at the posters that had been created by their peers. Students had two votes each and could choose their favourite posters from within their own year group. The voting was anonymous with students putting their votes into a secret ballot box, decorated in MES Cairo colours. In Year Five and Six, the manifestos were presented in a folder alongside a similar voting slip and ballot box. It was great to see the students at MES Cairo being so reflective when looking at the posters; reading them carefully and changing their mind throughout the process when they came across new posters or manifestos. It was a hard choice for everyone to decide, including amongst the teachers!



In an assembly during the last week of the half term, the students heard who the School Council representatives would be this year. Everyone was given a round of applause to thank them for voting or for creating their own poster or manifesto, before the final results were announced. Six School Council representatives were announced in Years Three and Four and four in Years Five and Six.

## Primary Student Council – 2018-2019

YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Findlay Macdonald (Y3Y) Nour Abdel Bakki (Y3R) Phoebe Williams (Y3G) Seif Farah (Y3B) Youhanna Gabra (Y3G) Yussuf Kalila (Y3V)	Freddie Abadir (Y4G) Gamila Elsayed (Y4R) Seif Teira (Y4R) Yehia Labib (Y4Y) Youssef Hussein (Y4R) Youssef Kamal (Y4R)	Amina Neamatallah (Y50) Ismail Abouhussein (Y5V) Omar Eldiwan (Y50) Salma El Hinnawy (Y5B)	Ahmad Ramadan (Y6R) Omar Assal (Y6B) Salma El Gohary (Y6G) Sohaila Heider (Y6B)

Well done to all of the students for creating posters and manifestos of such high quality and let's look forward to a fantastic year of school improvement together!

**Mr D Barton - Primary Deputy Headteacher**



# MES CAIRO WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS

## MES Cairo Welcomes our Newest Member to the Leadership Team

### Mrs Catherine Readman - Primary Headteacher for Key Stage One



I am privileged to take on the role of Headteacher of Key Stage One and to have the opportunity to work in a school where community and education is a shared commitment by all stakeholders.

I have joined MES Cairo having spent the last five years working in an International Baccalaureate Programme school in Dubai. Two of these were as Class Teacher/Year Team Leader and the last, in the position of Head of Primary at a school a similar size to MES Cairo but leading Foundation One through to Year Six. Prior to my time in Dubai, I had seven years as a Principal in my home country, New Zealand. I have travelled to Egypt with my husband, David and we feel very welcome and already very much part of the MES Cairo family.

I believe every child has the right to a high quality, meaningful education where they are able to reach their full potential and develop into confident, connected, life-long learners within a nurturing and safe learning environment. This aligns nicely with the MES Cairo mission statement, 'Care, Challenge and Inspire' and I know the Directors, Leadership teams and all the staff, are committed to developing a learning culture that embraces this. The 5 Rs - Relationships, Reflective, Risk-taker, Resilient and Resourceful attributes are life-long skills that are very much embedded into the quality teaching and learning programme provided at MES Cairo and will enable our students to be successful young people.



Outside of school, I enjoy travelling, cooking, keeping fit and relaxing with friends and family (especially when I travel back home to New Zealand).

One of my highlights since being in Egypt is seeing the pyramids for the first time – one of my childhood dreams. I am excited to be joining the MES Cairo community and also looking forward to exploring the diverse culture and what Egypt has to offer.

### Mr Michael Burrows - Primary Key Stage Two



I have been teaching for eighteen years in Australia, China, Malaysia and Indonesia. Previously, I worked as an accountant and spent some years as a support worker for people with disabilities. I have degrees in Psychology, Education and Accounting (Diploma). I was born and raised in Grafton, NSW, Australia but spent most of my adult life in Sydney. I have taught students from Year One to Year Ten and ESL to older students. I have two grown-up children; a son in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and a daughter in Donegal, Ireland and I recently became a doting grandad.

I am new to Egypt and am looking forward to discovering the country. I have taught about ancient Egypt almost every year that I have been teaching and I am looking forward to seeing the ancient sites in real life. I believe that my main responsibility as a teacher is to care for my students, challenge them to do their best and inspire them to want to achieve.

### Miss Kaitlyn Coffey - Primary Key Stage One

Hello! My name is Kaitlyn Coffey and this is my first year teaching at MES Cairo. I have joined the Foundation Stage Two team and I am very excited to be teaching Orange class. This is my first trip to Egypt, though not my first time travelling. I moved here from Canada at the end of the summer and I am already in love with the vibrancy of Cairo. I grew up on a farm, so I'm not used to being so close to everything. I graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada where I received my Bachelor of Voice Performance. Following graduation, I attended Teachers' College at Nipissing University to complete my Primary teaching qualification while teaching private voice lessons on the side. As you may have guessed I have a passion for music and the dramatic arts, which I hope to incorporate into my classroom. I am enjoying my time at MES Cairo so far and look forward to this new adventure. Thank you to staff, students and parents for making this big change such an easy and exciting one!



### Mrs Suzyn Kelley - Secondary Art

I teach AP Studio, Photography, Pre AP, Art III and MS Art. I have come to MES Cairo from KIS in Jeju, South Korea. I grew up next to the Atlantic Ocean at my family's small hotel called the Blue Fin. My hometown was so beautiful it filled me with a lifelong desire to capture the breath-taking beauty of light dancing through colour, commonly seen in south Florida! I love the light in Egypt too and look forward to setting up my studio soon.

I have three adult children and a daughter-in-law. All three of my children work in the creative field from set design for films to building and repairing, to art education and even an Etsy shop for wearable art; they are the light of my life and the treasure of a wonderful creative life that keeps inspiring and amazing me. I studied Fine Art at the Rhode Island School of Design, Art History at Southern Methodist University and RISD in Rome and earned my BFA from the University of Texas at Austin. My post graduate Art Education work and certification is from the University of Richmond. I have been exhibiting and making art since 1982.

I am very honoured to bring my knowledge and experience to MES Cairo. I love to share my passion for creativity with young people.



### Mr Steve Thurgood - Secondary Chemistry



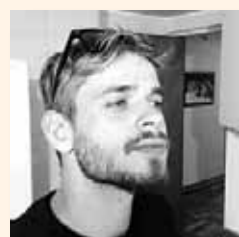
I started teaching in 1984 and changed career in 1988 when I moved into the chemical industry. My career spanned several companies ending up in a multinational company running their IT systems and accumulating a family along the way. I returned to teaching when my children went to secondary school in 2006. My first overseas role was in Doha, Qatar in 2016 and now the great cosmopolitan city of Cairo.

My personal life has been dominated by sport. A keen triple-jumper in my youth, my claim to fame was representing Great Britain and NI at RAF Cosford in 1980 - a lucky break as most Olympians were away training for the Moscow Olympics! Early hopes, and a developing career, were ended by a major traffic accident whilst on my motorbike in 1984, shortly after starting my first teaching post. From then on, my winter sport of Basketball became a passion and, when injury stopped me playing, I became a gym instructor and took up refereeing. Eventually this led to National League in 1994 and International Wheelchair from 2001.

Even this had to stop in 2003 when I took up cycling (long distance cyclist, 200-3000km challenge rides), to ease the stress on previously damaged knees. That said, at the same time I got into Trekking, Duke of Edinburgh (you know of it as IA and has seen me go to the four points of the earth). I was heavily involved at the London 2012 opening ceremony and marshaling for the cycling events.

### Ms Dawn Quarles - Secondary Business Studies and Global Studies

My name is Dawn, and MES Cairo is my very first international school. I am from Pensacola Beach, in the panhandle of Florida, in the United States, so I am more *Alabama* than *Miami*. It's the home of big, lifted Jeeps, SEC college football and beautiful, warm-water beaches. I'm a proud southerner who loves fried chicken and raw oysters, but as you can imagine, I don't miss hurricane season. I've been a teacher for fifteen years, at both the high school and college levels. My son Ben recently graduated with the Class of 2018 and is about to attend Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. GO OWLS! I am a published author and my newest book, *Witnessing the American Century*, will be out in January 2019, proudly published by Kent State University Press. I'm also a feature writer and a blogger, usually writing about women's issues or opinions about American politics. I have been following Mo Salah on Instagram for years and I love being here in this country, at this school. On the weekends, you will find me researching my next book and blogging about your beautiful country, Egypt.



### Mr Tom Howlett - Secondary English

Hello, my name is Tom Howlett and I am teaching English in the British Section across Years Eight through Ten and DP Eleven in the IB Section. I am originally from Suffolk and studied at Liverpool John Moores University. I arrive with two years' experience teaching English in the MYP at an IB school in Bogota, Colombia. Before that I spent nearly five years living in Barcelona; unsuccessfully selling computers for Hewlett Packard and falling off a skateboard. I've also spent a year living in India and now happy to be a part of the MES Cairo family here in Egypt!



### Ms Laura Schrimpf - Primary Key Stage One

My name is Laura Schrimpf and this is my first year at MES Cairo. I have already been living in Egypt for three years, collecting valuable experience in different international schools.

I grew up in Southern Spain, which is almost as sunny as Egypt. I studied Psychology in the University of Huelva and obtained my PGCE through the University of Sunderland. I am living in New Cairo with my two cats, Lilly and Ginger.

On the weekends and holidays, I usually escape to El Gouna or other places next to the sea.

I am looking forward to teaching, not only the curriculum to my students, but also valuable skills that they can use for their daily lives.



### Mr Justin Rogers - Secondary Business

Hey there, my name is Justin Rogers. I am American and have been living in Vietnam for the past four years. My wife Rachel and I both teach at MES Cairo in the subjects of History and Business/Economics respectively. One of the reasons that brought us here was the opportunity to experience a new culture (as I am sure is the case with many of our colleagues) but more importantly was to join a quality school with collaborative staff. I am excited to learn from MES Cairo in the coming years. Just don't ask me to play soccer (football) as some of my colleagues have recently found out that it is not my strong suit. What I do like is reading non-fiction, talking about crowdfunding, and travelling. Here's to a great year!

### Ms Amelia Parrett - Primary Key Stage Two

My name is Amelia Parrett and I am teaching Year Three at MES Cairo. Having attended high school in Cairo, I am thrilled to be back in this wonderful city. Before moving here, I spent a year working at an IB school in Malawi and three years at an IB school in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

I attended Loughborough University in the UK, obtaining a BA in History and International Relations and then my PGCE from the University of Gloucestershire. My real passion though, is Art and I try and incorporate it into as many of my lessons as possible. I am thoroughly looking forward to the year ahead; it has been a wonderful start so far!



### Mr Ahmed Labib - Secondary Science

My name is Ahmed Labib and I have joined MES Cairo as an American Section Physics teacher. I am Egyptian but was born in Zimbabwe and moved to Zambia when I was just one year old. I then spent the next fourteen years of my life in a British boarding school before moving to Egypt for University. I graduated with a Chemical Engineering degree and a Minor in Environmental Engineering. I then moved to Spain for a year to study my Masters in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. In Spain, I discovered my true passion was teaching, so when I moved back to Egypt I started my new career. This is my third year in the career, and I honestly can't get enough. I am looking forward to sharing all my experiences and gaining some new ones with all of you!

### Ms Aishling Dean - Primary Key Stage Two

Hi, my name is Aishling Dean and I am pleased to be joining MES Cairo as a Year Six teacher. I am from a little part of England called Cornwall and I live a few minutes' walk from the beach. I love to wake up and have a coffee whilst walking my dog on the beach. This is not my first adventure in the Middle East; I lived and worked in Qatar for the last two years. One of my hobbies is learning new languages; despite two years of lessons, I am still improving my Arabic every day! I love the hot weather and lovely beaches of Egypt and I cannot wait to learn all about the history. I have been lucky enough to visit the pyramids, go diving and try lots of Egyptian food. I am very excited about my new adventure both at MES Cairo and in Egypt. If you see me in the corridor, please come and say hi!



### Mr Howard Gilmour - Secondary Business and Economics

Hi, I'm Howard and thrilled to be working at MES Cairo as a Business and Economics teacher within the Commercial Studies Department. This is my third year in Egypt and my seventh in the Middle East. I had never anticipated staying so long. I spent five years teaching in West Yorkshire (England) before moving to Qatar and then Kuwait and finally Egypt. I have spent quite a lot of time travelling round other countries in the Middle East and I feel like I could be in the region for another few years as I feel very much at home here. Since arriving, I've been overwhelmed by the kindness and interest that there is in the region.

I recently took some time off to complete a Masters, in Construction, and then worked briefly as a Quantity Surveyor in a small practice in the UK. Along the same theme I recently bought a plot of land and started building a house. It's been a fantastic project so far to see my own design and labour translate into a house. I hope to finish in Summer 2019 in order to move on to another build. In my spare time, I am trying to get fit again after having fallen off the fitness wagon and enjoy trying to learn basic Egyptian Arabic too.



### Ms Sheena van Gijtenbeek - Primary PE

Hi, my name is Shenna van Gijtenbeek and I am teaching Primary PE at MES Cairo this year. I decided to move to Cairo eighteen months ago after working as a travel agent in countries such as Croatia, Thailand, Maldives and Cuba and volunteering as a hockey and boxing coach at the Foundation of Goodness in Sri Lanka.

I am originally from The Netherlands where I studied at the University of Amsterdam. I fell in love with Egypt during one of my trips because of the great weather, amazing beaches and delicious food. Outside of school, you can find me on the hockey field or in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) training. I'm really enjoying my time at MES Cairo and can't wait to see what the rest of the year has to offer!

### Mr Sam Bibby - Primary Music

Hello, my name is Sam Bibby, and I am excited to be starting my first year of teaching Primary Music at MES Cairo. If you are out and about in Cairo and run into a two metres tall person eyeing nearby desserts more closely than the tourist attractions, it is probably me.

I am from Guelph, Ontario, a quiet Canadian city of about 130,000 people near Toronto, where the temperature has never risen above thirty-five degrees in my lifetime. That means moving to a big city in a desert like Cairo has been a very new experience.

I received a Bachelor of Music degree from Wilfrid Laurier University and I completed my teacher training at Nipissing University. I also had the opportunity to teach at schools in Canada and England before arriving here at MES Cairo. I grew up in a family of teachers, and am truly passionate about education in general, but specifically music education. That is why I am so lucky to be at a school like MES Cairo that values arts so highly. I hope to inspire a love of music in students so that they can get the same enjoyment out of playing and listening to music that I do.



### Ms Jean Bennett - Secondary HOD Expressive Arts (British Section)

Hi, my name is Jean Bennett and I am leading the Expressive Arts Department at MES Cairo.

It's exciting to be in Cairo and to experience wonderful Egyptian culture. I love to paint and there is plenty of inspiration here! My home is in Co. Cork, Ireland where I have been teaching Art for many years and where I studied fine art, painting and photography. My first trip to Africa was to Southern Africa over ten years ago and involved travelling through South Africa to Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, finishing up in the Maasai Mara in Kenya. Travelling in an overland truck camping under the stars for five months was a magical experience. The stand-out memory was being woken in the middle of the night by a herd of stampeding elephants at a desert camp in Namibia! Thankfully I am alive to tell the tale! I'm looking forward to this new journey exploring Northern Africa and discovering all the amazing places to visit in Egypt and all the great people to meet along the way!



### Mr James Vargeson - Primary Key Stage One

I am teaching in Year Two of the Primary section. I spent a number of years teaching English as a foreign language in South Korea before deciding to become a fully-fledged practitioner, qualifying from the University of East Anglia. I have enjoyed my first few weeks at MES Cairo and Egypt. I am a keen traveller and sportsman, so visiting Aswan during the half term break and playing lots of golf at the beautiful courses across Cairo, have been fantastic experiences. I am looking forward to the upcoming months at this dynamic school and I am keen to explore more of this historically and culturally rich country.



### Ms Martinelle Allen - Secondary English



Hi, I'm Martinelle Allen and I'm pleased to be joining the American Section English Department at MES Cairo this year. I was born in Birmingham, Alabama, USA but I grew up in Arlington, Virginia (outside of Washington, DC). I double majored in English and Secondary Education at the Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia and immediately began teaching Middle School and High School students in Washington DC. Right after I earned my Master's in English Literature and Language in 2013, I finally decided to combine my two passions (teaching and travelling) and started teaching abroad in China, where I have been for the past four years. And now, here I am! I'm looking forward to enjoying my time here at MES Cairo and I can't wait to explore Egypt and many other countries on this side of the globe.

### Mr Nigel Cole – Primary Key Stage Two

My name is Nigel Cole and I am the teacher for Year Six Green class. I am enjoying the challenge of being in a new environment and a new country. I have a great deal of teaching experience, having taught for ten years in the United Kingdom and in many international schools over the last twenty years. I have over this time taught students from Year Three all the way up to A Level in Year Thirteen.

One of the many reasons for my move to Cairo was that for the last two years I have been teaching in Moscow, Russia. Even though it is a beautiful city with many iconic buildings and a world cup on my doorstep ultimately it was the -20C winters that drove me to warmer climates. I am still finding my way around Cairo and I am excited about the trips I have planned in Egypt.



### Ms Neveen Fouad – Primary Key Stage Two



Hello, MES Cairo community. I am thrilled to be with you this academic year. I first came to Egypt in 2006 for a tour of Upper and Lower Egypt for three weeks. It was during this time I felt an affinity to this country and wanted to continue my teaching career in this wonderful place. I was only meant to work here for one year but twelve years later, I am still thriving. I just can't get enough!

I grew up and graduated in the UK and my educational background is from the UK. Since my family is originally from Egypt, my culture, ethics and values are mostly grounded in my Egyptian roots. I have been in the educational field now for fifteen years and consider myself very honoured and privileged to be in this unique profession. My hobbies include camping, reading books on Theology and world religions and travelling. I have one sister living in the UK and I always enjoy my reunions with her.

### Mr Joel O'Brien - Primary Key Stage Two

Hello! My name is Joel O'Brien and I am taking my first exciting steps into the world of teaching abroad. I was born and raised in Leeds, UK and originally studied Sport Development. An opportunity to work in a school arose and after that I studied Primary Education and never looked back. I am excited to be starting this new adventure in Egypt. I am sure there will be many challenges along the way but I know I am surrounded by supportive people who will make this a wonderful experience. Sport is a massive part of my life, having played Cricket (a proper English sport!), and run both the 800m and 1500m competitively. My family are spread all around the world in Canada, France, Kuwait and Australia to name a few so I am used to living in new places and experiencing different cultures. I thoroughly enjoy teaching and inspiring children each and every day, enabling them to achieve their dreams and go beyond what they think they are capable of. Happiness and support are key to success and I believe at MES Cairo along with the students, parents and staff we will make this an outstanding year full of awe and wonder!





### Mr Steve Delaney - Primary Key Stage Two

I am Steve Delaney and the new teacher for Year Three Blue class. I have been teaching for sixteen years with the vast majority of my experience being in the UK. However, I spent last year teaching in Abu Dhabi, UAE where I got used to not needing my coat, gloves and scarf. Having gained so much from the international experience, I applied for a job at MES Cairo and was delighted to be accepted. Life in Egypt so far has been really interesting and Cairo is a city so vast at times it is incomprehensible.

Previously in the UK, I developed a style of teaching where the teacher teaches in character and would tour the country doing this when not at my regular school. This is something I hope to bring to MES Cairo, making literacy even more rewarding. I am also a published playwright and am fortunate enough to have a multi-million selling author as a father, who has always inspired me.

In my spare time I enjoy playing golf (poorly), football and supporting Liverpool FC. I have already spent many an hour on the Nile and to see the pyramids was a treasured moment and something I thought I may never do. The possibilities that lie ahead in Cairo are so exciting and I have not even travelled out to the coast yet! I am very much looking forward to the coming year!

### Madame Deborah Foulkes - Primary French

Bonjour à tous et à toutes! My name is Deborah Foulkes and I am teaching French to Years Three through Six. I have travelled to many places in the world in quizzes, I can always answer what is the capital of Burkina Faso – Ouagadougou and that is because I have actually been there! I have worked in a number of overseas schools.

I first went to work abroad in 1990 at the British School of Lomé in Togo. Despite no internet, no phone and no television, I spent three happy years there. I have also worked in Oman, Berlin and Dubai but always knew that one day I would come back to Africa to live and work. During my Togolese days, I was chased by an angry Mother elephant so am hoping that nothing quite so dramatic happens here in Egypt! Cairo is a very fascinating city with so much history and culture and I have already done a lot of sightseeing. I have been to the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities and saw Tutankhamun's mask again; in the summer of 1972 I queued for three hours outside the British Museum in the blazing sunshine to see it. I was totally awestruck by its beauty back then and my second viewing did not disappoint!



### Mr Luke Salisbury - Primary PE

My name is Luke Salisbury and I am teaching Primary PE this year at MES Cairo. I am originally from Barnsley, UK but have been living in Cairo for the past eighteen months. I graduated from Edge Hill University with a BA degree in Physical Education and School Sport before completing my teacher training in the UK. In Egypt, I can regularly be found playing sport of some kind mostly on the football field or on the golf course. I have found travelling in Egypt extremely rewarding and spending time at the Red Sea has helped me develop a love of diving and seeing the wonderful marine life that Egypt has to offer. I look forward to spending time developing the skills of our young sportsmen and women both during lessons and in their Cougar sessions!

### Ms Rachael Searles - Primary Key Stage One

Hi, my name is Rachael Searles and I am so excited to be joining MES Cairo as a Year One teacher. Although this is my first year at MES Cairo, I am no stranger to Cairo, having lived here now for almost three years. I grew up in England where I went to school and University and then decided to make the move over here to experience a different culture and to join my parents who are also residing in this fantastic country. I love to travel and see what the world has to offer, and as is often the case I came to Egypt temporarily initially and never left! Everything about Egypt fascinates me, and I love going for horse rides in the desert before sitting down to eat a delicious bowl of Om Ali. My favourite places I have visited so far in Egypt are Luxor and El Gouna. I still have many places I am yet to check off my list which I look forward to doing so in the future.





### Ms Rikki Edmond - Secondary English

My name is Rikki Edmond. I was born and raised in Philadelphia, USA. I went to college in Washington DC and later settled in Atlanta where I taught Secondary English. I have been travelling since I was a young child. My mother who was a School Principal frequently planned international trips during the summers allowing my sister and I the opportunity to see the world at a young age. I didn't understand it then, but I realise now how lucky I was. Undoubtedly, I have had the travel bug ever since and the strong desire to live abroad.

Outside of travelling to new adventures my passions include sports, yoga, eating delicious vegan meals, laying on the beach and everything health and fitness. I am excited to be a part of such an awesome learning community. I look forward to inspiring students, developing great friendships and creating everlasting memories!



### Mr Tony Ruddy - Primary Key Stage Two

This is my first year at MES Cairo teaching in Year Five. I have spent the last three years teaching Key Stage Two in London and before that I taught in Cairo for five years. Yes, I found the old proverb 'Once you drink from the Nile, you are destined to return' to be true. I grew up in London, where I went to university and began teaching. I also spent many years in the west of Ireland, when I was in my teens and twenties. In a previous life, long before I picked up the mortar board, black cape and chalk, I worked in construction and had the opportunity to work with a variety of people in different places including Finland and Australia. I love learning about other cultures, their history and their languages. I find Egypt and the Middle East just so interesting and I hope to do a lot of exploring over the region, as well as brushing up on my Arabic.

### Ms Melina Aldridge - Primary Key Stage One

Kia ora, I am Melina and I come from New Zealand. I have worked in New Zealand, England, Dubai and now Egypt. At MES Cairo, I am a Key Stage One supply teacher. It is great to be able to teach different classes and meet many students.

I visited Egypt many years ago on holiday and enjoyed it so much and wanted to move here and experience the beauty of Egypt and the history. I enjoy travelling, nature and trying new things and can't wait to see more of Egypt.



### Mr Hussain Al Kamali - Secondary Maths

Hello, my name is Hussain Al Kamali and I have joined the Maths Department in the British Section at MES Cairo. I was born and raised in Ireland before moving with my family to England. I completed my studies in the United Kingdom. I have taught in Egypt before, in 6<sup>th</sup> of October City and always hoped I would venture to the other side of Cairo. I enjoyed my time here so much that I decided to come back after working in Brunei and England. They say "once you drink from the Nile you are destined to return" and that proverb seems to hold true. I was lucky enough to see all the wonders of ancient Egypt the last time I was here but with so many new historical artefacts being found and new developments being constructed, it means there will always be more things to see and do here. I have found my time so far at MES Cairo wonderful and have enjoyed teaching the energetic and enthusiastic students.

### Ms Janelle Sculley - Secondary Mathematics

Hello! My name is Janelle Sculley and I have joined MES Cairo as a Grade Seven/Eight Mathematics teacher. This is my first international teaching position, although I have been in the classroom for twelve years. My teaching experience was split between North Carolina and Ohio in the US, and I predominantly taught Maths with a few years of Science thrown in too. I also spent all of my years in the US coaching Volleyball, Basketball and Track. I am always up for an adventure, and after spending a full year travelling abroad, I decided it was time to combine my loves of teaching and travelling to explore a new corner of the world. I am looking forward to discovering all that Egypt has to offer, especially the amazing scuba diving in the Red Sea!



### Mr Jason Henry - Secondary Mathematics

Greetings, everyone! My name is Jason Henry and I am thrilled to say that this is my first year teaching Secondary Mathematics at MES Cairo. I like to think of myself as an energetic, inquisitive, passionate, and personable mathematics educator. I have extensive experience teaching at various levels (from Middle School to university) for the past eight years and I have a Masters of Science in Mathematics Education. I love what I do, and I couldn't think of any other career that could possibly make me happier.

While I'm a teacher by profession, I am a world traveller by passion. Although I am originally from the United States, you'll hardly ever find me at home. I deem myself a global citizen. I truly enjoy visiting new places, meeting new people, and learning about different cultures and languages. This is part of the reason I am over the moon to be given the opportunity to be part of the MES Cairo family. I believe every place and person has something new and exciting to teach, and I look forward to teaching what I know as well as learning from the experience that will be gained in this new environment. When I am not globetrotting, my hobbies include reading (mainly fiction and current events), working out, playing tennis, listening to music, and trying interesting and new cuisines. Before I end this, I'll leave you with my simple philosophy in life... "Be positive, enjoy life, and be your best version of yourself".



### Ms Rachel Rogers - Secondary Humanities

Hi, my name is Rachel Rogers and I am originally from Oregon, USA which is in the gorgeous, tree-laden Pacific Northwest. My husband, Justin and I taught in Hanoi, Vietnam for four years before joining MES Cairo. I could not help but sometimes shake my head at the irony of teaching American History and Government in Vietnam. Though we loved our experience living and teaching there, one of the reasons we wanted to live internationally was to experience different cultures; and I cannot think of a more historically-rich and exotic place than Egypt!

I am so excited to teach alongside my colleagues in the Humanities Department. Besides my teaching certificate in the Social Sciences, I have a Master's Degree in Public Policy and was able to do a fellowship in Washington, D.C. In my spare time, I enjoy reading non-fiction, particularly about WWII, practising photography, serving at my church, travelling and exploring nature.

### Mr Luke Roper - Primary Key Stage Two

Hi, my name is Luke Roper and this is my first year teaching in Year Six at MES Cairo. I am from Wellington, New Zealand where I taught for three years. Prior to that I had a stint in South Korea teaching English for a further three years. I'm always up for a bit of travelling and I have just spent the last four months travelling through Nepal and Central Asia en route to Egypt. It is exciting to be here at MES and in Cairo, enjoying a different environment and change of pace. I am looking forward to exploring more of Egypt and neighbouring destinations!



### Ms Sophie Morgan - Primary Key Stage Two

Hello, my name is Sophie and this is my first year teaching at MES Cairo. I am very excited to be teaching in Year Four. I am originally from a small city called Hereford in England. It has been funny receiving pictures from family and friends with how cold it is back in England!

This is my first time in Egypt and I been enjoying visiting the surrounding areas (especially the pyramids!). However, this isn't my first time living away from England as I have previously lived in Menorca (a Spanish island) where I worked with children in hotels. I feel so blessed to be experiencing my dream job in Egypt!



### Mr Alistair Hamilton - Secondary Science

Hello, my name is Alastair Hamilton and I currently teach Science in the Secondary British Section. My favourite Sciences are Chemistry and Physics which I find interesting because when I was young, I was convinced I was going to either become the next David Attenborough or a professional herpetologist (a reptile and amphibian biologist)!

I have come from London, England and this is my first time teaching abroad. Although I had been teaching Maths and Science in the UK for about ten years, I did feel that now would be good time to experience the wonders of teaching in another country. Egypt is such a marvellous collection of cultures and historical significance that I felt it would be great place for such an adventure. I have found Egyptian people very warm, friendly and keen to have a chat, so I'm looking forward to teaching all the students at MES Cairo and preparing them for a potential career in the Sciences.



### Ms Andrea Webb - Secondary LDD Coordinator

Hello, my name is Andrea Webb and I am very happy to be back at MES Cairo after eight years in Asia. I am now the LDD Coordinator for the Secondary British Section, focusing on supporting our students to achieve their best and challenge themselves, including through the Gifted and Talented programme. I trained at Loughborough University, UK and I'm also CELTA trained. I have taught for eighteen years, with over thirteen years of international teaching experience in places as diverse as Brunei, Indonesia and Singapore. I was originally a whole school PE teacher at MES Cairo for four years, so I have experience working with learners from Nursery to Year/Grade/IBDP Twelve, in all sections of the school (British, American and IB). I have already met many of our Year Seven through Ten learners in English classes and look forward to getting involved in MES Cairo community events, as I used to coordinate the ASA and CAS Programmes and organise many charity events, including 'Operation Smile'.

### Mr Don Reim - Secondary Science

My name is Donald Reim and I am teaching Eighth and Ninth Grade Science in the American Section. It is exhilarating to be living in Egypt in such a massive city with such an amazing and diverse history. It is exciting to be teaching at such a large school with such a variety of teachers and nationalities mixing all together. Teaching Science has always been a passion of mine and teaching Eighth/Ninth Grade are levels I enjoy because of the students' enthusiasm, excitement and curiosity about learning.

As hobbies, I enjoy playing many sports and look forward to coaching Volleyball and Basketball at the school. Additionally, I love to travel and look forward to visiting and experiencing cultures of North Africa and the Middle East. I have spent many years teaching Science at several international schools and know there will be exciting challenges and unique experiences here in Egypt.



### Ms Colleen Comerford - Secondary Art

As-salmu-alakum! My name is Colleen Comerford and I teach Visual Art in the American Section. Before moving to Cairo, I lived and worked in Boston, USA teaching Digital Art and Design. I graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design (BFA), the University of Massachusetts (MFA) and spent a semester abroad at Parsons School of Design Paris. Before teaching, I worked for many years as a graphic designer/illustrator, including seven years at the footwear company, Reebok. More recently, I taught Visual Communication at Dar Al Hekma University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where I began to learn Arabic. As a teacher and graphic artist, I am very interested in the early history of the Latin alphabet before it was the Latin alphabet! Being in Egypt provides numerous primary sources for research. It brings me great pleasure to see my students succeed in what they love, whatever it may be. When not out and about in Cairo, you will find me spending time with my daughters, aged twenty and twenty-two years, my father, aged eighty-one years and I love swimming, sailing and reading.

### Mr Ehaib Ahmed - Secondary Mathematics

Hello, my name is Ehaib Ahmed, and I have joined the MES Cairo staff as a Mathematics teacher in the American Section. Growing up in New York City, USA was one of the things that helped shape the person I am today. Living in one of the main diversity centres of the world has allowed me to interact with people from different cultures, changed my perspective and built my sense of adventure. My passion for travelling the world has encouraged me to move to Spain to study and explore life. Graduating from City University of New York with a double Major Degree in International Economics and International Corporate Finance was the start of my self-discovery and empowerment journey. I was enchanted by the glamour of Wall Street where I started my career in UBS, one of the largest Swiss banking institutions of the world.

My passion for learning and self-development has always encouraged me to challenge myself and continuously expand my goals. I have worn many hats in my career; financial analyst, Adjunct professor and teacher. My life's call and passion is not just to educate young individuals, but to empower them, help them change their own lives, attain their dreams and shape their future. I believe that by transforming one person's life and perspective for the better, you help change the world. When not working, I am committed to learning and building my Mathematical knowledge or weight lifting. I love to read, watch football and explore the world.



### Mr Glyn Puddefoot - Secondary Design Technology

Hello, I am the new Design Technology Teacher at MES Cairo. I am pleased to join the team where I have already received great support. I have been teaching Design Technology for over thirty years now and have been teaching in International schools around the world since 1999. I am a British citizen, although my home now is in Botswana where I worked for twenty years and was part of the team that introduced Design Technology to the national curriculum there. Whilst in Botswana I designed and built three of my own houses. Over the last ten years, I have worked in international schools in Barbados, Thailand and China, mostly teaching the International Baccalaureate courses. When I arrived here, I was pleased to find a well-established Design Technology Department that is well-equipped both in the workshop as well as in the graphic design studio. During the time I am here in Egypt I look forward to exploring the rich history, culture and geography of Egypt and the surrounding region.

### Mr Arslan Khalid - Primary Key Stage Two

Hi, my name is Arslan Khalid and I am new to MES Cairo. This is not my first visit to Cairo as I visited here as well as Alexandria a few years ago. I am originally from Manchester, UK where I have spent the majority of my life. I have completed a BA in History and a PGCE in Primary Education. To enhance my teaching repertoire, I also completed an English language teaching course (CELTA). I went on to spend two years teaching in Kuwait where I was lucky enough to have the experience of teaching a number of Egyptian students and making many Egyptian friends even before arriving here in Cairo!

I love to travel and explore new countries and cultures. Having thoroughly enjoyed my previous experiences when visiting Egypt, I decided to come and live here. I am looking forward to the year ahead and am glad that I decided to move to Cairo, a place which feels like home.



### Ms Melina Hess - Primary LDD

Hello, my name is Melina Hess and I am the LDD teacher for Years Four and Five. This is my first year at MES Cairo, but my second in Egypt as I stayed home last year to work on and complete my Masters of Education as a Reading Specialist along with taking care of Mikel, my youngest of two sons. My husband, Hans, is in his second year as a Seventh and Ninth Grade English teacher in the American Section. My oldest son, Elias, is in Foundation Stage Two this year and is thoroughly enjoying it. This is my fifth year working as a Special Education teacher after developing a programme in an international school in Honduras, and then teaching in a public school in Goshen, Indiana, USA. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have lived and travelled around the world previously, so when my family and I had the opportunity to come to Egypt, we were excited to experience a different region of the world. I have enjoyed my time at MES Cairo so far and I am thankful for all the staff members who have helped me to transition so seamlessly.





### **Ms Pylaar Solomon - Secondary Spanish**

Hello! To my students I am Profesora Solomon. I am so pleased to be joining the American and IBDP Sections of MES Cairo this year. Originally, I hail from Oregon, USA which is on the West Coast of the USA. Nike and Intel are from my hometown of Portland. I received my degree in Anthropology, Spanish and Religious Studies with Honors from the University of Oregon in 1998. I completed my Master's in Education and Curriculum in 2000 and have been teaching ever since. I am currently working on a doctorate in Educational Leadership (EdD) online through Concordia University, so I share some of the struggles with late nights writing papers that my students experience. I have lived in Spain, Ecuador, and France. I have two daughters, one who is attending MES Cairo as a student in the IBDP this year. We are truly enjoying Cairo and its' friendly citizens.

### **Mr Richard Cranston - Secondary Assistant Headteacher**

My name is Richard Cranston and I come to MES Cairo as Assistant Headteacher for Years Eleven and Twelve in the British Section. Having worked in Northern Ireland in a teaching and leadership capacity my whole career, I always had the aspiration to work in an international school. Having made the decision that this was the year to explore this long-held itch, I was in the fortunate position of being offered roles from a few different international schools. However, having met with the Senior Leadership Team, I knew that MES Cairo was the right school for me; and my experience so far has only reinforced this decision. I thoroughly enjoy engaging with the students on a daily basis, and as my role includes the university application process I get to know them all as individuals. I come to Egypt with my wife, Kerry and two children, Adam (Ten) and Chloe (Seven) who attend the Primary School at MES Cairo and are also loving their time here! As a family we have fully embraced our new life in Cairo and particularly the warm weather and the food.



### **Dr Janie Cates - Secondary Mathematics**

I am excited to join MES Cairo in the American and IBDP Mathematics sections. I have worked in education for twenty-five years...mostly teaching at the Middle School, High School and College levels in Georgia and Florida, USA. In addition to teaching, I have supervised Mathematics teachers and the Mathematics curriculum in a school system with thirty plus schools. With two wonderful children, Caitlin, twenty-one and Duncan, nineteen - both in college, I decided it was time for a new adventure. MES Cairo is the start of this new adventure and what an amazing start it has been. Cairo is much more fast paced than where I was in Florida but the weather has been more tolerable (little humidity!). The students at MES Cairo are enthusiastic and welcoming and have helped make my transition so much easier. I'm looking forward to all the adventures to come...both in school and out!

### **Ms Niamh Nugent - Primary Key Stage One**

Hi everyone, I am Niamh Nugent, I am the teacher for Year Two Yellow and I am pleased to be joining MES Cairo this year. Ireland is where I grew up and where I studied to graduate with my Bachelor of Education. After graduating, I moved to teach in Qatar for four years. I returned to Ireland for a year and now I'm here in Egypt. So far, I have enjoyed experiencing life in Egypt. I had previously visited Egypt twice before but living here and visiting here are two very different experiences. I am looking forward to discovering more about this historical place and learning more about Egyptian culture and the Arabic language too!



# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At MES Cairo we believe that teachers engaging with continuing learning and training opportunities throughout their careers assures a high level of expertise and enables them to keep their professional skills and knowledge up-to-date.

Since June 2016, MES Cairo has developed links and friendship with the Community First Academy Trust in Wigan, England. Some of the schools in this trust, along with their teacher training programme are considered by the UK Department for Education as 'Ofsted Outstanding'. As part of this relationship, several teachers from the UK have been regularly coming to visit us in Cairo and we have sent small delegations to the North West of England in a bid to exchange ideas, promote and share good teaching practice and engage in meaningful reflective professional dialogue.

After the summer term ended at MES Cairo in June, four teachers from our Primary and Secondary sections made the most of UK schools still being in session until the end of July by going to visit the Community First Academy Trust to complete a two-week school experience as part of their own Continuing Professional Development (CPD). They were also joined for a few days by our Primary Deputy Headteacher Mr Barton.

During their time, they had the opportunity to observe lessons, meet students and teachers and gather great ideas to bring back to Cairo. They also had the chance to plan and teach lessons; sharing a little of our MES Cairo magic in Wigan!

Ms Elsaadany visited Shevington High School. She reflected that despite being on different continents, there was a common theme between the students in England and our students in Cairo. All had a desire for learning and being a success. She shared that she enjoyed interacting with Shevington's teaching staff who were eager to share and support each other's lessons in a positive manner; fostering an effective learning environment. She particularly loved seeing a Year Nine student performance of Romeo and Juliet accompanied by a celebratory Tea Party as a reward.



Ms Barakat, Ms Aly and Ms Helmy all visited Platt Bridge Community School. Ms Barakat appreciated how quiet, green and tree-covered this area of the country was in comparison with bustling Cairo. She liked seeing how Platt Bridge organise their classrooms; using unified backing colours on display boards in order for the students to focus on the content of the display without the distraction of bright colours and as a result is now trying this in her own classroom. She also appreciated seeing how classrooms across all year groups had a special target board, with objectives and students' names, as a way to improve tracking of student progress. Ms Aly enjoyed having the opportunity to teach children from a different socio-economic and cultural background. She found it interesting to see how Platt Bridge teachers approached catering for each child's individual need to enable them to progress. In her observations, she liked seeing Platt Bridge's special differentiated teaching approach and considered how this could be adapted and implemented in her own classroom. She also liked gathering creative and inspiring ideas to share with colleagues back in Cairo. Ms Helmy liked the experience of being able to teach children in a different setting and feels that being exposed to a new experience has helped her to develop her teaching. She also found the differentiation teaching approach inspiring and picked up some great new ideas for behaviour strategies to use in her own class.

Overall, it was a very positive experience with many great ideas exchanged and we look forward to welcoming teachers from England here again in Egypt and having other MES Cairo teachers visit the UK in the future.

**Mrs J Cole - Assistant Headteacher, British Section**

## Professional Development with Andrew Jeffrey the Maths Mathemagician!

During our annual Professional Development weekend, MES Cairo was lucky enough to welcome the Maths guru, Andrew Jeffrey, who facilitates courses world-wide from his base in the UK. Indeed, this is the second time we have tried to book him to lead CPD in school, so busy is his schedule and demand for his courses. Andrew arrived in Cairo on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October in the evening and had left by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October to take on his next mission in Johannesburg, South Africa.



The brief of the day was clear: give ideas to make Maths lessons as creative as possible for our MES Cairo students. As a school, we believe that whilst it is important that the students still complete all of their Maths objectives for the year, if they can be taught in a fun and inspiring way then engagement and excitement levels are going to be at the maximum throughout every lesson.

Andrew had the chance to work with all of our teachers throughout the day as well as our TLAs and visitors from other international schools in Egypt, including our sister school, Gulf English School Cairo. During the Foundation Stage training, Andrew took the teachers outside to look at Outdoor Learning





provision and how much fun Maths can be outdoors! In our Key Stage One session, Andrew showed the teachers how place value can be taught using plastic straws whilst in the Key Stage Two session, the teachers became very competitive when making a variety of 2D and 3D shapes using only paper! Alongside many more ideas, the teachers then went away to implement these exciting ideas into their own planning for upcoming lessons.

During the afternoon, the focus moved to working with students who might be challenged to exceed our expectations at the end of the year and support them with a variety of ideas and suggested activities that go beyond getting questions correct in a Maths lesson. This reinforced our belief at MES Cairo that assessment takes place all the time and is continuous within the classroom.

At the end of the day everyone agreed what a worthwhile session it had been and could not wait to try out their new ideas with their students. Parents, please be prepared to be heading out on a Friday morning to purchase some straws or playing cards!

**Mr D Barton – Primary Deputy Headteacher**



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 'LEADING 4 IMPACT'



On 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018, MES Cairo was delighted to host Karen Ardley, Lead Consultant of Karen Ardley Associates, for two days of inspirational and high-quality Professional Development for our Middle Leaders. Twenty-six enthusiastic participants with a broad and varied range of experience from across Primary and Secondary were involved in our 'Leading 4 Impact' training. Middle leaders are educators with a position of responsibility or a leadership or coordination role within the school for example Year Team Leaders or Heads of Department.



Karen is an extremely effective leadership consultant and facilitator, who specialises in all aspects of school leadership. She has a wealth of experience in education; as both a teacher and a leader. She designs and delivers outstanding and inspirational leadership programmes focused on change and improvement and tailored the course to the needs of our school and its participants.



Karen is no stranger to our school, having led numerous memorable workshops and courses for our staff over many years in the history of MES Cairo. Whilst current with UK educational best practice and global leadership research, she is also rich in international experience both in the Middle East and beyond, with her recent international work involving teachers and leaders in over sixty countries around the globe.



Karen's visit is the first part of a year-long leadership development programme for our Middle Leaders with Karen visiting us again in February and in June. Participants will be engaged in leading an area of school improvement which is linked to our Whole School Development Plan.



Participants engaged in professional dialogue, considered recent quality educational research and had the opportunity to reflect on their own current practice. They explored their capacity to accurately measure their impact as leaders and considered how to successfully lead and manage change with the overall aim to continuously improve student learning here at MES Cairo. All will be expected to provide evidence of the impact of their school-based leadership project and improvement in their area of responsibility in June. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the success of teams throughout the school as a result of the 'Leading 4 Impact' programme.

**Ms J Cole Assistant Headteacher, British Section**





# Secondary Pioneers

## Bond and Bounce Badge



The Secondary Pioneer Programme 2018-19 got off to a flying start as our Pioneers completed their first badge of the year: 'Bond and Bounce'.

It was tremendous to have forty-seven students participating and successfully completing this badge! Along with Mr Hayes and Dr El Geoshy, we thoroughly enjoyed chaperoning this event, meeting new Pioneers and getting to see everyone have a good time together.

Bounce is a new trampoline park at Cairo Festival City which has a very challenging assault course: X-Park. On the trampolines, Pioneers learnt to jump onto ledges and mastered the skill of wall running, as well as practising their flips. A large group of students enjoyed a fierce but friendly game on the Dodgeball Court too.

One of the highlights of the trampoline park is the cliff jump. With three heights to choose from, jumpers can choose to jump forwards or backwards putting trust in a huge airbag to break their fall. Many students were risk-takers and, despite their fears, took on this daunting leap.

Pioneers developed their relationships by completing a range of 'get to know you' style activities with each other as well as bonding through the bouncing experience! Older students were excellent role models in supporting and welcoming our new Pioneers.

Pioneers is about having fun, making new friends, learning new skills and always making the most of every opportunity that comes your way. Well done to all new Pioneers for 'jumping' into the new academic year with a great attitude. We have many more events throughout the year to look forward to together, so keep checking Google Classroom for announcements, news and opportunities!





## Master Angler Badge



Over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, thirty Secondary Pioneers completed their Master Angler Badge which is a new trip for Pioneers this year. As well as the opportunity to try fishing, students were given the chance to snorkel with colourful reef fish in the Red Sea. For some individuals it was the first time they had tried any of these activities and others even had to overcome their fear of deep water to participate. Go-to-Know staff, who organised the weekend's activities, commented on how well the Pioneers followed instructions in the water; used fishing lines and hooks safely; respected the marine environment and competed in team-building activities with real enthusiasm. They developed resilience and took risks that led to them develop new skills, gain confidence and learn what they are capable of.



and even a pair of lively Cuttlefish. After seeing some of the fish that live on the reef, the boat was moved further south to fish in deeper water away from the reef. Again, for many this was their first experience of fishing. Pioneers learnt that fishing is not a fast-paced sport and that it requires a lot of patience and skill. A few Pioneers were ecstatic to catch some fish which included White Fish, Sergeant Major Fish and even a Cat Fish. However, even those who were not fortunate enough to haul in a catch learnt how addictive fishing can be because you never know when you will get lucky and it is also a very relaxing sport where you learn to appreciate and enjoy the environment around you. Dana Sharkawy (Y7G) and Mr Garrett were close to catching a very big fish who was nicknamed 'Steve' who had the ability to take the bait and hook and evade being caught. All fish were released back into the sea as they were not appropriate for eating.

After successfully completing their Master Angler Badge, this was also a chance for the new group of Pioneers to bond further – staying a night away from home.



As has become tradition, Ms Downey led the group through a meditation, stargazing experience allowing the students to mindfully bring themselves to the present. The students became a little more independent and self-reliant; all good skills to develop for life beyond graduation.



Before returning home on Saturday, Go-to-Know staff along with the hotel animation team organised fun team-building activities. Pioneers were organised into mixed groups and competed in tug-of-war, dodgeball, sack racing and blindfold competitions. A pleasant experience was yoga on the beach and swimming in the warm Red Sea. Finally, we were all energised with a Zumba class.



Thank you to support staff Ms Downey and Mr Garrett Hayes for chaperoning this trip and well done to all Pioneers who not only completed their latest badge but represented MES Cairo well with respect for all staff and members of the public. Leading by example, they left the Red Sea feeling cared for and inspired.

**Mr S Cole - Secondary Pioneers Coordinator**





# PRIMARY PIONEERS



Year Five Pioneers have worked tirelessly to earn their Lifesaver badges in the school pool. There are many highlights to list here but it was great to see the teamwork amongst our newest Pioneers. Our Year Five Pioneers have now moved onto their second badge 'Active' and find themselves reflecting and evaluating their own performances as well as those of their peers. After just one week of the badge, under the guidance of Ms Samy and Ms Searles, they are already demonstrating wonderful progress with their leadership skills.



Whilst the Year Five students were in the school swimming pool, our Year Six Pioneers were hatching a plan for 'Pink Day'. They worked extremely hard to ensure there was a wide range of activities available to the students in Primary. The students started the day with the national anthem and immediately following that, Maleeka Ramadan (Y6V), Alberto



Alber (Y6V) and Salma El Gohary (Y6G), took to the pink stage and, with microphone in hand, they explained to Year Two to Year Six students, the importance of 'Pink Day' and why we are getting active. The Pioneers then led a 'Wake and Shake' dance for everyone to take part in and that included our very youngest students in Foundation Stage One too. The dance was a success with students and teachers all moving about and excited about 'Pink Day'. First break in Primary saw the Pioneers setting up activities for all our students to enjoy. These ranged from games like 'stuck in the mud' to an adapted 'rock, paper, scissors'. The students enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the Pioneers. We are proud of the Year Six Pioneers and everything they contributed toward making 'Pink Day' a success.



Year Five Pioneers looked on in envy at their older peers and encouraged everyone around them to get involved in the games. Next year it will be their turn and it will be very interesting to see how they plan to build upon the success of this year.

The efforts of everyone involved with the Primary Pioneer Programme are greatly appreciated and it was a wonderful moment to see how exhausted and happy we all were leading into the half-term break. My moment of the day was reserved for all the students who asked about the Pioneer Programme and what they need to do to become involved when they reach Year Five. It is clear how much of an impact our Pioneers' contribution made to the day.

**Mr A Hinchliffe - Primary Pioneers Coordinator**





# PRIMARY ASA PROGRAMME



Our Primary After-School-Activities Programme has been very popular this term and a huge percentage of MES Cairo students took the opportunity and signed up for an activity. Students showed a particular interest in sport activities and we are very excited that we were able to expand our sport section of ASAs. We are now offering a Golf and a Tennis ASA to our Year Five and Six students. Both activities are offered at the JW Marriott and are led by professional tennis and golf coaches!



Besides those two new activities, we also expanded our language club offers. Our Primary students now have the great chance to learn German with Ms Foulkes and Spanish with Mr Ruddy.

Most of our activities are so popular that they have reached the maximum number of participants. Our Seasonal Concert activity has not only been open to all Year Two students it has also been offered to twenty Key Stage Two students with the result that we have an amazing turn out of over sixty excited and talented actors and singers. They practice their performance skills with Ms Nissan, Mr Masuck and Mr McCormick every week to be ready for our annual Seasonal Concert in December.

Our Photography ASA students took part in a competition in Term One. They took pictures of other students during ASA time. Ms Deena who has been impressed to see how fast the students developed their photography skills said; "We had so much fun! We had already taken club photos before but because we have worked on new

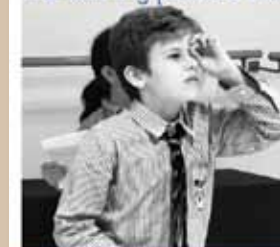
skills, the students took even better and more artistic pictures when we had the competition." Some of the skills our students learned are how to use different filters, using the natural light for special effects and taking pictures from interesting angles. The four best pictures are published here for you to enjoy. It was unbelievably difficult to decide the winners. We had many high quality, creative pictures to choose from.

Top left by Zeina Mohamed (Y5Y)/Top right by Hassan Shoukry (Y4R)  
Bottom left by Ahmed Habib (Y5O)/Bottom Right by Ali Rashad (Y5O)

Ms K Wohlberg - Primary ASA Coordinator



The winning pictures from our Photoclub competition.





# SECONDARY ASA PROGRAMME



Term One ASAs are up and running with a bang. Students were given twenty-six ASAs to choose from in five different categories; Awards, Arts, Academic, Community Services and Physical activities. The ASAs are not only run by teachers', students are also taking on leadership roles and leading a number of ASAs, varying from stepping into the kitchen to cook and prepare a selection of international cuisine to fundraising activities to support the community.

MES Cairo students are always encouraged to make a difference and to contribute to school life. This has been reflected through the ASA Programme, with student

involvement in the Primary School storytelling, Primary reading support, Debate Society and the Outreach programme.

Our Outreach in Egypt ASA has proven to be very popular this term and the students have been working hard in designing two programmes to be delivered to the orphans at Dar El Youssr and Dar Elfaeza. With the visits underway, our team of student teachers travel to the orphanage to deliver lessons on a variety of subjects every Sunday and Wednesday. In addition, the orphans visit MES Cairo and participate in IT, sport and art activities on both days. The students are doing a great job of growing the service education programme here at MES Cairo.

A number of different ASA awards and qualifications have taken place this term, from the IGCSE Global Perspectives qualification to International Award, Pioneers, MUN and NJHS/NHS. These ASAs have enabled the students to be challenged and stretched further which will provide them with the skills they need in the world once graduated from MES Cairo.



For those looking for a moment of reflection during their hectic schedule, Yoga has been a great addition to our programme. Ms Edmond and Ms Kelly have a dedicated group of yogis who are able to calm themselves from their busy teenage life.

The ASA Programme has also provided opportunities for students to keep up with and get ahead with their academic students. Homework Club and A Star Club have enabled students to receive extra support through either small working groups or one-to-one sessions with subject teachers.

These are just examples of the different ASAs that have been running this term. If you are reading this and think that you are missing out, then get involved! Term Two ASAs will start at the end of January, and we want to see every student in Secondary participating in an After-School Activity. I look forward to our ASAs growing from strength to strength.

**Miss S Elrify – Secondary ASA Coordinator**







# THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD



The International Award year started as it always does with a challenging walk through the Wadi Degla. Over seventy students participated in the introductory walk and made it successfully to the end to get a taste of what lies ahead. The 12km hike was completed in just over four hours with the students showing great determination and stamina to make it to the end. A huge 'well done' to all those who took part and a huge 'thank you' to the staff who supported the students.

In breaking news, and a huge cause for celebration came in the form of Ahmed Akef (DP11R). Ahmed successfully completed his Bronze Award this year using the Online



Record Book. Ahmed was the first student to achieve the full award through this system and has now successfully moved on to start his Silver Award – surely Gold can't be too far off. Ahmed is an exemplary student who has shown compassion, commitment and maturity to be the first student in the history of MES Cairo to complete the award and has set the bar very high for all those who now follow him through the International Award Programme. When asked how he felt about his achievement his response was to beam from ear to ear and say, "It feels great!"

As well as Ahmed, a number of other students also completed their Service, Physical Recreation and Skill sections to go alongside their successful completion of the Expedition section of the award to be able to claim their badges and certificates. This is a huge achievement by the students and we on the International Award team look forward to helping many more students gain the recognition they deserve for all their hard work and determination.

Once again, the school is running both the Bronze and Silver award with myself taking the lead on Bronze. My fellow International Award Coordinator, Mr Thurgood, will be working alongside the Silver participants. We are both looking forward to a great year and know that the students will continue to do us proud.

**Mr M O'Connor - International Award Coordinator**



# National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society

## Induction Ceremony

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, the National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) held their annual Induction Ceremony. NHS and NJHS recognise students who demonstrate excellence in four qualities: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and



Character. The organisation inducted a total of twenty-seven new NHS and fifteen new NJHS members.

The ceremony began with Nouredin Darrag (G10R) introducing the keynote speaker, Ms Sally Elsaadany. Ms Elsaadany spoke about the importance of second chances. "We are born on this earth with an expiration date - to be confirmed. But we are here for one definite thing, to live the one life we have been gifted with. Although we get one chance to do something for the first time, we are also gifted with endless possibilities when it comes to choice and the opportunity to redeem ourselves." She went on to describe such an experience in her own life. Recommended for a lower-level examination, she struggled to catch up and move ahead. In the end, she took and aced the higher-level English examination. Young Sally was proud and her teacher humbled; ultimately, both received a second chance, though our Ms Elsaadany was inspired by this teacher to become a teacher herself.

Her concluding words were succinct yet stirring: "Every day is a new challenge, every day brings something fresh, and every day we learn. So remember when you think you haven't quite hit the mark, or made the grade, or you've been let down, disappointed or you have been the one doing the disappointing - you're getting a second chance, to do it all over again."

The Induction Ceremony also included speeches from graduating Seniors about how the Four Pillars of NHS/NJHS influenced and inspired them throughout their High School careers. In all, eight senior students spoke. Excerpts from a few of their speeches follow:

**Zeina Badawi (G12Y) addressed Character:** "I believe that what ties us all together is the strength in our character. In our ability to create change rather than change what's already been created, to be the people who define rather than get defined, who speak quotes rather than quote speakers. The commonality within all our characters is knowing well that we are imperfect, that we are "works in progress", but that we are carving paths while learning our truth and our character. So know who you truly are and take charge of who you want to be because your genuineness is what dictates you as a doer, a changer, and a path carver..."

**On the topic of Leadership, Amr Amin (G12B) offered a stirring introduction:** "What is this quality within leaders that makes people so willing to follow them? I believe it is passion. Passion is what drives and creates us, it is what gives us direction and pushes us to pursue our goals and desires. For a person to be passionate about something and, therefore, have a clarity of direction and goal - THAT is what gives them the allure of a leader. A person who exemplifies and exhibits the characteristics of a role model, an inspiration, and a trailblazer. A passionate person only has to apply themselves to become a leader worth following."



**Khaled Megahed (DP12Y) followed with a challenge to the new inductees:** "...the strongest leader is one you may not all be even aware of, it is the leader hidden inside you. Some of us may lead in sports, some lead in academics, whilst others are social leaders. Which area do you lead in? Where can you radiate your strengths and passions? Your challenge is to find the leader inside yourself."

**On Scholarship, Rawan Khatib (G12Y) described her intellectual development:** "I have personally always loved participating in scholarly events such as MUN, Math Olympiads, and obviously, NHS. They give me a sense of accomplishment and purpose in life. My journey through education provided me with a clearer vision of my future and a supportive community to share it with. These are programs where students can indulge in the joys of learning while reaching an understanding of their own potential."

Rawan was followed by **Mariam Aly (G12B), who described the influence of her older sister, Mahira, on her development as a scholar:** "What I have learned from her is to keep working hard no matter how difficult the circumstances, because possessing the power of knowledge is a prize in itself. Hard work and scholarship go hand in hand. One cannot exist without the other, even it means failure at times, the struggle to maintain the drive will make the possession of knowledge doubly rewarding."

Speaking about **Service, Khaled Sadek (G12Y) offered a different perspective on service to the inductees:** "So you extend a helping hand and you realise that by helping others escape their pain, you have given them something beyond money. And you have gained something far more valuable. The gift of service. The idea that you can't make a difference is an illusion. All it takes is for you to decide you are willing to offer some of your sedulous efforts for the sake of others. Once you have decided that, you have already begun your journey in the world of service."

Students of the National Honor and Junior Honor Societies have completed over 1500 hours of community service. They tutored young readers in Primary, acted as Athletic Mentors, visited orphanages, served food, led new teachers on tours, and much more.

We congratulate our current members for their hard work last year. We welcome and congratulate all new members and look forward to working with you through this school year and beyond.

**Ms Elle Dowler, Ms Dina Ghalwash, Ms Dawn Quarles and Mr T Roodvoets - NHS and NJHS Sponsors**





# SECONDARY HOUSE NEWS

A warm welcome to the 2018-19 school year, and what a start we've had. It's hard to believe that we are already well past the first mid-term and working our way towards our winter break. The old adage rings true, 'time flies when you're having fun'.

For those of you who haven't had an opportunity to experience first-hand the events that have given wings to our fleeting time, let me fill you in on what has been going on in the MES Cairo House System.

As you may know, the MES Cairo Secondary school is divided into four competitive Houses. Each House is made up of passionate students and staff alike who compete against one another in sporting, academic, cultural, and social events. Each House is led by a particularly enthusiastic teacher-leader who is named 'Head of House'. This year was an exciting one for the MES Cairo House System as we nominated and placed three new teacher leaders as the Heads of Amun, Kheper and Selket to join returning Edjo Head of House, Mr Tom Rosser.

I'd like to take this opportunity to let our Heads of House, both returning and incoming, introduce themselves:

## Amun House



Firstly, I am extremely grateful to all of Amun for welcoming me into the team with open arms as your new Head of House. What an exciting start for me, leading the CHAMPIONS of 2017-18. We have had a tough start against our competition, all showing determination to take our title. However, in the short time I have had working with all my fellow Amunians, I am certain we will not give up and we will climb the leader board to be crowned

champions once again. I look forward to seeing you all with high Amun spirits at our upcoming house events.

**Ms Laura Shepherd – Head of Amun House**

## Edjo House

You might know me as Mr Rosser the cool sock guy, or like most of you, you might know me as Mr Rosser - Head of Edjo! This will be my fourth year here at MES Cairo and my second year in charge of the Edjo House!



Last year we were slightly unlucky and came second overall in all house games. Let's make this year a year to remember. Lets Go Edjo!

**Mr Tom Rosser – Head of Edjo House**

## Kheper House

Hi everyone, my name is Ms Natalie Hodkinson and I am Head of Kheper House. I am a Geography and Travel and Tourism teacher in the British Section. This past year in Egypt has been fantastic, learning about the culture and the history on offer. Last year, Kheper won a commendable third place overall in the House games so let's aim for the champion title to be restored at the end of the year. Go Kheper!

**Ms Natalie Hodkinson - Head of Kheper House**



## Selket House



When I look back to my school years, I have memories of being in a House, of receiving some House points and of House events where teachers and students competed. But deep down I always wished there were more! More chances to compete, more events to cater for differing interests and more opportunities to challenge friends and teachers! When you recollect the year that you had in 2018/2019 ...you will not have to wish...you will

remember! You will remember all the amazing activities that you observed and participated in. You will still celebrate the victories and reminisce about the defeats! Most importantly, you will vividly see the yellow scorpion prevailing in the fields and corridors of MES Cairo! We are SELKET! We won the Student Extravaganza. We

won the 'UNO' competition. We are leading the House table and we will stay there so participate in as many challenges as possible, wear your house t-shirt to all events and always remember...

## ONE TEAM! ONE DREAM! ONE MISSION!

### Mr T Kasmani - Selket Head of House

I am incredibly grateful to have such a supportive team beside me to lead this year's House System. So, what exactly have we accomplished so far this year? In short, a lot.

## STAFF EXTRAVAGANZA

In the weeks before the students returned from their summer break, the teaching staff were hard at work preparing the halls and classrooms for their arrival. To reward them for their efforts, and as an introduction to the MES Cairo House System, we held a Staff Extravaganza in which members of the staff competed against one another to earn the very first House Points of the year. Staff each rotated through six stations where they completed a variety of tasks to earn points for their House. In the end, Kheper House was victorious setting the tone for the rest to follow.



## STUDENT EXTRAVAGANZA



Once the students were back on campus, it wasn't long before they too had the opportunity to participate in a full-blown extravaganza of their own. Less than two weeks after the first day of school, students hit the field to compete in a series of fourteen different games ranging from an obstacle course to trivia games such as 'Who's the Baby?'

where they had to match the names of teachers to their infant photos.

Kheper House was leading the scoreboard for nearly the entire afternoon before Selket took a commanding lead and claimed victory in this year's extravaganza.

## UNO TOURNAMENT



Every other week, MES Cairo students compete in smaller scale events that occur during their second break. I'm always amazed at the turnout at these events, as students sacrifice some of their only down-time of the day and participate. Students sat at a table with three other players, each from a different house, and played UNO in speed rounds. After many rounds, Selket again came out victorious, proving that they are certainly a force to be reckoned with this year.

## STUDENT COUNCIL CAMPAIGN WEEK



At MES Cairo, we recognise the importance of promoting the democratic process and encouraging leadership within our student body. The Student Council helps bring our students' ideas to the school leadership in a meaningful fashion. Each year the students nominate and elect representatives

to voice their needs in council meetings. To ensure that the voices of all are heard, the Student Council elects a number of students from each House respectively. Many prospective nominees showed up during second break to deliver platform speeches in which they explained to their fellow students what change they hoped to inspire in the year to come, and why they deserved their vote. The event was a great success and many students gathered round to hear the encouraging words of their classmates.

### Mr G Hayes – Secondary House Coordinator





# IBDP STUDENTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ASWAN



## Creativity, Activity and Service

Plans and preparations started far ahead of our CAS trip this year with our biggest bake sale yet! We had so much cake that we had to keep on selling through all three break times. We witnessed great teamwork amongst all of the DP students and a massive 13,000LE was raised towards the Aswan house renovations.

### Day One - The High Dam, Unfinished Obelisk, Museum and Hospital Visit

'It was an unforgettable experience; the people and the stunning scenery made Aswan reach my top five beautiful destinations list. I came out with some new knowledge as well, such as learning more about the source of water and electricity (the High Dam) in addition to looking back at the history of my country and delving into the medical field at the Magdy Yacoub Heart Centre.'

**Kenzi Waguih (DP11Y)**

5am at the airport, 66 students and seven teachers. Four days packed with culture and insights into Aswan and the Nubian people lay ahead. Our first stop was the High Dam, an amazing feat of engineering, bringing renewable energy and regulation of water, but taking a vast area of land and changing people's lives forever.

'We went by bus to the Aswan dam. It was a beautiful sight. I could see the water stretching out from Lake Nasser. Building the dam resulted in the flooding of the land of the Nubians. If I was a Nubian person, would the dam that destroyed my house look beautiful?'

**Ibrahim El Nemr (DP12R)**

Next, the **Unfinished Obelisk and the Nubian Museum** gave us a walk through the ancient and modern history of the Nubian people with many, many artefacts, beautifully displayed and described, including the oldest pre-historic human skeleton discovered in Egypt.

The **Magdy Yacoub Foundation Hospital** was next. If you have not heard of Sir Magdy Yacoub, look him up and you will find the story of a remarkable Egyptian. His work in heart surgery is both inspirational and heart-warming, and certainly struck a chord with the future doctors in our group.

'We learned that over 6,000 Egyptian babies are born with heart

disease annually and many parents cannot afford treatment. The work that is conducted there is purely from the hearts of those doctors. The treatment is completely free and intensive. They are trying to help those in need and those who cannot turn anywhere else. It made me reflect on myself and how much privilege I have compared to these people' **Denae Arias (DP11R)**

'This Magdy Yacoub Foundation was the highlight of my day. We learned about how the project was finished in 2009 and was later expanded in 2012. We were informed that all surgeries were 100% free for every patient and they

still received the best medical care there was, no matter their social status, religion or background. Realising the good in people made me hopeful for a better world.'

### Day Two - The Temple of Philae and Nubian Village



of it, and how the French carved on the walls when they conquered Egypt.' **Denae Arias (DP11R)**



We went by boat to Agilkia Island to visit the Temple of Philae, dedicated to the Goddess Isis, one of the temples that had been dismantled and relocated after its original site was partially submerged due to the construction of the Aswan Dam.

'Everywhere to be seen were beautiful stone walls and the temple itself was flooded with history. We learned about each and every single room. How they had to move it because of the constant flooding



**The Nubian Village**



'Although I knew that there had been a tourism crisis over the past few years I never realised how bad it was until we visited the hotel owner and interviewed him. Tourism is now picking up a little and most of the visitors are Egyptian.' **Hana El Hilaly (DP11R)**

'We visited a Nubian home to interview the people living there. We learnt that they rely solely on tourism for income and that after 2011, tourism declined and they faced a big crisis. Before tourism, Nubians relied on harvesting crops and trading food for income. The woman that lived there told me that the more colourful and bright their houses were painted, the more tourists it would attract. This helped us when we were renovating Nubian houses the next day. I took on the role of artist where I drew and painted eye-catching, vibrant designs on the walls as part of Nubian culture. I spent the whole day

painting a large motif on the door and drawing small camels on the walls. I also took time to talk to the owner of the house, Rokaya, and she told me a lot about her life which made me reflect on my own life and how different it is to hers.' **Shahd Atef (DP11)**



### Day Three - Renovations

We were working on three houses on Awad Island, a Nubian island located between Aswan Dam and the High Dam, close to Philae Temple. This island was inhabited for centuries, but during the last 30 years, and due to a lack of services, many families and especially the younger people, had to move to different villages. Around fifteen inhabited houses remain. Most of the people living there are elderly, living alone without water or toilets, broken ceilings and walls.

'I was glad to have the opportunity to positively impact another person's life, even if it was in a small way. Seeing people without the bare necessities to live, such as water and a roof, just broke my heart and got me thinking about how I could potentially help people in need in the future.' **Nouran Sherif (DP12R)**



Our fundraising went towards the construction work that started on the ceilings, walls and plumbing before our arrival and then the students were split into three groups, builders, painters and artists, to do as much as we could to make the houses into homes. The renovation process varied from ceiling settlement to painting and decorating the internal and external walls, doors and window frames of the houses.

'By taking part in the renovation for a man called Shawky, it was very rewarding seeing the happiness and smiles he gave us. He was a very nice man who constantly asked if we needed a break or if we were tired and needed water. This experience really opened my eyes to Nubian culture and the atmosphere as well as the kindness of the people. It also made me very grateful, thankful and appreciative of what I have, however, it also made me more aware





of people who are in need. All across Egypt, many people are neglected. By being a builder and doing the roofing of the house using cement, I realised how physically exhausting construction work is and I have a new appreciation for construction workers as I have a much better understanding of the struggles they go through.  
**Jumana Khafagi (DP12Y)**



'The renovation trip allowed me to see a side of Aswan that I had never seen before.'  
**Nayra Soliman (DP12R)**

'I was assigned the role of an artist and I was happy with this role as I love to draw and decorate and felt that this was the perfect fit for me. The outside of the house looked very beautiful and I really



enjoyed it. I learned how to plan and organise and I also learned about the issues that the people who live in these houses face.'

**Ziad Fahmy (DP11R)**

'I was renovating the home of 'Atiat', a woman who needed roofing on her house. As a collective, we divided ourselves into three different groups of Builders, Painters and Artists. working all day, and finding out what it's like to do hard manual labour and then see the joy on Atiat's face taught me the value of hard work and perseverance.'

**Ali Kamel (DP11Y)**

'While renovating, the heat was unbearable. It was too hot and the sun



was so harsh. My biggest challenge was being able to draw and paint on a crooked wall while sitting in the heat for eight hours straight. Overall it was a spiritual experience after seeing the home owners' faces afterwards.'

**Fatema Abulkhair (DP12Y)**

It was a long hot day, the students worked very hard and at the end were exhausted ... for about an hour. They enjoyed the wonderful food, the beautiful boat rides through the Cataracts and the islands



of the Nile and the bustling, vibrant markets. All these experiences will leave us with lasting memories of Aswan. We are all very proud of our IB students, who have proven themselves to be great ambassadors for our school and their country.

The trip went very smoothly thanks to our staff chaperones, Ms Angela Damm, Ms Carine Martin, Mr David Yule, Ms Laura Sauret, Mr Martin O'Connor and Ms Suzanne Sheehan, our IBDP Coordinator.

**Ms K Banks - CAS Coordinator**



# Learning Development Department and Gifted and Talented News

Reading, writing, speaking and listening are the four building blocks, foundational skills of language learning. Knowledge about and love for literacy can develop only through practice and experience. Literacy development includes support both at school and at home.

**Bring English Home**  
ENCOURAGE A DAILY READING HABIT

**READING SKILLS**  
Fluency and Reasoning

**READING WEBSITES**

- ReadingVine.com provides free reading passages for parents to use to develop a student's literacy, fluency, and reading comprehension.  
<https://www.readingvine.com/>
- Newsela  
<https://newsela.com/>
- ReadWorks.org  
<https://www.readworks.org/>
- CommonLit  
<https://www.commonlit.org/>

**Bring English Home**  
**WRITING SKILLS**  
PLAN, ORGANIZE, DEVELOP, REVISE

Understand and Edit for Conventions of Standard English

- EssayPunch is an interactive, online, essay-writing tutorial that takes students through all stages of the academic writing process.  
<http://www.essaypunch.com/>
- ReadWriteThink is a great source of interactive tools that help students accomplish various goals, from organizing their thoughts to learning about different aspects of the English language.  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/>
- Time4Writing is a site that offers writing instruction for middle school students. It provides free writing resources to help parents teach writing more effectively.  
<https://www.time4writing.com/free-writing-resources/>

Research shows that one of the essentials for ongoing literacy development is ensuring adolescents read on a daily basis and read for pleasure. This not only aids reading fluency, but also allows expansion of vocabulary and cognitive development. Research suggests that reading for pleasure also helps to predispose students to a lifelong interest in learning. Encourage your child to read for pleasure on a daily basis. Follow their passion or ask our knowledgeable librarians for ideas for suitable books.

We are frequently asked for recommendations of websites to practice English at home. Technology appears to have the most potential in helping learners develop and improve literacy levels.

Below you'll find literacy online resources which will help to bring English home, and boost literacy skills, some with a focus on reading and listening, some on vocabulary, others on grammar, and some with a range of activities.

## Gifted and Talented

A new school year always brings with it a sense of excitement and opportunity. The start of this year is marked with countless inquiries about the Gifted and Talented Programme.

In light of the increasing popularity of the Gifted and Talented Programme with students and parents, we would like to broaden understanding of the various ways a child may be gifted or exceptionally talented. Your child may not meet the school Gifted and Talented criteria, but this does not mean that they do not have their own unique gifts or talents.

### Multiple Intelligences

Every child has a unique brilliance, exceptional gifts or at least one special interest, passion or strength. Children

**Bring English Home**  
**WORD RECOGNITION & ANALYSIS**  
UNDERSTAND, EDIT FOR GRAMMAR, & USAGE

**VOCABULARY ACQUISITION**

- ABCya! is a website that has an array of educational games and activities focusing on spelling, parts of speech, and vocabulary.  
<http://www.abcya.com>
- Noredink is an interactive website where students can practice grammar and writing skills.  
<https://www.noredink.com/>
- Quizlet provides vocabulary and spelling activities, flashcards and games.  
<https://quizlet.com>
- Free Rice is a vocabulary based game, a unique combination of charity and learning.  
<http://freerice.com>



tend to express giftedness in his or her own individual way. Some children are amazing at singing, others are wonderful at sports, and others have incredible empathy for others. Giftedness has many facets. Using Multiple Intelligences can help to uncover the child's strengths and nurture the genius by learning exactly how they are smart.

According to developmental psychologist Howard Gardner, these multiple intelligences include: Naturalist Intelligence (Nature Smart), Musical Intelligence (Musical Smart), Logical-Mathematical Intelligence (Number/Reasoning Smart), Existential Intelligence, Interpersonal Intelligence (People Smart), Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence (Body Smart), Linguistic Intelligence (Word Smart), Intra-personal Intelligence (Self Smart), and Spatial Intelligence (Picture Smart) (H. Gardner 1983)

<http://multipleintelligencesoasis.org> .



Giftedness is developmental. It means that if a child seems to have a particular gift, it is important to recognise, reward, and cultivate this intelligence.

### Growth Mindset

Linked closely to this is developing or sustaining a growth mindset; a term coined by Carol Dweck. This involves encouraging students to recognise that their abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. We should encourage children to recognise that mistakes or challenges are often the springboard to learning. This contrasts with a fixed mindset, which is the belief that intelligence is a fixed trait. A fixed mindset can hinder progress of some students, as even high achievers, may shy away from difficult challenges, if they feel this will reflect badly on their self-image.

At the Challenge Club ASA, we are encouraging students to develop their understanding of the neuroplasticity of the brain; the importance of being resilient in the face of challenges; and, to look for ways to develop effective strategies for problem-solving or in the face of aversion. This is through team challenges and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and problem-solving activities. It

is exciting to see our students' communication, teamwork, critical thinking and reflective skills grow.



### For further information on growth mindsets:

<https://www.developgoodhabits.com/fixed-mindset-vs-growth-mindset/>

<https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/teaching-teens-growth-mindset>

**Dr T Kolesnikova - LDD Teacher, American Section and  
Ms A Webb - LDD Coordinator, British Section**



# MESConians - Where Are They Now?

## Alumni News

### Nour Jaouda (Class of 2015) Gains a First-Class Degree in Fine Art at Oxford University

by Nour Jaouda



The transition from school to university is like no other. The huge steps taken from Year Eight to IGCSE and from IGCSE to A Levels are incomparable to the drastic changes that unfold when embarking upon an undergraduate degree overseas.

I can gladly say that the past three years at Oxford have been completely life-changing! Studying Fine Art at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, has been a remarkable and eventful journey! I had the incredible opportunity to study the subject that I am passionate about with others who are just as passionate. What was so insightful and extraordinary about my experience at university was not just the course itself, but mainly the people met along the way, the friends I made and the artists and tutors I worked with. Meeting people from all over the world and being exposed to so many different cultures has really broadened my mindset and opened my eyes!

I discovered that Art school isn't just about developing my artwork, but more importantly about evolving and growing as an artist. As much as the course helped to strengthen my technical skills, it also helped me to realise the importance of critically engaging and addressing political and social

issues of today's world. Forcing me outside my comfort zone, the practical nature of the course allowed me to experiment with many different forms of art: from painting, sculpture and installation to digital art and film-making! Additionally,

what was really unique about this course was its emphasis on multi-disciplinary art. This meant, I didn't have to specialise in one medium and that I had the freedom to explore and navigate from one process to another! One of the highlights of my experience at the Ruskin School was the Human Anatomy course during my first year. I gained an in-depth knowledge about the skeletal and muscular structure of the human figure from a professional anatomist, which frankly I thought would be boring but turned out to be fascinating.

Outside academics, Oxford is also filled with endless extra-curricular opportunities. I continued pursuing my love for Football after MES Cairo (thanks to my amazing coaches,







Mr McTigue and Mr Terry) and joined the College Football Team. Playing Football was not only a great opportunity to destress and have fun, but also to meet new people!

I also found it really important to engage with the artistic community outside of the University. I tried out Art Therapy at the Saatchi Gallery in London, interned at an art gallery in Peckham, worked for a student-based fashion magazine and also worked as a portfolio consultant. All these great opportunities would not have happened if I had not challenged myself and put myself out there to try out new things. I am very grateful for what can be described as the most intense yet enjoyable and rewarding three years of my life and I wouldn't change a thing.

I have just finished curating and organising my first ever solo exhibition in a gallery in Oxford. Planning, executing, marketing and building an exhibition from scratch was a stressful yet incredibly valuable experience! I am planning on applying for a *Masters in Fine Art* this coming year whilst continuing to showcase my artwork in many diverse spaces in Egypt, the UK and elsewhere.

# HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!



What a thrilling night! Over one hundred and fifty Year/Grade Seven and Eight students turned out in truly freaky fashion to attend the annual Halloween Social coordinated by the MES Cairo Seniors.

The ghouls and witches danced from the start of the evening to the end. Dance-off circles and battles were ongoing to see who reigned as the 'funkiest freak'. The costumes were on a new level this year, from traditional to contemporary outfits, it was certainly a tough decision to award one 'best dressed'!



The extremely successful event was organised and run by thirty hardworking and motivated Seniors. These students worked for weeks to organise food, music, lights, decoration, costumes and activities to ensure that the younger students had a memorable night.



Throughout the night, Seniors were dancing, acting as the resident DJ, running activities, photo booth, face painting, monitoring students and organising refreshments. Every one of them demonstrated strong leadership and they were certainly positive role models!

I would like to congratulate the Seniors on a very successful evening that witnessed a great deal of enjoyment and laughter by all. The activities were engaging and offered prizes for the most successful, alongside awards for best dressed and best dancers. Finally, thank you to all of the students who made it such a wonderful night with an incredible show on the dance floor. The costumes were outstanding!



We look forward to hosting the event next year. Until then - Creep it real!



Mr J Keast - Senior Leader Coordinator

# REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, MES Cairo students and staff represented the school at the British Embassy Remembrance Day Commemoration at the Commonwealth Cemetery in Heliopolis. This year's commemoration was particularly poignant, as it marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1918 Armistice that signalled the end of World War One. Prior to the service, Mr MacAulay supported by Year Eight learners, led a session on the impact of World War I and its direct effect on families at the time. The students also explored the symbolic meaning of poppies.

On arriving at the Remembrance Day Commemoration, the far-reaching effects of conflict across the globe, was evident with the diversity of the countries represented. Speakers of varied nationalities and faith, from as far afield as Pakistan, America and England, led the Remembrance Service. The solitary notes of the bugle playing 'The Last Post' marked the two-minute silence, allowing us all to reflect on the impact of conflict and to show our respect to those who have sacrificed their lives for their country. The significance of the Remembrance Day commemorations was magnified, as thousands of people held similar ceremonies around the world.



This significance was not lost on our students and as **Lily Bowley (Y9G)** reflected: "Remembrance Day is a day for the whole world to remember and honour those who fought and survived, and to those who died for their country. The service today was a chance for many nationalities from across the world to come together and reflect and to have a moment of silence to give thanks for the sacrifices made. Every year I go to the Remembrance Service and every year I am struck by the quiet as you walk through the gates of the Commonwealth Cemetery."

We are proud to say that our students were exceptional ambassadors for our school at the Commemoration. They were respectful throughout the service and then showed a real desire to learn more about the soldiers whose bodies had been laid to rest or immortalised at the cemetery.

**Ms A Webb - Secondary LDD Department, British Section**

## THE MES CAIRO FAMILY CELEBRATES NEW BIRTHS!



### Marie Joann Newton

Kathi Wohlberg and Eric Newton would like to introduce Marie Joann Newton to the MES Cairo Family. Marie was born this past summer on 9<sup>th</sup> August in Hamburg, Germany. Marie and the family are all doing well and look forward to an exciting future in Cairo.



### Zainab Kasmani

Suemya and Taheer are pleased to announce the birth of Zainab born on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 5.37pm.

### Baby El Kamali

Rend and Hussein are pleased to announce the birth of their baby daughter (yet to be named) born on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, just in time to make it into this issue of the Messenger.



### MESsenger 60 Team

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

With special thanks to Elham Tadros at Glow Printing.

**Ms C Boswell - Publications Officer**





*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.

UK Department for Education (DfE)  
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