

MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO - MAGAZINE

MESSENGER

EDITION NO. 68 DECEMBER 2021

Operation Patchwork

With Love from the MES Cairo Family



2021 Examination Results and University News, History of the Dajani Family, MESConians become MES Cairo Parents! Pink Day, New Staff, Curriculum News, Full STEAM Ahead in Primary, Sportsdesk...and so much more!

SPECIAL FEATURE

MES CAIRO FAMILY HER-STORY

By: Ghada Dajani

One of my earliest memories as a child was being taken to my maternal grandmother Rabiha Mikdadi's school in Kuwait (Jeel Al Jadeed) to watch their school productions. It was the first private all-girls' school established in Kuwait and the best school in the country. Its students achieved the highest Thanaweya Ama (Tawjeehey) scores for over two decades.

I remember being encouraged by my great aunt, Fadila Abou Dheir, who was the Primary Principal at the time, to join in the festivities. They would dress me up in costume and I would just join in the fun of it all. I was so taken by



the magic of music and the moment, that I now attribute my love for the performing arts to that early exposure.

Over the years, I would spend a great deal of time in that school, doing my homework in the afternoon in my mom's office who was the Middle School and High School Principal or watch her as she spoke in the morning assembly as the girls all around me whispered about her elegant attire and formidable presence. I was so proud of my family and so in awe of their ability to manage this humongous educational establishment (3000 students) while still being my Tata, my Khalti and my Mama.

Growing up, I would watch how my Mama would work 16-hour days establishing one of the largest educational institutions in the Middle East, encompassing schools, educational centres and training colleges, and still have the energy to be the best mother. When it was my turn to choose my path in life, my father allowed me the freedom to research and explore. He finally asked me: "With a family like yours, wouldn't it be a shame not to continue the path established two generations ago? In years to come, what would you envision would be your legacy?". That was a turning point in my life, and from there my educational and professional choices were made.

Over the years, the heritage my family founded in education branched out and thrived. Today, my maternal aunt, Salwa Mikdadi, is a renowned Art Curator and Professor of Art History at NYUAD. My maternal cousins, Dr Mostafa, Dr Nawal and Dr Salwa Ammar, are professors and deans of colleges in the US. There are many more academics in my paternal and extended family and among the younger cousins who are teachers and professors in Jordan, Egypt and all over the world.

Family is the theme of this MESsenger. Cherishing family is the foremost objective of our professional and personal lives. In my family, the conviction that life and diaspora will take you everywhere and present you with surprises and throw at you the strongest of challenges, is a conviction that began generations ago. Education is your best tool, your greatest gift to yourself and your strongest suit of armour with which to face the world. It shapes your mind, your character and prepares you to stand up for yourself while accepting that your circumstances will inevitably always change.

Ms Ghada Dajani, Managing Director, MES Cairo



*Thank you Tawfik Dajani for documenting my *Her*story with your pictures*

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School Director

Foreword

Reflecting on the first term of this academic year I think that we should all take enormous pride in what we have achieved. We welcomed all students back to campus in mid-September, ensuring that policies, practices and protocols were in place to support their safe return. Whilst our community has been directly affected by Coronavirus, there is evidence to confirm that our safety precautions of wearing masks, sanitising hands and maintaining social distance wherever possible, is reducing the risk of transmission on campus, along with conservative measures when a student and/or their household, tests positive for the virus. We sincerely thank our parent community for their continuing support of our efforts; successfully managing our school amidst the pandemic has proven time and time again the importance of school/home collaboration.



We had identified some inevitable gaps in curriculum coverage which arose as the result of disrupted learning last year. Whilst those gaps were small, thanks to the extensive efforts by all to ensure quality teaching and learning under the most challenging of circumstances, knowing what and where they are means that we have been able to focus on recovery. Students continue to make great progress under the carefully considered direction of their teachers.

Despite the tumultuous times we face, we made a determined commitment this term to ensure that the school experience for our students has been as normal as it can be, not only where learning is concerned, but in our clearly articulated and uncompromising expectations of positive school culture and learning behaviour. We have overcome challenges as a community and again, appreciate parents' positive support in embracing the high standards we uphold at our school.

We have even had capacity to take a few carefully considered risks in order to bring life to the curriculum and learning experiences of our students, hosting special events and trips where we felt it was safe to do so. In this publication we celebrate these memories and how we as a school community are working together, to bring some normalcy back into the lives of our youth.

Offering an ASA programme of opportunities that focused on physical activity and health has been sustained through Term 1, our younger students have been off-campus to visit Arty Farm, our Pioneers have navigated an orienteering exercise at the Giza plateau. In addition, our National Honor Society prepared for and led teacher tours at the Museum of Culture and Antiquities. We hosted a virtual conference for 300 IB educators, and professional development sessions with one of the world's foremost researchers on assessment and pedagogy, Professor Dylan Wiliam. We have also celebrated students' capabilities in the arts with virtual productions, news broadcasts and choral concerts. We have coordinated the collection of donations for the Egyptian Foodbank via our Keep Egypt Warm campaign, collaborated an Operation Patchwork event to cover the school field with blanket donations for the Egyptian Clothing Bank, and we have fundraised for the Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt. All this was achieved amidst a pandemic, and following a year of uncertain reality. We have achieved a great deal, and most notably, have delivered quality education to all students on campus throughout the term.

Now we set our sights on what we can achieve in Term 2 and through the remainder of this academic year.

And we achieve all that we do because we work together. The concept of 'family' underscores every aspect of our school and has done so ever since MES Cairo came to being in 1990. Family remains at the very core of our ethos and is celebrated in a myriad of different ways each and every day. This edition of our MESsenger highlights the importance of family, ours and yours. When family work together we can overcome the greatest of challenges and achieve whatever we set our sights on.

Mrs Nicola Singleton - School Director

MES Cairo Alumni Families

The MESConian Parent community is growing!

MES Cairo teachers are always delighted to bump into treasured MESConians, whether this happens when out and about in London, Dubai, New York, or right here in Cairo. It is even more wonderful to be surprised by alumni on our very own school yard...or at the car gate, or in the Reception area!

You may be wondering why our alumni can be found all over the MES Cairo campus!

It is because they are caring for their own children who are now MES Cairo students ...and they themselves have now become proud MES Cairo Parents!

We caught up with some of our 'alumni parents' to interview them about their time at MES Cairo and to find out why they chose MES for their own children.

Ms S Sheehan - Deputy Head

Habiba Nouredin - Class of 2007

What did you do after graduating from MES Cairo and what are you doing now?

After graduation in 2007, I attended AUC and earned my Bachelor's in Marketing. I went on to pursue a career as a market researcher. I am currently in pursuit of an MBA.

What are your earliest and/or fondest memories of MES Cairo?

So many memories, which definitely makes it so hard to choose a few. I cherished all the annual musical productions that I was a part of. My Primary school teachers I can still recite by heart in chronological order; I believe that somehow they were the ones who impacted me and shaped my character the most. Finally, the friendships I made with my lifetime best friends.



What experiences did you have at MES Cairo that influenced your role as a parent?

Learning how important it is to lead a multi-faceted life and placing an equal value on academics, sports, arts and social skills. MES Cairo really enabled and encouraged its students to become well-rounded human beings and for me personally, allowed me to discover multiple hobbies and talents that I still practise today. When raising my children, I strive to value and nurture all aspects of their character, interests and skills, as well as academic achievement.

Tell us what family means to you and how the MES Cairo education enriched your family values.

MES Cairo taught me that the true definition of "Family" branches outside of the traditional sense. It is not only a reference to relatives related to us by blood; but a term that can be used for anyone or any place even, that makes you feel at home. People with whom/places in which you feel most like yourself, most comfortable and tend to thrive. This particular aspect of my time at MES, I think is what set my school apart from others and I wanted so very much for my son to experience the same sense of belonging not only at home but at the place where he will begin to spend the majority of his day - at school.

Sherif Beshay - Class of 2005



What did you do after graduating from MES Cairo and what are you doing now?

Being from the lucky few who graduated from MES Cairo, I pursued my passion for studying electronics, electrical, and computer engineering at the University of Birmingham in the UK. The skillset I gained at MES helped me prepare for university and even further in my professional life. Now I have become the Operations Director at Beshay Steel, and hopefully, many successes to come.

What are your earliest and/or fondest memories of MES Cairo?

The lifetime experience that I had during these memorable years of school is astonishing. I could never forget those activities, trips and sports days. My personal favourite was the science labs; with all the experiments we had to do, looking back into those memories amazes me till today. Best memories are when, during our breaks, my friends and I play and socialise. Sadly, each one has gone on his path, yet we meet to this day. I consider myself lucky enough to have a few best friends.

What experiences did you have at MES Cairo that influenced your role as a parent?

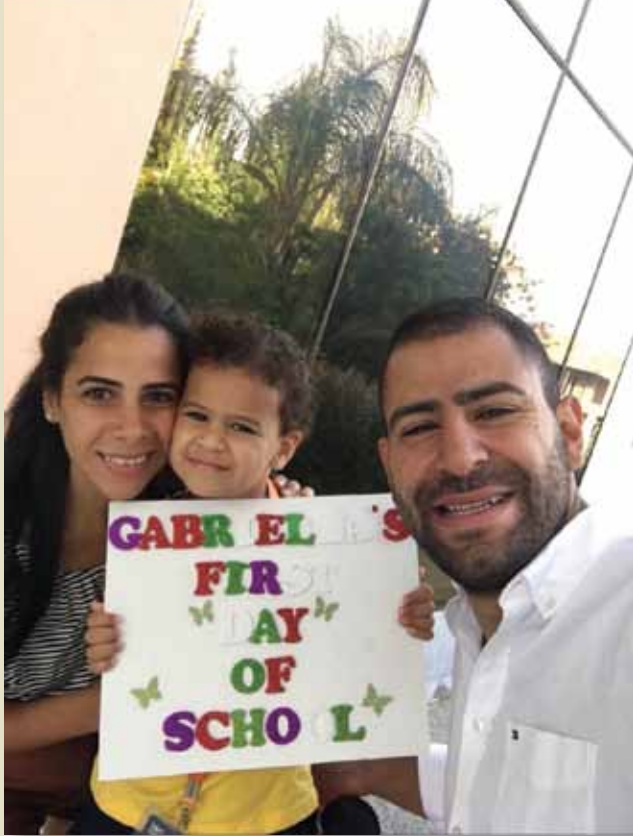
MES makes you think differently; you become extraordinary, making sure you look into all details. I have been taught to think and innovate rather than learning a standard curriculum. You educate your son, not just tell him not to do stuff for the sake of it, but instead, you explain to him why we do things in life, so he develops a creative mindset. MES implemented discipline into my personality and taught me how life at school is a mentality and not just a few hours and years spent. I graduated in 2005 yet never forgot what made me who I am today.

Tell us what family means to you and how the MES Cairo education enriched your family values.

MES enlightens the values within our personalities to differentiate between right and wrong. We learn all family value concepts like courage, endurance, justice, morality, kindness, and many more. We are exposed to a great society within the MES family, giving healthier personal conduct and social behaviour. MES taught us how to become good parents and have the skills to build a better copy of ourselves.



Michael Assiouty - Class of 2004



What did you do after graduating from MES Cairo and what are you doing now?

After I graduated from MES I attended AUC, where I majored in Business Administration and Marketing; and graduated with Honors in 2008. I am currently the general manager at 'The Arab Union of Commerce', a family business specialising in water pipes and sanitary ware.

What are your earliest and/or fondest memories of MES Cairo?

My fondest memories in MES Cairo include meeting my friends who remain my closest friends to this day. Another fond memory is of travelling abroad for soccer tournaments, which were always fun filled.

At MES Cairo I learned discipline and what it means to follow the rules. I learned respect, not just towards my teachers but towards my peers and everyone around me.

What experiences did you have at MES Cairo that influenced your role as a parent?

Since my class was the only class in the American section at that time we all felt like a family, I came to realise that I could have a family outside of my home and that is something I value until this day.

Tell us what family means to you and how the MES Cairo education enriched your family values.

Regardless of time and of the different generations, I am confident MES is still based on the same solid foundations. I am hopeful that the same values and principles that were instilled in me will be instilled in my two children.



Mohamed Sadek - Class of 2003 and Dina Sadek - Class of 2006

What did you do after graduating from MES Cairo and what are you doing now?

We both Graduated from MES Cairo and attended AUC for our bachelor's degrees. Mine was in Political Economy and Dina took a degree in Economics. Currently, I am the Operations and Business Development Manager for GoFuel Egypt – a company that delivers fuel straight to the door of the client as opposed to waiting in long queues in petrol stations.

What are your earliest and/or fondest memories of MES Cairo?

My very first memory of MES Cairo was that of my first Book Day, where we wore our costumes representing our favourite character from a book – mine was Roger Red Hat. Ms Maureen Glancy was also my very first teacher. One other fond memory is breaking the discus throw record in sports day way back in the day, I am not sure if the record is still there...

What experiences did you have at MES Cairo that influenced your role as a parent?

Reading was a key factor in learning from a very young age, I thoroughly enjoyed it as a child, and I do till this



very day. My emphasis on reading with my children and on teaching them how to read has given me a great deal to think about when reflecting on myself and seeing how I was influenced by the books that I read as a child. Our favourite books right now are the Winnie the Witch series and at home we are avid readers of Roald Dahl with The Twits being our favourite book.

Tell us what family means to you and how the MES Cairo education enriched your family values.

Family is everything to us, it's our support, our fallback, and our comfort zone. MES Cairo enriched these values through the friends we made, the responsibilities that we took on and through the ability to be confident about what we believe in. The MES family is why we are where we are, being portrayed as a part of this family and having our children attend the same school that we went to is nothing short of a dream. Seeing our friends' children attend the same school with us as well, is another amazing feeling!

Mai El Sherif - Class of 2008

What did you do after graduating from MES Cairo and what are you doing now?

I graduated from MES Cairo in 2008 and started University at AUC. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Business Administration from the American University in Cairo (AUC) in 2013. My 8-year career in the oil and gas industry started with Baker Hughes, Egypt in the Drilling Systems Department as a Field Engineer. I graduated and off I went to perform jobs in the Western desert being the only female among the crew, just like Soaad Hosni/Nadia Lotfi in the well-known Egyptian movie "Lel Regal Faqat!" Towards the end of 2014, I moved to the Geoscience and Petroleum Engineering Department as a Geoscientist where I was responsible for well log data quality, processing and interpretation. In 2019, I ended up in the Wireline Department as a Technical Sales Specialist. During the pandemic, I started a new role at Setcore Petroleum Services as a Technical Sales Advisor.



As much as working in the oil and gas field is very challenging, demanding and requires a firm personality, I do have an artistic side to me too. I have always been passionate about makeup. In 2016, I decided to take my makeup passion to a more professional level by taking a certified makeup course and opened my own Makeup Artistry Instagram page. I am currently taking baby steps with my makeup business alongside my main job as an engineer.

On a personal note, I got married in 2016 and had a baby in 2017. Yassin is in the MES Cairo FS1 class this year!

What are your earliest and/or fondest memories of MES Cairo?

I remember my very first day at school. I was walking out of the administration and to my utmost surprise I ran into an old friend who had also travelled abroad and recently come back to Egypt and was also applying at MES Cairo! We couldn't believe the coincidence and were just so excited to start the experience together. We had so many great memories, but our favourite was always Sports Day. It is worth mentioning that we are still friends until today!

What experiences did you have at MES Cairo that influenced your role as a parent?

MES Cairo taught me to value diversity. It also taught me to admire difference, whether it be ethnicity, religion or just a different opinion. My teachers were foreign, and a few colleagues were too; and I could say it added a lot to my understanding that we are much more similar than we seem.

Tell us what family means to you and how the MES Cairo education enriched your family values.



MES Cairo was my High School home. I spent more time at school than at home. I was taught a lot of values like diversity, inclusivity, leadership, honesty, determination, respect, a sense of discipline and organisation, development of cross-cultural relations, accountability, responsibility and strength. I share and teach my son these same values.

I am very proud to be an MES graduate and it is always good to be back. The moment I was ready to start admissions for my son, MES Cairo was the one and only place I applied to for Yassin. It is not just a school, it's a 30-year-old and ongoing legacy.

Ahmed Reda – Class of 2003

What did you do after graduating from MES Cairo and what are you doing now?

After graduating from MES, I studied Digital Media Engineering at the German University in Cairo (GUC). It was 2003 which was the university's inauguration year. Four years later, being one of the GUC's top-ranked students, I received a grant to complete my bachelor project and thesis at Uni Ulm, Germany in 2007. Following my graduation, I joined the advertising and printing family business, where I am now the general manager.

What are your earliest and/or fondest memories of MES Cairo?

I joined MES Cairo in Year 8, and it was the last year at the old campus. My second year was when MES moved to a brand new campus with brand new classes, sports courts, halls, a swimming pool and a theatre; even the uniform was changed back then. That year I also had my first IGCSE exams.

What experiences did you have at MES Cairo that influenced your role as a parent?

In my last year at MES Cairo, I went on the school's ski trip to Switzerland, and it was my first trip abroad without my parents. Even though it was only a week long, it was quite an experience as I got to realise the importance of being independent and responsible. This is something I aim to teach my children at a very early age.

Tell us what family means to you and how the MES Cairo education enriched your family values.

I am a family person by nature. Friends I made at MES are like family to me, and we are still in contact all the time, thanks to the close relationship we have and our fond memories at MES Cairo. Twenty years later, my kids and their cousins go to MES, so school is already a family gathering for them, every day.



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

19th ANNUAL JOINT AMERICAN/BRITISH and IBDP GRADUATION CEREMONY

CLASS OF 2021



The MES Cairo Graduation Ceremony is always a highlight of our academic year. It is a wonderful opportunity for our departing students to celebrate their phenomenal journey of success, together with their families and teachers, marking the end of their schooling and the transition into adulthood.

Last June, the Class of 2021 enjoyed a magical drive-through ceremony that was live-streamed through our website. Extended members of the MES Cairo family were able to watch their loved ones graduate online, from all around the world. This year's ceremony was extra special, as it opened with the exciting arrival of a new member of the MES Cairo family. As a gift to our graduates, the beautiful MESCA was presented to our graduates by the MES Cairo Board of Directors, who wanted the Class of 2021 to leave a legacy for years to come. And so, a new tradition was started! Graduates were asked to write a message on MESCA which will stay with us for the coming year and inspire returning students to embrace whatever circumstances they find themselves in.

The whole of the secondary yard area, along with the bus chute and surrounding spaces, was transformed into a graduation arena with a glorious atmosphere. The stage was set amongst enchanting surroundings. The lights symbolised the hope and optimism that the whole MES Cairo family was feeling, as the world started to emerge from the challenges of the pandemic.

Mrs Sawsan Dajani, Chairman of the Board at Modern English School Cairo, opened the ceremony with a warm and inspiring welcoming address.

"These last two years have been unusual to say the least. We have all adapted as much as possible. Still, a great deal has been missed. These wonderful Graduates deserve recognition, they deserve celebration, they deserve accolades... as do their families, their teachers and their Senior Leaders." Mrs Dajani expressed her pride and joy at the occasion as she spoke to the



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Beep beep... it's a MESCA!



Class of 2021: "My Graduates, when you leave us tonight to start your new lives, please do so knowing that we see you for the resilient, hardworking, and amazing young adults that you are. We look forward to watching you with pride as you go forth and conquer the world. Alf Mabrouk."

As is tradition at MES Cairo, the Class of 2021 entered the stage to be met by Mrs Dodie Pfeil (American Section Principal), Mrs Linda Talbot (British Section Headteacher), Mrs Nicola Singleton (School Director and IB Section Head), Ms Ghada Dajani (Managing Director) and Mrs Sawsan Dajani (Chairman of the Board). The Graduates were accompanied by Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, which was played for each and every one, as they held their heads high and crossed the graduation stage.

Thousands of fairy lights adorned the walls of the chute tunnel, leading families to the entrance of the arena. In true MES Cairo family spirit, cars were decorated in a variety of creative and original ways that demonstrated the pride of the families of the Class of 2021. Each Graduate stepped down from their car with their family, and then as their name was called, they paraded the red carpet that led them to the stage where they received their certificates.

This ceremony provided an opportunity for all of the family to be more intimately involved in the celebration. Present family members were able to get a close-up view of the proceedings, as they cheered their Graduate on. We were delighted to witness the pride and joy on the faces of parents, guardians, siblings, grandparents, and extended family, and to see the fabulous outfits and beautifully decorated cars, which added a real sense of fun and celebration to the ceremony.

Ms Ghada Dajani, our Managing Director, announced each student's name with great pride as she conducted the Presentation of High School Diploma and Leaving Certificates. A special thanks goes out to Ms Ghada Dajani, for her commitment to ensuring that MES Cairo students enjoy a spectacular graduation ceremony, each and every year, regardless of circumstances!

Congratulations, Class of 2021! As each one of you was driven away into the starlit night, the whole of the MES Cairo family wished you the very best of luck. You, the Class of 2021, will always be remembered as the MESCA Graduates! You may have left us filled with hopes and plans for the future in your family car, but please don't forget, there is another little car that belongs to you, right here at your school, and it will be waiting here for you always...

Ms S Sheehan - Deputy Head





World Class Results

IBDP Class of 2021

IBDP students at MES Cairo celebrated their success this summer. With 22 graduates headed to universities in the autumn to attend universities such as University of British Columbia and Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada, University of Twente in the Netherlands, University of Illinois and Michigan State University in the USA and King's College London and Leeds University in the UK.

All our IBDP graduates achieved over 24 points and received the IB Diploma. Our two top scoring students, Maya Emam and Salma Garana, were awarded 39 and 38 points, respectively which is over 225 UCAS points each and equates to more than four A* A-Level grades each.

MES Cairo has been offering the International Baccalaureate's IB Diploma Programme since 2006. Our IB students, through their experiences in the programme, develop critical thinking skills, communication skills, study skills and an enhanced ability to adapt and contribute to university life and beyond.



Salma Garana



Maya Emam

Students from MES Cairo join thousands of others around the world who took the IB Diploma Programme this year, and over 1 million others educated by the IB since it was founded over 50 years ago.

Olli-Pekka Heinonen, Director General of the International Baccalaureate, said:

"The last 18 months have been incredibly challenging for students, teachers, and schools throughout the world as COVID-19 has undermined much of what we had come to take for granted. I salute their spirit and dedication to our shared mission: education for a better world.

A key responsibility of the IB this year has been to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged by the pandemic, including in their applications to university and higher education. The many changes we have made to this session are part of this commitment to ensure students are not affected by the hugely challenging circumstances in which they have been learning.

We understand the pressure being put on the whole education system by COVID-19, and we thank all our partners, including universities, for their support and understanding as we have navigated our way through this challenging time."

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

We wish our students the very best and look forward to hearing about their accomplishments in the years ahead.

Mr B Rainford - Assistant Head/IBDP Coordinator



AMERICAN SECTION ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) STUDENTS SCORE BIG!

Every year students from the American Section take Advanced Placement courses at MES Cairo. All High School students have the opportunity to choose from 16 rigorous college-level courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art and Technology. In May, students take an exam to assess their knowledge. The results are reported on a scale of 1-5 with 5 representing a student who is extremely well qualified in their knowledge of the subject.

The College Board reviews the results of all current and previous exams at the conclusion of each testing year. Outstanding students receive awards in three categories - AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, AP Scholar with Distinction.

- AP Scholar - Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.
- AP Scholar with Honor - Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
- AP Scholar with Distinction - Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

In May 2021, 61 students from the American Section took 100 exams to assess their knowledge in fifteen different subjects. Twelve of these students received recognition from the College Board for their amazing AP results! Their average AP score was 3.7. Of the twelve students, MES Cairo had seven AP Scholars, one AP Scholar with Honor and four AP Scholars with Distinction.



Congratulations to the 2020-21 AP Scholar Recipients! AP Scholars



Muna Saif



Hana Afifi



Ferial Abdel Hamid



Farah Moemen



Ahmed Abdelkader



Omar El Nashar



Yasmin Serry

AP Scholar with Honor - Natalie Botros (3.5)



AP Scholar with Distinction



Salma Saleh (4.17)



Farida El Sayed (4.2)



Lara Gamal Eldin (4.2)



Marize Bernaba (4.17)

Dr Janie Cates

Dean of Students - Grades 11 and 12, American Section



British Section Exam Results

Students and staff in the British Section are once again celebrating some outstanding External Examination results. In a challenging year due to the pandemic, our students rose to the occasion and produced the results we know they are capable of across the range of subjects including PE, Music and Global Perspectives, which enabled some of our students the opportunity to take nine IGCSEs.

Looking beyond the grades highlighted, there are many stories of students who have overcome personal challenges to achieve the grades to access university entrance be it on a Foundation Programme or Degree Programme. Our A level students have now taken up university places around the globe and we look forward to hearing about our Alumni in the coming issues of the MESsenger.

There are countless examples of individual success to celebrate but special mention must be given to the following students.

IGCSE Results

- **Yousef Mahmoud** – 8A* and 1A
- **Fatima Abbady** - 8A* and 1A
- **Mohammed Desouki** – 7A*, 1A and 1B
- **Sarah Toma** – 7A* and 1A
- **Farah Sawan** – 7A* and 1A



Yousef Mahmoud



Sarah Toma



Fatima Abbady



Farah Sawan



Mohamed Desouki

AS Level Results

- **Jasser Zoheiry** achieved an A in Arabic Language, Business Studies, Physics and Mathematics
- **Yassin Mostafa** achieved an A in Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics and Physics
- **Yassin Antably** achieved an A in Computer Science, Physics and Psychology and a C in Mathematics



Yassin Mostafa



Jasser Zoheiry



Yassin Antably

A Level Results

- **Nour Barsi** achieved 4A* and has taken up the offer of a place at Maastricht University in the Netherlands to study Medical Sciences.
- **Mounira Kafafy** achieved 3A* and 1A and has taken up the offer of a place at the University of Sussex to study Finance.
- **Fadi El Meeri** achieved 3A* and has accepted a place at the University of Leeds to study Architectural Engineering.
- **Layla Sadek** achieved 3A* and has accepted a place at King's College London/University of London to study Psychology with a professional placement year.



Nour Barsi



Mounira Kafafy



Fady El Meeri



Layla Sadek

Congratulations to all our students on their achievements!

Ms L Talbot - Secondary Headteacher, British Section

Keep Egypt Warm Campaign Celebration 2021

Operation Patchwork!



Every year, starting early in November, MES Cairo runs the *Keep Egypt Warm* campaign, which enables the whole of the MES Cairo family to come together in a united spirit of community, kindness and giving in order to help less fortunate families to gather warmth and sustenance as they prepare for the harsh winter months ahead. We help families by donating blankets, winter clothing, and dried or tinned food items.



This year we collected contributions from Sunday 7th November through Thursday 16th December. We partnered with the Egyptian Food Bank and the Egyptian Clothing Bank charities again this year, bringing the MES Cairo family together to make a difference in the lives of so many families in need. Collection boxes were located around the school campus and class Dojos (Primary) and House Points (Secondary) were earned for every contribution!

We are extremely grateful to you all for so generously supporting this very worthy cause and helping us to spread warmth this winter. Our target was to have at least one contribution to our collection from every child at MES Cairo, and we definitely surpassed this target.

Operation Patchwork - a great new tradition launched!

In order to encourage as many blanket donations as possible, we coordinated a live blanket patchwork project on our sports field, adding a super element of

fun to our campaign. The promise of music, the experience of a community event, along with a space-aged drone flying over our very own field on the morning of 1st December, encouraged our enthusiastic students in Year 4,5,6, and Year/Grade 7 and 8 to embrace the spirit of the campaign and enjoy a morning of euphoric excitement. We even had over 500 students singing Happy Birthday to our Managing Director, Ms Ghada Dajani!

Our Senior Student Mentors did us proud, as they supported the teachers and guided the younger students to their assigned positions on the field. This was a real demonstration of our family spirit, with MES Cairo students of all ages working together for a good cause.

Ms Singleton, our School Director, told us: "Today has been brilliant for our school spirit and for the good of the cause, with hundreds of blankets donated. I am so proud of our school and of everyone who participated."

As we continue to navigate the uncertain waters of the pandemic, nothing brings more comfort than knowing we have given less advantaged communities a helping hand to the shore. In a time that has been devoid of trips, events and all the incredible activities that MES Cairo usually offers, Operation Patchwork was a ray of sunshine, a glimpse of hope, a comfort to the heart and definitely a sight for sore eyes!

<https://www.egyptianclothingbank.org/> and <https://www.egyptianfoodbank.com/>

Ms S Sheehan - Deputy Head



MES Cairo Superheroes raise awareness and funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt (BCFE)



The month of October is regarded as Breast Cancer awareness month around the world. Different days during the month are adopted as Pink Days by organisations around the world.



On 14th October, the MES Cairo campus was flooded with Superheroes when we hosted our annual Pink Day - a fundraising initiative in support of the Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt (BCFE) and the BCFE's hard work in the areas of research, prevention/early detection education and support of breast cancer patients. Our theme this year was 'Superheroes' with our t-shirt design reflecting this. The MES Cairo Pink Day Pack contained an event T-shirt, a pink surgical mask and an event cookie, with all proceeds donated to the BCFE.

We were delighted that such a large number of our students and staff embraced our whole

school community initiative. The MES Cairo family supported the cause with great enthusiasm. In addition to fundraising specific to Breast Cancer we raised awareness with all children in age-appropriate ways.

The Primary LDD department won the best dressed department prize for the third year in a row while in Secondary, Ms Lamia Afifi won the prize for the most creative Pink Day outfit!



SECONDARY STUDENTS CREATE MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR PINK DAY!



On Pink Day, Secondary students participated in several activities promoting cancer awareness, including a quiz game to check their knowledge. Throughout the day, students wrote messages to their real-life Superheroes on pink ribbons and earned House Points for participation. As a culminating activity, students collaborated to create a Pink Day Ribbon "Quilt" as a message of hope and support for cancer patients and their families.

All profits made from the sale of the Pink Day 2021 pack were donated in full to the Breast Cancer Foundation of Egypt on behalf of the MES Cairo community.

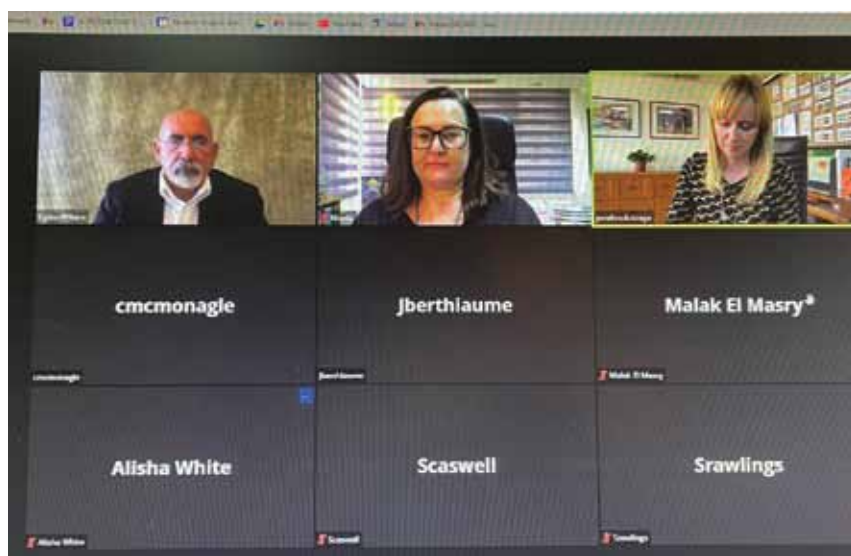
We would like to thank the whole school community for joining us in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We are proud and delighted to have presented the BCFE with a cheque for 300,000LE.



Ms S Sheehan - Deputy Head,
Ms L Talbot - Secondary Headteacher and
Ms J Cates - Dean of Students, Grades 11 and 12



Dylan Wiliam Training Sessions for MES Cairo Teachers



MES Cairo teachers recently engaged in a series of stimulating online Professional Development sessions led by Professor Dylan Wiliam. Dylan Ap Rhys Wiliam is a British educationalist and Emeritus professor of Educational Assessment at the UCL Institute of Education. He lives in Florida, USA. His life work has focused on the professional development of teachers and on formative assessment to support student learning. Formative assessment refers to a variety of methods that teachers use to evaluate students' learning. His book, *Inside the Black Box* which he wrote with Paul Black in 1998, is a best seller. He further expands on these ideas in his 2011 book, *Embedded Formative Assessment*, which describes five key strategies of effective formative assessment in the classroom.

He was an advisor to British Prime Minister Tony Blair from 2000-2007.

Teachers from Primary and Secondary tuned in to Dylan's sessions on four occasions after school. We gathered in small groups where possible and enjoyed follow-up discussions after each session. Indeed, the sessions were so stimulating that our teachers are still talking about them now. Where it enhances practice, teachers are incorporating Dylan Wiliam's methods into their daily work and we are seeing some great benefits.

Each session was focussed on a different theme:

- Embedding Formative Assessment
- How do we prepare young people for a world we cannot imagine?
- Cognitive load theory
- Learning and memory



We asked our teachers what they thought of Dylan Wiliam's sessions and here is what they told us!

Our first online PD session did not disappoint - Dylan is a master at communicating complex and diverse concepts in a manner which allows teachers to implement practical strategies in the classroom with immediate effect.

Prof Dylan Wiliam reminded us that we must never extinguish a child's passion for learning; most of what they will need to know to be successful adults has not been discovered yet.

What a privilege to spend the afternoon in the company of such an iconic educator, researcher and inspiration, talking about our core purpose. I will teach my classes with a renewed sense of purpose and importance tomorrow.

Technology does not replace people because we all seek human interaction. Rather it alters and transforms previously conceived positions into something quite different. Creativity counts so don't be afraid to breathe that into the curriculum that you teach.

A delight to listen and reflect on Dylan Wiliam's webinars. A rare academic who is able to interpret and explain educational research clearly and inspire you to ignite the passion in students to learn.

Ms S Sheehan - Deputy Head

MES Cairo Scholarship and Student Leaders for 2021-2022

Leadership begins with family!

The MES Cairo Elements

Student leaders are selected because they consistently demonstrate all the following attributes:

- have very good academic standing
- demonstrate excellent behaviour at all times
- have a proven history of service/leadership at MES Cairo
- have been students of MES Cairo for at least 2 prior academic years
- are identified by staff for their positive attitude, proven leadership of others and outstanding contribution to school climate and culture



IB Section Scholarship and Student Leaders

Saleem El Hady (DP12R)

What is your greatest academic achievement?

I achieved nine A*s in my IGCSEs, including the highest mark worldwide for Music in the November 2020 series. In Music, we switched exam boards at the start of Year 10, setting us back a year, but the entire class ended up excelling. In all my subjects, the way that the teachers took COVID's disruption in their stride and continued to deliver quality education was a huge inspiration to continue working hard amidst all the uncertainty of those first few pandemic months.



What is your greatest extracurricular achievement?

When I was nine years old, I decided I wanted to learn to play the viola. Now, after eight years, I am thoroughly enjoying the opportunities to learn a wide repertoire of pieces and participate in orchestras and other ensembles. Despite struggling sometimes with discipline in practising, and difficulties in finding new teachers, I continued to work on it, and made progress. The entire process highlighted the results of long-term effort for me while also deepening my passion for classical music.

How important has family been in terms of your educational and extracurricular achievements so far?

Really important. Without my parents' experience and advice, I would have no study skills whatsoever, and without their and my siblings' support I might have given up on extra-curriculars multiple times, or even not have started some. My mother is a huge fan of classical music which made me want to learn an instrument, for example. My family has been loving, supportive and understanding for my whole life: they have brought me back up when I am feeling



IBDP Section

down, inspired me with all their successes, helped me with discipline and motivation, but most importantly they made sure I understood the importance of doing what I love.

What does the MES Cairo family mean to you?

I moved from the UK to Egypt and joined MES Cairo in 2017, and from the very start I was welcomed. The anxiety that comes with moving countries and schools was made far more manageable by how easily I became part of the family. All the students and staff are really friendly, and whenever I had a problem, teachers were happy to help.

That's why to me, the MES Cairo family means support, safety and sincerity, and I am incredibly grateful to everyone who is a part of it.

Catherine Gerguis (DP12R)



What is your greatest academic achievement?

I have been very grateful for having multiple academic achievements throughout my years at MES Cairo. However, my greatest achievement is doing 10 IGCSEs and getting very high grades (As and A*s). Throughout the chaos of the pandemic, I worked very hard to improve my grades and work on my weaknesses until I finally got much higher grades than I expected.

What is your greatest extracurricular achievement?

I have absolutely done it all, played multiple sports (like netball, tennis, handball, volley, boxing, rowing, basketball and swimming etc). I learned singing and entered many choirs, dancing, learned instruments including guitar and the piano. However, my greatest achievement refers to my greatest passion which is Theatre. I am quite proud of all the plays and musicals that I have performed in. The stage is where I am most comfortable and feel at home and I enjoy meeting new people with every play.

How important has family been in terms of your educational and extracurricular achievements so far?

My family is absolutely amazing! There is no way I could have gotten this far in my academic and personal life without them. They always keep me in check and keep me feeling good and safe through the stress of school, sports and rehearsals. They help me with everything and support me, my dreams and decisions and sacrifice a lot of time and effort to help and motivate me to meet my full potential. I tend to stress out a lot during the academic year and they are always there to nurture me and remind me to have fun and do what makes me happy, no matter what. They are my number one fans and supporters, and number one in my life. They are my biggest blessing!

What does the MES Cairo family mean to you?

What I love most about the MES Cairo family is how it taught me to be my best every day and aspire to be the ultimate version of myself. It is a highly educated and intelligent community that challenges me and motivates me to meet my full potential. I learned so many valuable lessons that have changed me and made me who I am today.

I feel fortunate to be a part of this family that family that challenges, motivates and inspires us all.





American Section Scholarship and Student Leaders

Lara Gamaleldin (G12B)

What is your greatest extra-curricular achievement?



The NJHS/NHS trips to Islamic and Coptic Cairo have been a significant part of my MES Cairo education outside of the classroom. Every year since Grade 8, Mr Roodvoets has taken a group of students to Old Cairo and helped us prepare for the teacher tours we were giving to new members of the MES Cairo faculty. I have always been fascinated by Egyptian history so the task of relaying information to those who were usually the ones teaching me was both exciting and nerve-wracking.

What is your greatest academic achievement?

Earning the AP Scholar with Distinction award would have to be one of my greatest academic achievements. Earning this award means that I have scored 3 or higher on 5 AP examinations with an average of 3.5 on all exams. Taking a heavy AP course load was certainly a lot to handle at times, however, I am happy to have pushed myself since I now feel prepared for university. Taking courses ranging from AP Computer Science Principles to AP Comparative Government, and even AP Statistics has helped me dwindle down my interests to topics I want to study while pursuing higher education.

How important has your family been in terms of your education and extra-curricular achievements?

With a bookworm mother and a passionate businessman father, having a thirst for knowledge is something that is always been ingrained in me. My parents always pushed my sisters and I to take full advantage of whatever opportunities are available to us and to push ourselves to reach

our full potential. Each person in my family has wildly different academic interests and strengths which always makes for riveting conversations. Sara, my oldest sister, majored in Food Science while attending university whereas Laila, the second oldest, is majoring in Computer Science. My family's constant support throughout my MES Cairo journey has helped me immensely.

What does the MES family mean to you?

Upon joining the MES Cairo family in Year Four, I immediately felt welcomed by a community that cared for me on an academic and personal level whilst always pushing me to try new things. My peers and I have grown up together and helped shape each other's characters throughout our time in school.

I feel extremely blessed to have had such an amazing school experience and to be a member of a community that cares, challenges, and inspires me.



AMERICAN SECTION

Ahmed Abdelkader (G12B)

What is your greatest academic achievement?

My greatest academic achievement is reaching the highest level of Maths course in school. I have chosen this because I have worked for it since Grade Eight's Algebra 1 Honors and then spent four years preparing for this course. These last years of Maths have allowed me to look at the world differently, and even though sometimes challenging, it has been well worth the effort. With this achievement under my belt, I will strive to challenge myself further in college to gain more achievements and allow my mind to develop to do great things.



What is your greatest extracurricular achievement?

My greatest extracurricular achievement is my involvement in giving back and bettering the community. Since I was a young child, I would find my father and my mother finding ways to better society; they would do this through monetary support, physical support or spreading awareness. I could only observe and admire them then, but over these last years, I have been able to exercise this myself. I do this by donating money when I can, joining charities' workforce in events and spreading awareness for world crises.

How important has your family been in terms of your educational and extracurricular achievements so far?



My family has been essential in my educational and extracurricular achievements. This importance is due to their unconditional support of my educational and extracurricular decisions. With a great support team, I have been able to focus on my goals and develop my skills without having some of the usual pressures a student has. Even though I have had to work hard for my achievements without my family, school life would be more taxing, and I would expect to endure a more exhausting school experience.

What does the MES Cairo Family mean to you?

The MES Cairo Family has been a major part of my life for the past 13 years and will always be a part of me. This family has helped shape my character and has prepared me for adult life. While being part of this community has not always been easy, I am proud to be a member. Looking back, I cherish moments of my life at MES Cairo and hope to show the best qualities I have learned in school for the rest of my life.





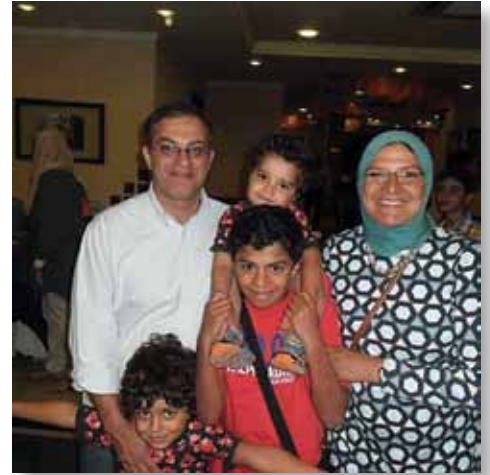
British Section Scholarship and Student Leaders

Yassine Antably (Y12B)

What is your greatest academic achievement?



I do not think I would be anywhere without my family as they really are my backbone. My academic success essentially goes back to the way I was raised and the educational opportunities and environment my parents created for me, growing up always pushing me to seek out knowledge, and do my best in whatever task I take on whether in academics or sports. My family has supported me endlessly throughout my journey at school emotionally as well as academically. High School can be a bumpy road and a rollercoaster of emotion so having my family to lean on definitely helped me cope with the stress of growing up, keeping up good grades, and of course the pandemic.



How important has your family been in terms of your educational and extracurricular achievements so far?

My parents, both being professors, meant I thankfully had endless academic support at home with subjects such as Maths and Physics which helping me tackle tough concepts and ideas and ensuring I was always on track with my studies.

What does the MES Cairo Family mean to you?



However, my support did not just come from my family back home. My MES Cairo family was also a huge support from the amazing group of teachers who work tirelessly to provide us with rich and intuitive lessons to my supportive group of friends who push me to work harder and reach my goals. Whether my family at home or MES Cairo, family has always driven me towards my goals and success.

BRITISH SECTION

Sarah Ramadan (Y12R)

What is your greatest academic achievement?



Throughout my years of being a student at MES Cairo, the school has helped me and supported me with my academic achievements. However, the ones I am most proud of are my AS level grades. I am proud to have achieved three As in my AS levels with the help of my teachers who devoted lots of time and effort to make this achievement possible.

What is your greatest extracurricular achievement?

I am very happy to be a Student Mentor this year and help the younger students who are new to Secondary. When I was in Years 7 and 8, my student mentors had a big impact on my Secondary experience, and I am proud that I am able to do the same for the Year 7 students this year and I hope that I can make their transition from Primary to Secondary easy and exciting.

How important has your family been in terms of your educational and extracurricular achievements so far?

My family have played a substantial role in helping me with my achievements. They have always given me their unconditional support and encouraged me to do my best, putting in maximum effort whether it was in my academics or my extracurricular activities. I am very thankful for their love and support throughout my school journey.

What does the MES Cairo Family mean to you?

It goes without saying that the MES Cairo family has been a great support since I first joined this school 12 years ago. Teachers and staff at MES Cairo never failed to make me feel safe at this school. They have always been there to make sure that I succeed and were always by my side in tough periods of time.



I am very grateful to be a part of this community and I am very thankful to the MES Cairo Family and their endless support.

PRIMARY STEAM WEEK

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths!



The new academic year at MES Cairo started with a bang and a buzz of excitement and creativity. The students from Years 1 to 6, having returned from their summer holidays, arrived to find an exciting challenge waiting for them! Their challenge was to design and make a piece of wearable technology for a superhero – either a real-life or imaginary one!

Our students rose to the challenge, using all of their abilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths to develop their futuristic ideas. All across Primary, students discussed, designed, researched made and presented their exciting concepts, from 'Invisibility Capes' to 'Robot Hands'!



During STEAM week, the students were challenged not only to be critical thinkers and to collaborate and innovate but also to develop their 5R skills. They were Risk-takers, they were Resilient, Resourceful and Reflective and they developed Relationships with friends old and new. All our students demonstrated that the future is in capable hands, whether it be as creative engineers, computing whizzes, designers or doctors!

Ms B Meason - Primary Deputy Head, Key Stage Two



MES Cairo Welcomes our Foundation Stage One Families



It was with pleasure that we welcomed our Foundation Stage 1 students and their families to the MES Cairo family in September 2021. Having all students back on campus, added to the excitement of welcoming our youngest students to the 2021-22 academic year.

Each year, we ensure a transition programme that enables our students and parents to become familiar with the school, staff and the opportunities provided at MES Cairo. This began with a Parent Information session where





members of the Key Stage 1 Leadership Team along with Ms Louise Kiernan, FS1 Year Team Leader, shared information relating to the Early Years curriculum. This enabled the parents to gain an understanding of what we teach, how we teach and the importance of their role as first educators in supporting their child's learning.

In June, our families were able to meet our FS1 teachers through a visual presentation and to learn more about school, classes and daily routines. The presentation also included a range of activities and websites parents could use over the summer to prepare their child for school.

To support a smooth transition to school for our FS1 students, we put in place a different start to the academic year. An 'Orientation Experience' was offered over two days, allowing four to five students and one parent to visit the school for a two-hour session where they were able to familiarise themselves with the classroom/pod area, meet their teacher and engage in some play-based exploration of the learning environment. This was hugely beneficial and was enjoyed by each student, their parent and our FS1 team.

As we approach the end of Term One, our students have settled and have been 'Cared for, Challenged and Inspired' by our experienced, professional and committed Foundation Stage 1 team.

Ms C Readman - Primary Headteacher, Key Stage One



FOUNDATION STAGE ONE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY THIS TERM!



The first few months of Term One have been very busy for our younger children. We started off by welcoming our FS1 children during the induction period which took place over two days. The main purpose of those two days was to spend some quality time with each child, getting to know them and familiarising them with their new class and school. The children had a selection of engaging activities to take part in with their parents and teachers. They used their tiny little hands and fine motor skills to make pasta bracelets for their mothers and themselves using colourful string and pasta. They also made delicious ice-cream using different coloured playdough and built houses with various construction blocks. They entered roleplay areas where they pretended to be hairdressers, parents, clients at a supermarket and even chefs baking pizzas and cakes which was very exciting and revealed a lot of creativity and imagination. It was a great opportunity for the teachers and parents to meet to discuss their child's character and answer any questions and concerns. All the children thoroughly enjoyed their first experience at MES Cairo, and many were even upset to find out that it was time to tidy up the class and leave.

It was lovely to see how quickly the children settled in a few days after the Induction. The children became aware of the MES Cairo rules and expectations and began to make new friendships with their peers, showing kindness and respect. They grew in confidence in their new school environment as they ventured out into various areas around the school such as the POD, Outdoor Learning and the yards, exploring the activities and resources out there and sharing them with their new friends.

Our first topic was "Marvellous Me" and the children enjoyed sharing stories about their home, families and about themselves. We learnt the names of our different body parts and what we use them for through songs and dances. Lots of children enjoyed making funny face collages and skeleton pictures using cotton buds. In addition, we discovered the different emotions we have and how to manage our little fears and anger in a healthy way. Moreover, we listened to several stories discussing important values such as kindness, sharing, appreciation, forgiveness, courage and patience, all of which are necessary to help build healthy relationships with each other inside and outside our MES Cairo family.

It has been a promising start with our younger students, and we are very excited for this coming year ahead. We look forward to helping each and every child reach their full potential.

Ms S Samy - Foundation Stage One Green Teacher



FOUNDATION STAGE TWO TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS!



What a wonderful Term One we have had in FS2! It has been fantastic to welcome all the students back as whole classes and see the children finally reunited as a year group. The fun, laughter and happiness our students have shown have made the teachers and staff members delighted!

Our focus this term has been on settling the children into unfamiliar routines, encouraging independence and consolidating listening and concentration skills. The children were used to small classes, shorter hours and more time at home learning, so this has required lots of time and patience on everyone's part! The children are now much more settled into school and come ready to listen and learn every day. We are delighted with the improvement the students have shown, and continue to show, in these vital skills, and we will continue to focus on this throughout FS2.

Our 'Robots' topic was a fantastic way to start the year! The children loved learning all about robots and how they influence the world they live in. We had lots of 'loose parts' play with screws, bolts and metal objects and the students enjoyed working with these unfamiliar objects to play and create fantastic art. The question for the topic was 'Would life be better as a robot?' and, happily, most of our students decided that they were very happy being humans!

FS2 participated wonderfully in 'Pink Day' and raised a considerable amount for charity – thank you so very much to parents for supporting this. The children were covered in pink all day! They loved making pink necklaces, pink cards to say thank you, pink hearts to send to those they care for, and a noticing walk to help them appreciate the surroundings they live in. They enjoyed seeing the teachers dressed as flamingos and we thought they looked fantastic in their pink t shirts and face masks!

Students have built on the foundations of reading and number this term. The focus of the new EYFS is on number fluency to 10 and reading comprehension as well as word reading. The students have loved the huge variety of books introduced this term and have really progressed in their understanding of books as well as their phonics. We are working through our Jolly Phonics scheme and the children enthusiastically sing the songs and hear the stories as well as participating in all the additional activities they do as part of their continuous provision in class, the pod and outdoor learning.

Outdoor learning has been a focus for the students this year and much fun has been had whilst the children have been learning about capacity, weight and measure. They are so excited to participate in these sessions to put their knowledge into action and we are amazed at the 'wow' moments we see and hear every time they work outside.

We look forward to the next term to continue to instil the basic skills and love of learning in all our students.

Ms L Mottram - Foundation Stage Two Year Leader



TERRIFIC TEAMWORK IN YEAR ONE

Coming back to school for the start of September has been exciting for students, as well as teachers and parents. We were all keen to get back together as one whole class after a long time apart.



We began the school year with a focus on a collaborative teaching and learning environment that focuses on solving a problem by working together to reach a common goal. Year 1 embraced this fully by immersing themselves in our first 'Superhero' project and designing their very own superhero gadgets and wearable devices in their assigned teams and taking on specific roles within their groups. In this project, we saw children jump at the chance to take on leadership roles and lots of opportunities where powerful agreements and celebrations took place as everyone got excited about their new gadgets and could not wait to showcase their work.

We continued to work on this further and develop key learning experiences from each other as we progressed through the term in our English lessons, with a focus on the books 'Super Daisy' and 'Supertato'. Here, we took part in vital dialogic discussions about what was taking place in the storylines and how the characters were feeling we learned how to wait for our turn to speak, how to disagree with a point respectfully and how to agree with points of views and build on them further using key classroom language.

What has impressed us most about the Year 1 children so far is how welcoming they have been of each other and how willing and resilient they have been at building great relationships and producing super teamwork. We have watched Year 1 settling into school and classroom routines and help each other in doing so with gentle reminders and kind gestures that show they are becoming a fabulous team and recognising themselves as such. We have listened to them using kind words and resolve disputes quickly and efficiently as they have realised that they need to restore the situation and most of all, we have seen them be 'COOL' in their learning - Choosing Our Own Learning. As they have selected their own continuous provision activities around the classroom and made a choice about what they are interested in doing next, they have learned how to show that they are ready for learning with their bodies and voices - sitting down at an activity, tidying up once we are done and using indoor voices in the classroom, and in turn, become role models for their peers around them.

We cannot wait to see how they approach further topics throughout the year and strengthen the bonds they have as a class and Year group.

Ms D Saeed - Year 1 Violet Teacher



FULL TEAM AHEAD FOR YEAR TWO



Building Relationships is one of the 5Rs for a reason! It helps us to define the ideal MES Cairo student, and therefore Year 2 students have focused on building relationships in the classroom. This meant starting the school year with an opportunity to engage in team building activities, and therefore, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) Week was the perfect opportunity.

The theme for STEAM week was superheroes, and the challenge set for the members of Year 2 was to design a piece of wearable technology to enhance their lives, or the lives of their families. Einstein himself said that "Imagination is more important than knowledge" and it was clear from the initial ideas presented to the Year 2 teachers that this year group was not short on imagination whatsoever. Ideas ranged from 'Utility Belts', 'Homework Completing Gloves' and even a 'Coffee Tie' to help fuel Mr Dan's daily obsession. The imagination grew as cardboard boxes were transformed into shields, armour, helmets, watches, rocket boots. Plastic bottles became the rockets for jetpacks and shoulder pads.

By the end of STEAM week, Year 2 felt much more like a home to all of our wonderful students, and we knew we could continue the academic year having built good relationships and taken risks to already achieve some great things. It was somewhat fitting then, that our first topic of the school year was materials and science based. We continued with our STEAM mindset to answer the question of "What makes a school?". We learned terms such as waterproof, durability, transparent, translucent and opaque but were also able to understand that a school, whilst built of brick, glass, wood and other materials, is more than just the building. We understood that a school is made up of children, teachers, leaders, TLAs, cleaners, security and far more.

As we continue to tackle the problem of COVID and begin to dream of life after the pandemic, it is with a sense of pride that we teachers look back over the incredible amount of progress the students of Year 2 have already made. As we look forward to the rest of the school year, we can continue to care for each other by being vigilant and following the rules to keep ourselves safe, challenge one another to continue to progress through the Year 2 curriculum, and inspire one another to continue achieving great things.

Mr D Saberton - Year 2 Blue Teacher



YEAR THREE AND THE 5RS



Year 3 have had an action-packed start to this new academic year. We are all trying hard to demonstrate the 5Rs. Let's see how!

Term 1a was a very busy term, and we continued with our superhero theme for the rest of the term, learning about our bodies and how we can make sure that we are strong and healthy like superheroes too!

RESILIENT

It has been quite a change for everyone to be back in school full time, in full classes, but we have all approached the return with great excitement and enthusiasm. Everyone has now settled into the new routines, and we are all working hard.

RELATIONSHIPS

We have really enjoyed being back in the classroom and getting to know our classmates and teachers. We are trying hard to learn together and are getting really good at sharing our ideas and making sure that we are all kind and thoughtful towards each other, in the classroom and the playground.

RESOURCEFUL

We jumped straight into the school year with STEAM Week, where we worked in teams to design super cool superhero gadgets. We had a lot of inventive ideas and used different materials to create fantastic tools that can make superheroes even more powerful!

REFLECTIVE

We also celebrated Pink Day dressing up in our superhero Pink Day T-shirts and reflecting on the 5 Ways of Wellbeing, considering the different ways that we can look after ourselves and others. We enjoyed the delicious Pink Day cookies too!

RISK-TAKING

The learning in Year 3 can be HARD! Every day we challenge ourselves to take risks with our learning, whether it is tackling a tricky Maths problem, writing informative reports about our skeletal systems or working independently at home on our home learning topic projects. Our confidence is growing as we settle into Year 3, and we are looking forward to taking more risks with our learning as the year continues.

Year 3 are all superheroes!

Ms K Lewis - Year 3 Team Leader



YEAR FOUR UPDATE

It has been a pleasure to welcome all our students back to the MES CAIRO campus for what has proven to be an exciting and successful first term in Year 4. We have marvelled at the way our students have familiarised themselves with school life once again and it has been a privilege to watch them reconnect with each other. We have been impressed with the way they have fully embraced our new BYOD practice in Year 4 and they have produced some excellent work linked to our Topic areas through the use of technology.

We started the year with a fun-packed week of STEAM learning that linked with the theme of Superheroes. The students were set a challenge to design and create a wearable piece of technology that solved a particular problem linked to school life. The problems



presented were well thought out; from wearable audio translators to GPS trackers which helped new students to find their way around the campus. Excellent designs were drawn and the students worked extensively on creating prototypes to present in class. Their well-researched presentations concentrated on the scientific explanation behind their products. We had a super week of learning and we certainly thought that all our students were superheroes!



Our Science Topic this term linked to Living Things and our central statement was: Human Action Impacts the Natural World. In English, we researched and wrote explanation texts about endangered and extinct animals. In Guided Reading, the students learned about the invaluable work of the Blue Iguana Recovery Program in the Cayman Islands. The students in Y4O were delighted to find out that their artwork is to be shared with The National Trust in The Cayman Islands. In Art, we created papier-mâché animals and focussed on sketching skills. In Science, we explored animal classification and food chains and the students were given the opportunity to prepare an extended project at home which linked with our learning at school. We received a number of excellent, in-depth presentations in the form of display boards, posters and videos. We were particularly proud of a group of students who caught our attention in Y4R. They decided to find a variety of ways to raise money to adopt their own endangered animal. By selling seashells and setting up lemonade stalls, the students planned, worked hard and eventually achieved their goal: to adopt an Amur leopard via the World Wildlife Foundation.



Pink Day was a day of celebration and a moment to remind each other how helpful, kind and resilient we are in Year 4. We started the day with dancing in the playground, followed by a session which enabled us all to discuss our wonderful support networks: family and friends who show their care every single day. We created mood boards and the students had the opportunity to discuss and celebrate the important people in their lives.

It has certainly been a wonderful term of learning and enjoyment in Year 4, and we look forward with great anticipation to a fun-packed second term.

Ms S Underwood - Year 4 Team Leader



Year Five Detectives Solve Mysteries of the Universe!



Sunday 12th September saw joyous teachers, chattering students and the National Anthem roaring across the yard once again - we were back! Across Term 1, Year 5 students happily settled back into the swing of school. We shouldered the new responsibility of being Year 5 - meaning that we were now role models across Primary School. We enjoyed being back in a class five days a week and patted ourselves on the back when we climbed onto the bus or into the car at 3pm each day. Here is the Year 5 highlight reel for Term 1:

STEAM Week - Deciding to waste no time with exciting and creative learning activities, MES Cairo launched STEAM week in the first week back of school. A challenge was put to the Year 5 students - design a gadget that enhances human abilities. The innovative planning, quality designs and collaboration from the Year 5 students was absolutely superb and their joy of learning was abundantly clear.

Poetry - We began English this term with a poetry unit. We read many poems with wonderful imagery before taking the plunge and writing our own about school. Shoes stomping and stairs like Everest were common literary phrases in our poems (the transition of stairs from Year 4 to Year 5 is a rite of passage) and the teachers were amazed at the sophisticated and descriptive imagery produced. We finished our unit by being risk takers and performing our poems in front of our supportive peers - this was undoubtedly a highlight of the term and truly celebrated the learning and progress made by students over this unit.

Clockwork - Ask any student in Year 5, "the heart that is given must also be kept" and you will be treated to a summary of the book *Clockwork*. This book is always a favourite when studied in Year 5. We enjoyed the many twists and turns of the plot as well as learning new vocabulary. We discussed whether we were pessimists like Karl or optimists like Fritz and had a go at acting out some of the scenes.

What is our place in the universe? - Our journey in integrated learning started this term. Whilst discovering about space and the planets in Science, we were also diving into the science fiction genre in English. During Topic time, we got messy for the best of intentions as we used papier-mâché to create our very own solar system. In English, we became detectives as we investigated an alien crime scene that occurred in our very own Year 5 Pod.

Our learning journey is well underway in Year 5. It is a journey we are so grateful to be taking with an incredibly resilient, creative and collaborative year group. It is also one that we are so appreciative of, in reflection of what has happened over the last year and a half.

Ms A Keegan - Year 5 Team Leader



YEAR SIX STUDENTS HAVE HAD A VERY BUSY FIRST TERM!



It has been a wonderful first term in Year 6. While there have been many highlights, the biggest highlight has definitely been our students. It feels wonderful to have all of our students back on campus and to enjoy all of the positive energy that they bring to MES Cairo. While we have certainly enjoyed this return to normality, we have also been working hard and enjoying a busy term filled with lots of wonderful learning opportunities across the curriculum.

During Term 1a, our topic was 'What Makes Planet Earth?' I was particularly impressed with the various lines of enquiry that the students developed and looked to explore during this topic. Their inquisitive nature certainly raised a lot of questions for their learning and some excellent home learning projects were completed, as you can see from the pictures. We learned about the physical structure of the Earth while also investigating world population and comparing the human and physical features of vastly different countries from around the world. All in the very first term!

During Term 1b, our Topic has been 'Light'. Our term started with a very interesting 'Light Exploration' day in which the students explored a number of experiments and investigations involving light. Their reasoning skills were then put to the test as we discussed and explored the scientific explanations for what was happening in each activity. We have certainly had fun with Science this term!

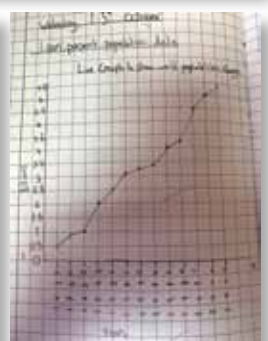
We have covered a wide range of English genres in our writing. We have written explanation texts about our learning on light, persuasive writing about environmental issues and we have also written some excellent stories and poetry too! Student writing has been of an excellent standard and everyone should feel very proud of their efforts.

Our Maths learning has been just as productive. We have studied place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions. We have also shown our data handling and presentation skills in our work on population growth during our Term 1a Topic.



As I am sure you will agree, it has been an exciting and busy first term in Year 6. I have been very impressed with the excellent attitude shown by all of our wonderful students and the manner in which everyone has quickly settled back into the routines of a full school day.

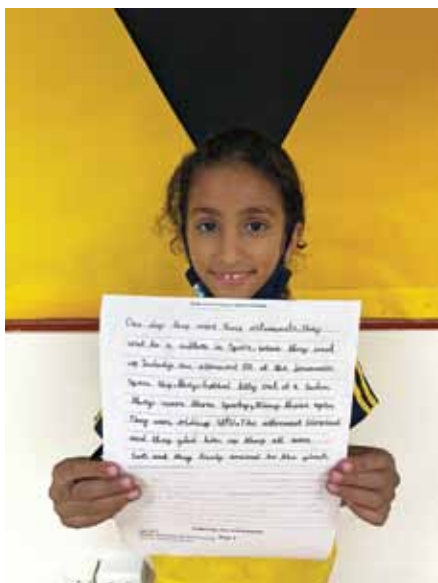
Mr D Paget - Year 6 Team Leader



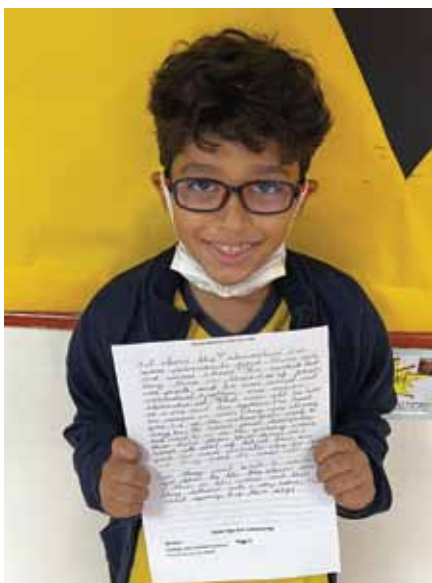
NO MORE CONFUSION ABOUT HOW GOOD MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO'S WRITING IS!

At Modern English School Cairo, we are always finding ways to perform on the world stage as we know our students are good enough! This is why, when we found out about a new writing assessment tool, we were eager to get involved and show just how good our written work is.

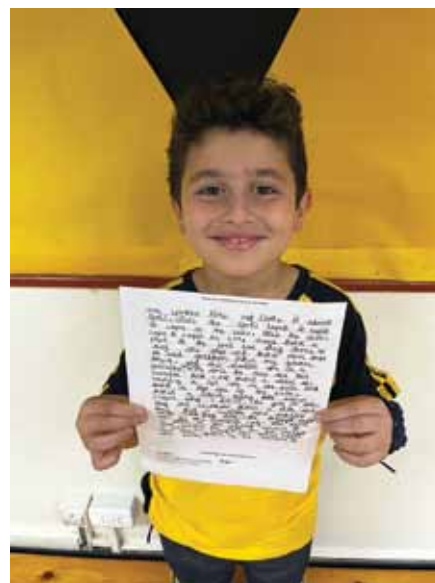
'No More Marking' is an assessment tool which is designed to make it easy to judge and assess the writing of our students. Taking part in six assessment windows over the year, one per Year group, our staff, alongside those from other schools around the world, will get to judge the writing of our students, comparing it with others. Many judgments allow the 'No More Marking' team to give us results which are reliable, accurate and give us scores, a writing age, and a grade.



Habiba (Y3Y) demonstrated beautiful handwriting



Adam (Y3Y) used paragraphs in his writing

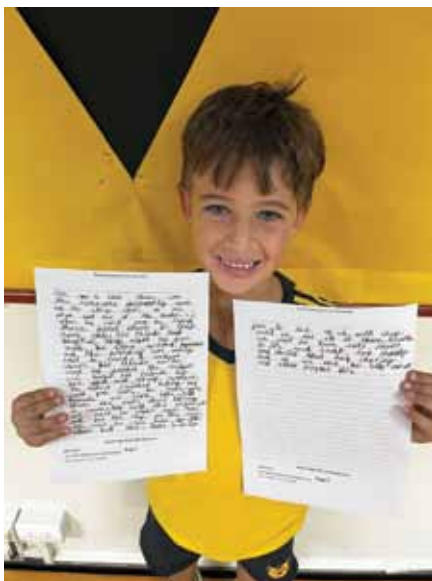


Ismail (Y3V) made sure he spent time editing his work once he had finished

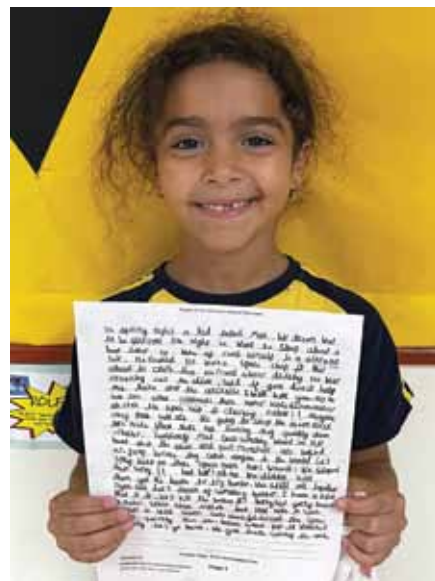
Year 3 students were the first year group to be chosen to take part in this session. Taking place in late October, the teachers and students received an image of an aliens in space scene as our writing prompt. The students in all six classes then had to write a story based on the image they could see. Were the aliens heading to earth? Were they returning? Why did they look so happy? Was something good or bad about to happen? The students were not allowed help during the writing task; they had to draw on their knowledge of previous English lessons with their teachers and try to include all the exciting vocabulary, grammar rules and spellings they had been learning. It was a chance for our students to show off all they had learnt!



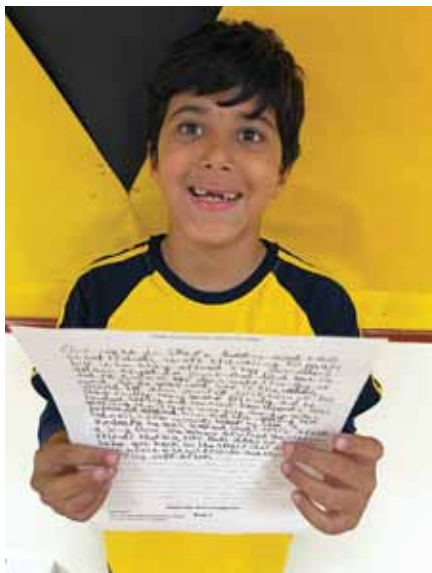
Maya (Y3V) used some really exciting vocabulary



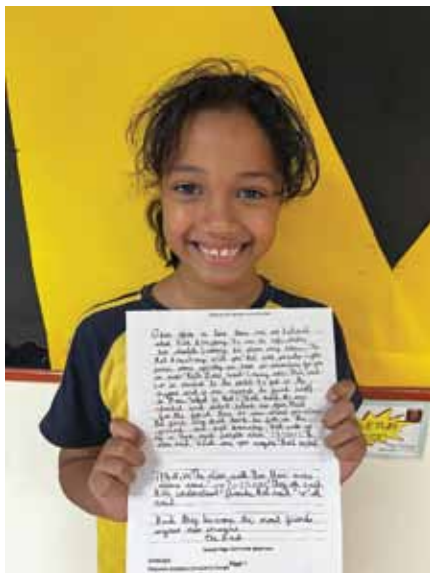
Seif (Y3V) wrote a lot in the time he had



Mariam (Y3R) used some exciting sentence openers



Yassin (Y3R) tried really hard to join his handwriting



Roquaya (Y3O) tried to use lots of different punctuation



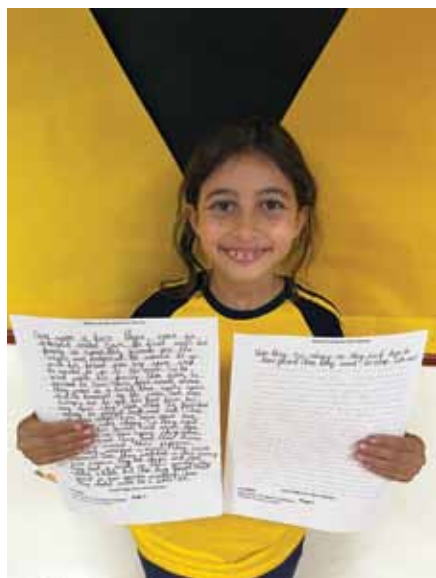
Selim (Y3O) kept us all excited with his use of exclamation marks

The writing was completed on special scripts that could easily be scanned into our printers and uploaded on the 'No More Marking' website quickly. It was exciting to see the number of students who were taking part in this task - 45,000 students from 1000 schools with more than 10,000 judges ready to look at pieces of writing from all corners of the world!

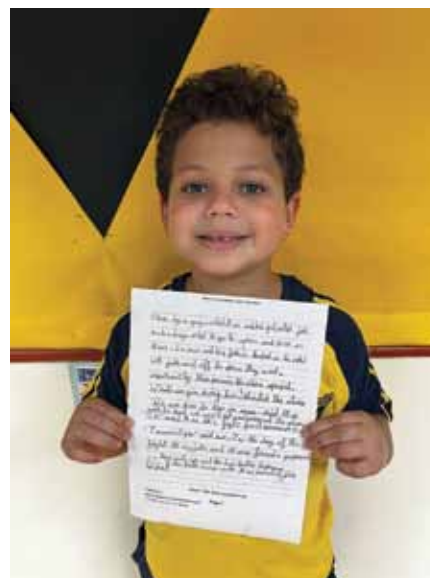
Once all of the scripts from other schools had been uploaded onto the website the Year 3 teachers and TLAs alongside Mr Dave, Miss Bennett, Miss Barbara, Miss Carol, Miss Deena and Miss Kerry sat together after school to judge. Judging was simple; the website chose the scripts that we would judge from our school and from other schools around the world. We then had a simple choice to make - which script out of the left and the right was better? This continued throughout the session until we had made over 100 judgements per teacher and TLA! All the time, the website would tell us how accurate we were and if we were agreeing with one another - MES Cairo teachers and TLAs were 10% more accurate than they needed to be to get our judgements accepted and counted by the website.



Massa (Y3G) used more than one paragraph



Salma (Y3O) wrote with her neatest handwriting



Bassem (Y3O) tried his best to use speech marks

Once the judging was completed, we also had time at the end of the session to discuss what the writing we saw was like. What were we doing great at? What did we need to improve upon in the written work we saw? This has allowed our teachers to plan for sessions that can focus on the areas of the curriculum that the students found more challenging which showed how useful the session was.

We are now eagerly awaiting our results and looking forward to the next 'No More Marking' writing session with Year 5. We hope that this will continue to improve our writing results over the coming years and prove to us what we already know that students at Modern English School Cairo, are fantastic writers!

Mr D Barton - Primary Deputy Head

Primary ArtBeat

After a year of online Art lessons we have thankfully returned to live lessons in the classroom and also in the Art room. In the first half of the year, students taking specialist Art lessons are from Years 1, 3 and 5.



Year 1

Students have, very enthusiastically got to work on their basic skills of drawing and colouring inside their drawn lines. They have also used templates to draw round shapes and practiced cutting out with scissors. (Those who are left-handed using specifically left-handed scissors). As part of their study of Africa they enjoyed making 3D African style masks developing the skills mentioned above.



Primary ArtBeat

Year 3

Year 3 students spent the first half of term one looking at superheroes and in their Art lessons they designed their own superhero logos which they presented as bursting out of the paper. They also made superhero faces in the form of a pop-up card. They had fun making their own planetoid picture based on the idea of a polar panoramic photograph. This involved using some quite challenging drawing and painting skills, a challenge they all tackled admirably. In the second half of term one, Year 3 students are looking at ancient civilisations so they are currently working on creating their own version of the Aztec Calendar.



Year 5

Year 5 students started the term developing their drawing skills using various methods to assist in drawing the human figure in proportion. This led into constructing human figures in dance positions using card. As their study of recent decades progressed, they moved onto painting in the style of Patrick Nagel who was described as the Artist who defined the 1980s. The last piece of work on the decades is based around the theme of fantasy landscapes which included much of the artwork used in 21st Century movies and digital Art.





We hope to continue developing workmanship skills while providing challenges and opportunities for creativity. Inspiring enjoyment in the creative process is essential and provides a satisfaction that can only be achieved in this way.

Mr R Williams - Primary Art Specialist

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR PRIMARY DISPLAYS...



A new display board has been placed in the atrium, on the ground floor, near the entrance to the playground. Deliberately set up to promote student-led enquiry, the contents will change each month in line with the United Nations International Days and Weeks. Using the United Nations' wealth of publications and website links, the content aims to bring to our students' attention the diverse nature of our world in terms of international days, cultural celebrations and significant events from every corner of the globe. Developing global awareness and adding an international dimension will encourage our students to gain a greater understanding of the world we live in and the various cultural events that shape our world. Students who have already paused by this display board have each found something that has engaged their interest, whether it be a celebration of Women in

Space or World Cities Day to name just two. In some cases, students have already been motivated to take their understanding further by pursuing their own lines of enquiry at home. It is hoped that during the school year there will be something on this display board that is thought-provoking, sparks an interest in every student and adds to their knowledge and appreciation of cultural diversity.

**Ms T Nissan - Primary Deputy Head,
Key Stage One**



KEY STAGE ONE LIBRARY HAS A MAKEOVER!

In September, Key Stage One staff and children returned to school to find a wonderful surprise! They were delighted when their eyes fell upon the walls of the Key Stage One Library, which had been given a stunning makeover. The news soon spread that Ms Malak El Masry had been spending quite a bit of time in the library, so we caught up with our MESConian, teacher and artist, to find out exactly what she did last summer, and why she did it!

"I thoroughly enjoyed spending my summer turning the whole library into a fantasy world. The Key Stage 1 library has always been one of the most colourful corners of the school with amazing books, colourful shelves and wonderful story sacks. After a year out of school with very few visits to the library; the makeover was a celebration of hope, as we were all filled with optimism that we would soon be able to go back to our library and have great fun there like we did in the good old days!

Mrs Dajani asked me to paint my first murals in the Key Stage 1 Library back in 2006, the year I graduated from MES Cairo. I was delighted at the opportunity and just as excited when fifteen years later, it was time for a new mural... well not one, not two... but three new murals! The library now has one mural with natural landscapes and habitats, including a very realistic globe. In another area there is a castle and forest. There is also a fairytale Arabian Nights themed wall with a night sky, in the Arabic section."

Our Key Stage One children can certainly let their imagination run wild in this wonderful environment!

Thank you Ms El Masry for the wonderful murals, they are sure to bring joy to many children, for at least another fifteen years ahead!



Spotlight on Ms Malak El Masry



Malak is a MESConian (Class of 2006), an MES Cairo Commercial Studies teacher, a Google Certified Educator, a professional business consultant, a rising entrepreneur and a talented artist! With so many strong connections to MES Cairo, she takes membership of our family to another level, and we are very proud of her achievements. Malak embodies the well-rounded education that MES Cairo provides.

Thank you and Congratulations!

Ms S Sheehan - Deputy Head



Key Stage Three World Languages

Year 7 French and Spanish

Students were asked to create a mini comic using the language we have been learning for greetings, introductions and questions. You can find two excellent examples below.



Talia Shalaby (Y7R)



Tia Ibrahim (Y7G)

Year 8 French

Students have been learning to talk about free time activities and events in the past. Two main tasks included writing a postcard from Paris and writing about 'last weekend' using Book Creator, to which students also recorded the audio.



Ali Mahmoud (Y8B) Book Creator



Kenzy Ammar (Y8Y)



Ms F Currie - World Languages Department, British Section

Commercial Studies - Year 8 Industry Day

In November, Year 8 students participated in Industry Day. Students were led by departmental teachers Miss El Masry, Mr Tweedle, Ms Kassaby, Mr Stock and Mrs Harris, in respective House groups.

During the first session of the day students were working on a career activity which gave them an insight into future career options. Students also took a careers test to gauge suitability for different types of employment. We have some engineers, doctors and future leaders in the year group!

The second session consisted of an Economics and Travel and Tourism activity, placing Commercial Studies subjects into a national context, where students had to strategise how to boost Egypt's vibrant tourism industry further.

During session three, students developed a promotional campaign for complementary products for a current feature film Clifford the Big Red Dog. Both sessions two and three enabled students to gain an insight into how Commercial Studies options subjects in Year 9 are practically applied.

Overall, it was a wonderful morning and students excelled showing their practical knowledge.

Mr C Stock - Head of Business Department, British Section



LEARNING IN HUMANITIES



Buzz words on display in the department. Even the bees are being Covid safe!

British Section Humanities offers students the opportunity to study lots of exciting and very different subjects. All the way from KS3 up to KS4, KS5 and IB, there is something for everyone. From History and Geography to Global perspectives and Psychology, the Humanities offer students the chance to understand and appreciate the world around them. They are taught to view things through different lenses and critique and question what they think they already know.



Our Humanities road map. What you will be learning and when. How does it all connect?

In Humanities, students will learn about time, places, cultures and events around the world. They are encouraged to question, debate, offer alternative explanations and make inferences about the way things work and the way things are done. Students are exposed to new academic vocabulary on a daily basis, with students learning new 'BUZZ words' to help them construct analysis, in-depth critiques and arguments.

YEAR 7



Year 7 students have dived right in to 'What is History?' and have been learning valuable map reading skills in Geography. The key element of the KS3 courses are the learning and development of key skills in each subject. From chronology, inferring and analysing sources in history to learning about continents, oceans, grid referencing and explaining direction in Geography. Students are now moving into Ancient Civilisations in History and Glaciation and climate change in Geography- very appropriate considering the COP26 currently taking place in the UK.

YEAR 8

Year 8 students have been working on a unit on population in Geography, analysing the Syrian refugee crisis and developing essay writing skills. Meanwhile, in History, the causes, effects and consequences of WW1 and WW2 have been thoroughly explored and examined.

KEY STAGE 4 AND 5



KS4 and KS5 have made great strides in their learning in preparation for their exams. Students are learning valuable transferable skills that will be of benefit in a wide range of career paths. Skills including research, evaluation, analysis, ICT and communication are all developed when taking a humanities-based subject.

At KS5, students can take Psychology in the IBDP, or as an A Level. Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Students are introduced to the subject through a core unit on research methods. In order to understand how humans behave, we need to design ways of scientifically studying it. A range of teaching and learning strategies are used to ensure lessons are creative, dynamic, interesting and most importantly fun!

The Humanities team are excited for what we can accomplish together this year. We cannot wait to take you on an exciting journey through history and the world around us. If you have any questions, please come and see any of us in the SF4/5/6 Humanities Pod and we will be more than happy to answer any questions.

Ms J Rainford - Head of Humanities, British Section

MES Cairo Success in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Challenge 2021

The United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) was founded in 1996 with the aim of advancing the education of young people. The UKMT Individual Mathematics Challenges are intriguing multiple-choice question papers designed to stimulate interest in mathematics. The Junior Challenge attracts over 300 000 entries each year and is the United Kingdom's most popular mathematics competition. The competition is also open to international schools that offer a properly accredited British education.

The papers contain 25 multiple choice questions. Of these, the first 15 are more accessible whilst the final 10 provide more food for thought. Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates are awarded to only 40% of participants.

This year, the Junior Challenge was sat online, and a number of MES Cairo students were selected to take part. Some of those students had been preparing since the beginning of the year through the Mathematical Challenge Google Classroom.

We are delighted to report that the following certificates were awarded:

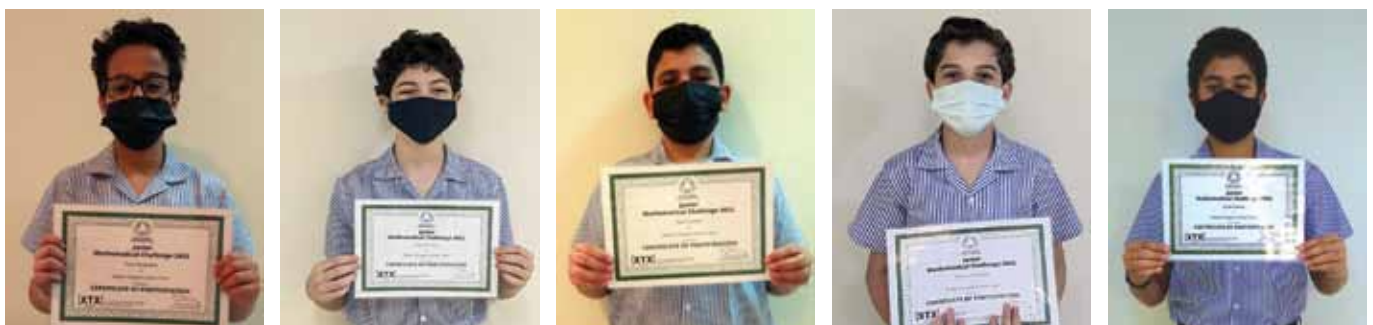
Silver certificates were awarded to: Abdalla Hassanin (Y8Y) who also achieved "Best in Year", Ahmed Kamal (Y9B) who also achieved "Best in School", Karim Aboelsaad (Y9B) and Noora Abbady (Y9B).



Bronze certificates were awarded to: Mariam Aboelsaad (Y8R), Ali Tamer (Y9R), Ramy Wahib (Y9Y), Louay El Habibi (Y9Y), Ali Fahmy (Y9Y), Malak El Saadani (Y9B) and Salma El Gohary (Y9B).



Certificates of Participation were awarded to: Yassin Boghdady (Y8B), Selim Farahat (Y8R), Adam Hetebe (Y8B), Omar El Mahallawy (Y9R) and Adam El-Hady (Y9Y).



Mr S Rayner - Head of Mathematics, British Section

SCIENCE IN THE BRITISH SECTION

Our MES Cairo young scientists are excelling in the British Section. They are enjoying both theory and practical lessons. Our Science curriculum is designed to help students develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning.

Our approach in the British Science Department which is in line with the school vision is to encourage learners to be;

Confident: interested in learning about science, questioning ideas and using scientific language to communicate their views and opinions,

Responsible: working methodically and safely when working alone or collaboratively with others,

Reflective: learning from their experiences and interested in scientific issues that affect the individual, the community, and the environment,

Innovative: solving unfamiliar problems confidently and creatively,

Engaged: keen to develop scientific skills, curious about scientific principles and their application in the world.

Here are some of the thriving young scientists in our British Science section:

Key Stage Four Scientists:

Ayssel Dwidar (Y9B) has the talent of asking many valuable questions and ensures that she understands everything before moving on. The best thing is that she is resilient.

Farida El Fiky (Y9Y) works hard before, during and after the lesson. She is very helpful around class, supports her peers and can answer challenging questions. Farida is the seed of the future scientist.



Farida El Fiky



Ayssel Dwidar



Lilly El Sabbagh



Omar Abdel Aziz



Marwan Hussein

Marwan Hussein (Y9B) is a young thriving scientist who is heading to achieve high grades in his study. It is a pleasure having him in our school.

Omar Abdel Aziz (Y10Y) is another young thriving scientist who is excelling in all his Sciences. He is one of the high achievers in Science. He supports his peers and makes sure that he contributes to each lesson.

Lilly El-Sabbagh (Y10G) is a great physicist with a bright future, demonstrated excellent knowledge and understanding of all her science subjects this term.

Key Stage Five Scientists:

Fatima Abbady (Y11R) works hard, is resilient, supportive to her peers, and achieves good grades in her tests.

Salma Assal (Y11G) works hard, is resilient, supportive to her peers, she is not afraid of asking questions, and achieves good grades in her tests.

Mohamed Desouki (Y11Y) - (The happy Scientist), works hard, is resilient, supportive to his peers, and achieves good grades in his tests.

Yahia Geneina (Y11G) works hard in silence, is resilient, supportive to his peers, and achieves good grades in his tests.

Yassine El Antably (Y12B) is not just an academic person, he is kindhearted, helpful and a leader.

Omar Leithy (Y12B) is quiet, peaceful and hardworking student. Omar provides complete and detailed answers to his work that makes him achieve good grades in his tests.

Yassin Mostafa (Y12G) has matured this academic year work wise; he goes beyond the curriculum and do more research about the topic in hand. This is reflected on his test grades.

Janna Ammar (Y12R) is a quiet, young scientist who has very nice and neat notes, exemplary answers to the homework and past exam questions. She will make an excellent Engineer in future.

Mr M Mahmoud - Secondary Science, British Section



Yehia Geneina



Janna Ammar



Omar Leithy



Yassin El Antably



Yassin Mostafa



Fatima Abbady



Salma Assal



Mohamed Dessouki

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YEARS 11 AND 12

It has been very exciting to have students back on campus continuing to work through the 'Plan for Grad' framework which has been implemented through the HRCF curriculum. This framework runs throughout the school. Students have worked on developing their CVs and discovering how aspects of their personality may make them suited for particular careers. Coupled with exploring potential Universities and courses the students have appreciated the opportunity to learn about how the different university systems can lead to different career pathways alongside the ever-expanding range of jobs which are predicted to be highly sought after in the future.

Year 12 students have been concentrating on writing their personal statements for their university applications. They have also had the opportunity of attending a number of virtual university fairs which provided the opportunity for pertinent questions, relevant to future plans, to be answered by the university admissions teams. Universities we have hosted include a number from the UK including Imperial, Bath, Bristol, Durham, St. Andrew's and Surrey. We have also hosted Queen's in Canada, Leiden in the Netherlands, Bocconi in Italy and Loyola Marymount in the USA. The admissions team at Oxford also contributed to a seminar which was held during the fair.

Recognising the demands of examinations, there is a specific HRCF focus on fostering critical thinking skills and practical strategies including a bespoke exam mind-set coaching element. All of this encourages the holistic development of each learner and the skills expected of 21st century graduates as published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). MES Cairo continues to be a highly successful school, testament to the work of our students and a culmination of the commitment they display towards their studies along with a willingness to embrace new ideas.

Commercial Studies

Business

A wealth of research-based activities linking learning to real life business context keeps our students up to date with developments in the business world. Role play games such as "If you worked for Facebook, how would you handle such a PR crisis to help stakeholders and shareholders trust the brand?" The recent legal but harmful content scandal is also fabulous material for class discussion.

In class debates stretch students' knowledge and understanding of commercial laws across different countries and how major businesses address issues such as child labour and unethical dumping of waste.



Economics

Students have been studying the basic economic ideas and resource allocation, the price system and the micro economy. The wealth of experience and expertise in the department is preparing students well for their exams.

Exam-style question practice and a collaborative approach in the classroom with student demonstrations and presentations has helped develop confidence whilst the student learning experience is enhanced by the in-depth use of exam papers and mark schemes.



Science



Science students have thoroughly enjoyed being able to perform real life practical work again during their lessons. The virtual practicals have been great but the soft skills that are learned through performing practical tasks prove invaluable. Our chemists have been learning about shapes of molecules and VSEPR theory whilst our biologists have been

studying cell structure and function, respiration and photosynthesis. Our physicists have enjoyed extending their knowledge on dynamics in addition to ideal gases.

PE

The PE department is happy to be back to having students playing team sports again. We are all trying to make the most of the opportunity to hone our skills and demonstrate our commitment to our health and fitness goals.

Maths

Students in Mathematics have been building up on their previous learning and are encouraged to use problem solving to understand a solution given prompts. Students are given a key concept for a topic and are encouraged to use their prior knowledge and work collectively to figure out the solution. The dynamic in class is truly outstanding.



Observing our students discuss, make mistakes, and figure out various routes to reach the end goal is satisfying to both the student and their teachers. We are all very excited to have our students back in class.

Art

In Art, students have chosen their theme and are working diligently towards creating their portfolio. Find out more in our Artbeat article.

Moving to a New School

Moving can be nerve-racking and stressful. Moving schools forces us to leave our friends and our familiar environment where we have experienced so much growth over the years. Moving house is reportedly one of the more stressful situations we experience over our lifetime as our attachment to our spaces, routines and community are disturbed. Moving countries is both exhilarating and scary, we often have strong ties to our culture which we do not appreciate until

we leave. Having just done all the above in the midst of a pandemic, I can totally empathise with our Senior students as they prepare to leave MES Cairo and embark on their journeys to university and beyond.

It is very comforting to know that wherever we end up it is our network, our friends, our school and our families which help give shape to our metamorphosis. We are privileged to be able to start afresh, forge new friendships, learn new skills, taste new food and experience a culture different from the one we are used to. I know I am very excited to be able to do all of that here in Cairo. However, it is our family which keeps us grounded and provides the dependable roots from which we can grow strong.

I am grateful for my (ever growing) network, for the family I have come from and the family I am beginning to create here at MES Cairo. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in my evolution. I know the Year 12 students are so appreciative of being able to nurture their connections at MES Cairo before moving onto university. These connections enrich our lives and stay with us as we progress towards a successful future. Wherever our journeys take us, may we continue to maintain our 'Family' connections.

Jim Stoval wrote, 'Education is a lifelong journey whose destination expands as you travel'.

And suddenly you realise your travels were more about education than anything else.

Mr N DeSouza - Assistant Headteacher Years 11 and 12, British Section



GRADE 9 BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

On 26 September 2021, the American Section hosted an online Back to School event for all the Grade 9 parents. The transition to High School is one of the biggest moments in a student's educational career.

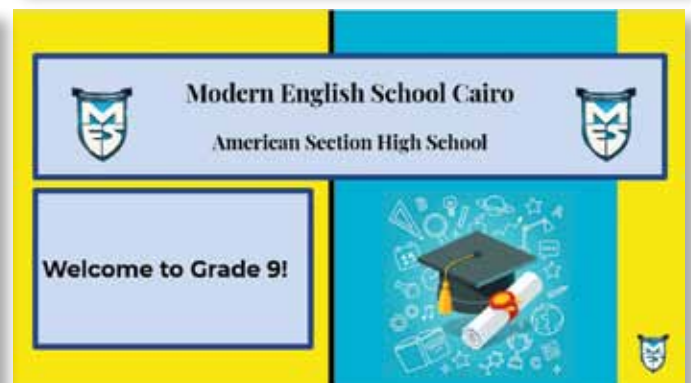
Topics covered included the school's attendance policy, requirements for graduation, transcripts and GPA, and the specific requirements for classes in each subject area. Parents got to hear directly from teachers who teach their son or daughter, as well as ask questions for clarification.

A big 'thank you' goes out to all the parents who attended, as well as the teachers who stayed after school and participated in sharing important information about High School and the various subject content areas.

Ms D Pfeil - Secondary Principal, American Section



| French | Spanish |
|---|--|
|  Mrs. Martine El Abd m.elabd@mescairo.com |  Sra. I. Aysem Ben Haddad i.aysem@mescairo.com Lidia Choucri l.choucri@mescairo.com |
| <p>French 1: By the end of this year students will be able to describe themselves, family members and friends, appearance and personality, express likes and dislikes and talk about different events and celebrations. Students will be able to describe their daily routine using the present tense.</p>  Mrs. Martine El Abd | <p>Spa 1 - By the end of this year students will be able to talk about themselves and others, describe things, express likes and dislikes, tell what they are doing regularly, talk about schedules, and give opinions.</p>  Mrs. I. Aysem Ben Haddad Lidia Choucri |
| <p>World Language Class Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">No late workParticipation in classDictionary usage is ok, no translatorThey will have a test at the end of each chapter (Project/Writing exam)Online exercise book will be graded | |



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS RETURN TO FULL TIME!

After many months away we are excited to have a full house of Grade 7 and 8 students back in school. This year brought us a new cohort of Grade 7 students who are busy adjusting to their new life not only back in school but also in their new home in Middle School. Grade 7 students have been busy adjusting to their new timetables, moving throughout the school locating classrooms, enjoying the freedom of having their personal locker and socialising with all their friends during the break periods. In addition to new students, we also extend a warm welcome to several new teachers who have joined MES Cairo Middle School this year. Together with the returning teachers, the Middle School team of teachers have worked tirelessly preparing learning experiences that challenge and inspire students throughout the day. Students have shown great progress over the past few months returning to school full time bringing with them the skills they learned as independent learners from previous months. The return to full time lessons has not always been easy, but students are beginning to adjust to both the academic and social responsibilities that are necessary in order to be successful. Our transition back to full time learning has



Mr John Turkdogan with G7B



Ms Nyala Walker with G8G



Mr Tim Best with G7R



Ms Shelby Freeman with G7Y



Ms Janelle Sculley with G8O



Ms Marianne El Abd with G8R



Ms Terese Cuff with G8B

caused us to reflect upon our individual and group responsibilities and how these unique times may cause us to look at things differently and open our minds to new possibilities.

The Middle School years continue to be important transition years for students entering Secondary school. Moving from Year 6 to Grade 7 offers students new opportunities and challenges, while at the same time our Grade 8 students are preparing to make their move to Grade 9 where they will begin to make important academic decisions in their first year of High School. We continue to support our students in Middle School by providing the opportunities, information and resources they need to be successful. During Term One Grade 7 students began learning about the 5 Ways of Well Being: Connect, Give, Be Active,



Ms Tiara Toney with G8Y



Ms Meridith Everette with G7G

Notice, and Keep Learning. The 5 Ways of Well Being helps students understand the importance of having a balance of positive physical and mental wellbeing experiences. The theme of Connect in October helped students understand the importance of having safe connections on social media. In November students focused on the importance of Giving during the period of the school's Keep Egypt Warm campaign. Students will explore the remaining topics throughout the year. Grade 8 students have been busy preparing for their January Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) meetings when they begin mapping out their high school course selection. Using the online resource UNIFROG students have taken various interest and personalities surveys and matched that information with various careers and college choices. By exploring options early students begin to see different possibilities and then discover what courses would be best to take in high school.

Mr D McKoski - Vice Principal and Dean of Students Grade 7 and 8

Below you can read some student reviews regarding this first term:

Quizzes, deadlines, assignments, majors, minors! Grade 7 is all about challenges! On the other hand, there is independence, moving between classes, lockers and much more. I started the year with apprehension. As the days went by, I became more confident mentally and physically. I started following a daily routine, creating to-do lists, submitting assignments on time and celebrating my achievements. Challenging? Yes, but also rewarding and fun! **Rana Selim (G7R)**

My experience in Grade 7 was not what I expected. I thought it was going to be hard to remember where the classes are. Now I already know where all the classes are, and I feel very responsible. Another thing I was worried about was the grades. I had only just found out a couple days before school started that you get grades pretty much every day. Even though going to the classes was stressful, it ended up being fine. Overall, my experience in Grade 7 has been really good so far.

Aser Al Naggar (G7Y)

So far Grade 7 has been very exciting and full of new experiences. I like being treated as a young adult and having more freedom than we used to have in Primary school. I also enjoy taking a variety of classes and subjects and seeing new teachers for each class. I find it very fun to have my own locker because this is something we did not have in Primary. In my design technology (DT) class, I really enjoyed all the activities we did so far like the health and safety poster and completing many creative tasks. In Grade 7, I am looking forward to developing my Spanish speaking skills and learning a new language, something that I have always wanted to do. **Nicole Botros (G7B)**

My experience this year is going well so far. First are the teachers, they are strict in a way but overall, they are kind and helpful. Among all classes I like PE the most. Something I am looking forward to this year in school is getting good grades and having a good year. **Belal Hamouda (G7G)**

This year in Grade 8, I am looking forward to getting good grades and hopefully getting into honors classes next year. Every morning before I go to school, I think of how I am extremely lucky to go to a school with quality education and also great teachers. I am always looking forward to meeting my friends. **Lilly Selim (G8R)**

Going back to school full-time is surely a blessing. What we went through during the last year and a half has made me more appreciative of the things we took for granted in school. For instance, in subjects such as Science and Design and Technology, we are finally able to do the actual work in its proper environment. Therefore, a better understanding is ensured. This year, I am looking forward to optimising my academic skills to join all honors classes next year - hopefully, without a face mask. **Omar Gad (G8G)**

AP PHYSICS AT MES CAIRO

AP Physics at MES: What is it?

At MES Cairo we offer both AP Physics I and AP Physics II to students in the Secondary American Section. I have been asked many times all sorts of questions related to these two subjects, so I have decided to share some basic information with all of you.

What are the advantages of taking AP Subjects?



Primarily, the advantage of taking AP Courses is earning college credits while at school. This means that a student who performs well in an AP Course will be able to earn credits for their bachelor's degree (depending on the university/college's policies of course) and 'skip' certain courses. For instance, if a student performs well in AP Physics I, they may 'skip' the introductory Physics Courses at university. Again, this is subject to each university's policy.

Additionally, students with AP Courses in their transcripts have stronger college applications and better opportunities to join competitive universities and colleges around the world. Furthermore, AP Courses are designed as college-level courses. This means that students that take AP Courses will be better prepared for introductory college courses. For example, students who take AP Physics I will already have a strong background in college-level Physics, making their transition from school to college a little bit easier.

Finally, AP students at MES Cairo get a 'bump' to raise their GPA for every AP course they take. This bump is granted to the student on the condition that they take the final AP examination at the end of the year, they have an attendance of 85% or higher, and they achieve a B+ or higher in the mid-year and end of year exam in the AP subject.

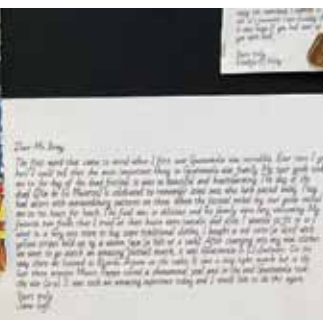
What are the differences between the two AP Physics courses?

| | AP Physics I | AP Physics II |
|--|---|---|
| Which grade levels can take the subject? | G10-12 | G11-12 |
| What are the prerequisites for taking the subject? | G10: Must be enrolled in honors Chemistry. Algebra II taken concurrently or completed. A minimum grade of B+ in their previous Math and Science courses. Teacher/HOD recommendation. | Pre-Calculus taken concurrently or completed. A minimum of B+ in their previous Math and Science courses. Teacher/HOD recommendation. |
| What does the subject cover? | Mechanics | Waves, Electricity, Thermodynamics, Fluid Mechanics, and Nuclear and Quantum Physics. |
| Who should take the subject? | Students interested in studying Engineering, Dentistry, Medicine or any Physics based majors. | Students interested in studying Engineering or any Physics based majors. |
| Which credits at college/university are equivalent to these courses? | 1 st semester Physics Course (Introduction to Physics) | 2 nd semester Physics Course |

Culture: Postcards from a Spanish Speaking Country

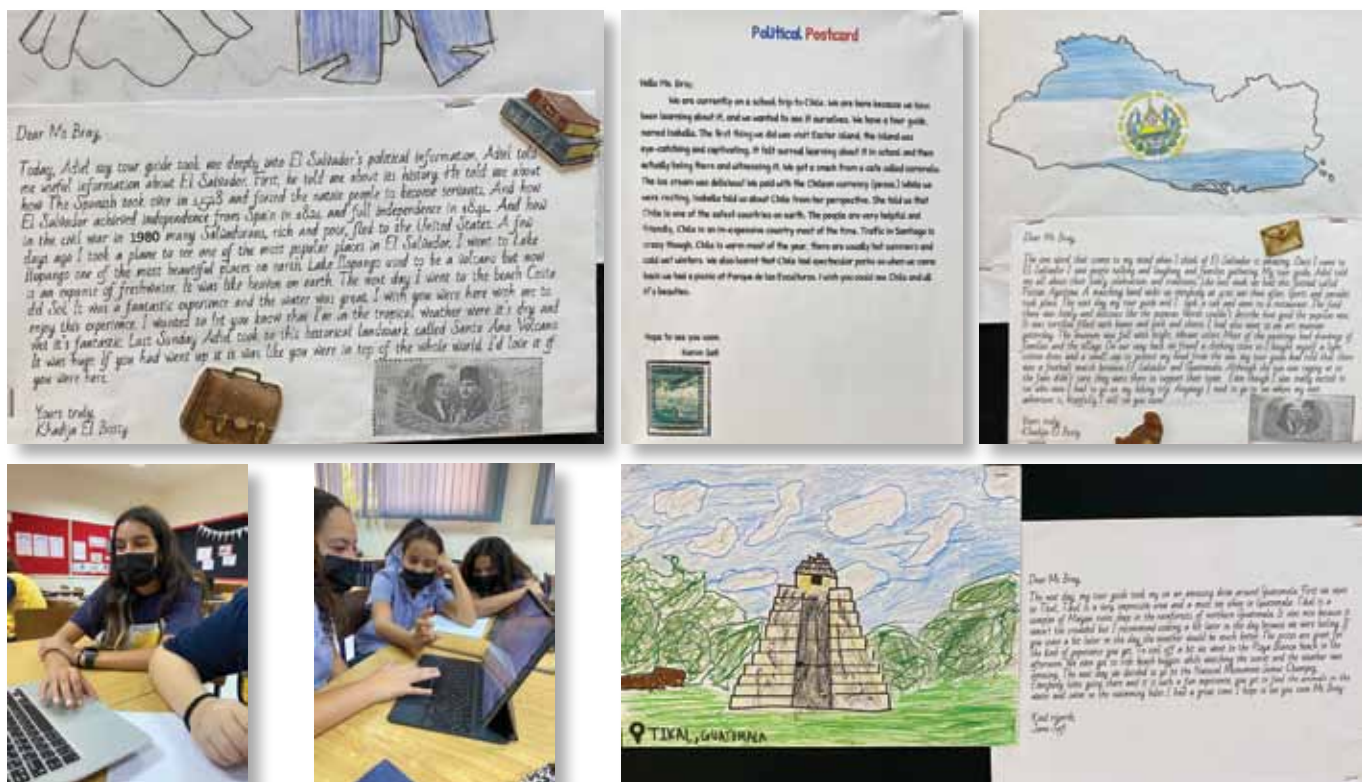
Let's get to know the countries who speak Spanish in the world, shall we?

World Language Grades Seven, Eight and Spanish I students were assigned their first project of the school year 21-22 as they were welcomed back to school back on September 16. The goal of the project was to engage students in research about the countries they were assigned to. With their findings, they were to write a postcard to their teacher, explaining the political and social aspects of the country as if they had spent two months in the assigned country. By doing so, students not only learned cultural facts about the country, but also used their storytelling skills which they learned in their English classes.



Students completed the task with a great effort and some of them went beyond what we asked them.

Ms A Bray – World Languages, American Section



Student Reflections

I think it was a good and fun way to learn about different Spanish speaking countries. I found out that Argentina has a Pepsi music festival each year and I really want to go. **Youssef Hussein (G7Y)**

It was good because I liked the topic and the project and how we did all the research. We learned about different cultures other than Egypt. **Farida Megahed (G7Y)**

I feel like this project made me learn a lot about Colombia in more than one way. It was productive for learning and was fun at the same time. **Omar Soliman (G7R)**

It was the perfect first project teaching us about some of the Spanish country's traditions! **Shahd Abdalla (G7Y)**

I enjoyed writing as if I was in the country and getting to learn about Chile and its culture. I also liked drawing the pictures and colouring in the postcards. A few fun things I learnt about Chile was that Easter Island is in Chile! Their national dish is the Empanada, and the men wear ponchos in their celebrations. **Karim Safi (G7R)**

It was really entertaining to learn about another country. I learnt everything going on in Venezuela in their current crisis due to Covid-19, and I also got to know beautiful sight seeing places. **Sohaila Heider (G9B)**

Some of the most interesting discoveries I made are that many countries around the world are very similar to Egypt. They have similar lifestyles. **Sherif Jarkass (G10G)**

It was fun to learn about other countries and learn all about the events and the weather there and their famous places and their religions too. I have learnt that their baseball matches there are fun and they make it a very good match and that makes me want to go try playing there and watch other people play too. **Yassin Omera (G11R)**

I really enjoyed pretending to be in URUGUAY. The second postcard was very easy to write, and I really liked "helping the community" although coming up with enough ideas to fill the postcard was a challenge for me. **Eamon Rady (G8O)**

I discovered that Cuba has a lot of traditions, they have a lot of history of wars, and they also have delicious foods. **Omar Bahgat (G8G)**

I never would have learnt about Peru if it weren't for this project. I also got to practise my writing skills which was very beneficial. **Jana Rabie (G8R)**

I felt like I was in Mexico for a while and just writing about it made me feel so into the country. I discovered a lot of things about Mexico. They have great traditions that are really interesting. **Hana Darwish (G9Y)**

I found out that Mexico is larger than I thought it was! **Seif El Rimaly (G7G)**

The most interesting fact I discovered while doing this project is that the most popular sport in Mexico is bullfighting and their most famous dish is tacos. **Ahmed Badrawi (G9O)**



International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme News at MES Cairo

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme section is entering its 15th year here at MES Cairo and continues to go from strength to strength. Our IBDP12 students are deep into their Internal Assessments and exam preparation whilst excitedly deciding on where in the world they want the IB Diploma to take them next.

We also welcome our new IBDP11 students from the American and British sections of the school, as well as a large number of students new to our school, coming all the way from places such as Lebanon and Sudan to study here at MES Cairo.

Throughout the year all of our students will be studying Theory of Knowledge, writing their Extended Essays and participating in the events and programmes required as part of their Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) requirements in order to gain the coveted IB Diploma.

Mr B Rainford - Assistant Head/IBDP Coordinator

Group 1 News

In the first chapter of their English A: Literature studies, our newest DP11 cohort developed their knowledge of essential literary tools used by writers, in the brief 'Elements of Literary Analysis' unit, before diving into their first text in translation 'Chronicle of a Death Foretold'.

This Colombian work was written originally in Spanish by Gabriel Garcia Márquez, who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. A departure from his better-known magical realist style, this novel consists of journalistic style narrative of a real-life murder in Columbia, in 1951.

Now following in the footsteps of the pied noirs of 20th century French controlled Algeria, DP11 have begun their study of Camus' philosophical tour de force, 'The Outsider', translated from French. Another recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Camus is best remembered for his works on the philosophy of the absurd.

Also immersed in Marquez's masterpiece, DP12 took a more hands on approach, using their in-depth knowledge of the novel's plot and characterisation to re-enact the tragic events of the novel in a Netflix worthy crime documentary. (Watch out Louis Theroux!) The creation of this tragi-comic masterpiece was instrumental in developing and consolidating our students' understanding of the plot and global issues explored in the text, and just in time for their mock oral exams!

These individual oral examinations, require the students to present their interpretation of two of their set texts, through the lens of a global issue of their choosing. The issues chosen by our students in their mocks ranged from 'the futility of the human pursuit of truth', to 'the cultivation of moral apathy'. Well done, DP12 for some truly outstanding orals!

Once finished with their mocks, DP12 will study the metaphysical poetry of John Donne, 16th Century diplomat, poet and lothario, who eventually settled into the church and penned the iconic line 'No man is an Island' (amongst many others of course!)

Ms E Dowler - Head of English



Group 2 News

Spanish Ab Initio DP12 have researched and learned about the multiple connections that Arabic and Spanish culture and language have in common. As a way of representing it, they have made this wonderful poster.

DP11 French B students have started the year learning about 'Identity'. The content of this theme includes communicating about the languages we speak, our relationships with family and friends, our culture and religion, our free time, our education and



everything that makes up who we are. This image and piece of writing by Jomana Eid show some of the things that make up her identity.

Ms F Currie - Head of Languages

Group 3 News - Psychology

DP11 psychologists have made a great start to the course. The year started off with them learning about the fundamentals of psychological research. This has involved them rating chocolate for tastiness in order to investigate how lab experiments are used in the subject. Students have also analysed a number of case studies ranging from the effects of deprivation on long-term socialisation to whether someone with severe brain damage can form new long-term memories. Their research methods knowledge has been put to good use in our first unit

of 'Cognitive Psychology'. Here, students have been learning about various different memory models and the strengths and weaknesses of each. As part of this, students have also investigated the best ways to learn and remember to ensure valuable information is not forgotten and have applied these techniques to their own learning in school. Psychology is part of our everyday lives. The applications of the subject reach far and wide. DP11 have just begun their journey into this fascinating subject and have made an excellent start in becoming promising future psychologists!

DP12 students started their new academic year applying their psychological knowledge, analytical and evaluative skills to our new unit of 'Abnormal psychology'. Debates and discussions have taken place on 'what constitutes normal?', 'when does behaviour move from dysfunctional to abnormal?' and 'what causes abnormality?'. Activities in developing empathy have also been used in order to progress our understanding on what life is like living with a mental illness. As well as this, students have been working very hard on their Internal assessments which forms 25% of their overall grade.

Ms J Rainford - Head of Psychology

Group 4 News

Our new DP11 students have jumped straight into learning complex Science from Cellular Biology to Classical Mechanics in Physics or even Stoichiometric relationships in Chemistry. Their practical laboratory skills have been used in each of the Sciences with students becoming adept at precision apparatus such as microscopes, burettes, and force meters. Their knowledge and skills will continue to develop as they move towards writing full academic reports.

DP12 students have been focusing on their Individual Investigation which is an assessed component of Group 4 of the IB diploma. The knowledge and skills they have been developing for the last 12 months has been put to the test in this in-depth scientific report. Investigations into bacterial growth, colour blindness, energy density and elastic potential are amongst many others that have been taking place across the school laboratories.

Mr B Rainford - Assistant Headteacher/IBDP Coordinator

Group 6 News

The DP11 Theatre students have been studying acting techniques using Method Acting. They have also learned about lighting and set design. Currently they are practising how to direct scenes.

DP12 Theatre students have been hard at work on their Research Presentations. All of their effort will be on display later in November when they present their projects.

Mr J Berthiaume - Teacher of Theatre

TOKtober in the IBDP Section

Open your Brain!

October turned into TOKtober for our IBDP12 students, a month-long focus on Theory of Knowledge, as they took their TOK skills and attributes out into the school and shared their deep understanding of what knowledge is, how it is created and what we do with it.

Theory of Knowledge is an IBDP core subject where we think critically about how we know what we know. Our IBDP12 students have been teaching some of their TOK discoveries to the Year and Grade 10 students alongside other TOKtober themed activities and inviting them to 'Open Your Brains'! Whilst other Year and Grade groups were challenged on how much they can trust their own senses in the gathering of knowledge each morning.

Mr B Rainford - Assistant Headteacher/IBDP Coordinator



CAS Corner

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

CAS is a way for our students to broaden their skills outside the classroom and become global citizens through engagement with their communities whether it be through creative, active or charity mediums.

DP12

The Class of 2022 students have been consistently contributing to their CAS portfolios for over a year now and have been really flourishing in their commitment to their own personal growth and development.

Arwa Eid (DP12R) has had amazing progress with her Portfolio during her tenure. She has been volunteering for "Nahr El Hob" which is a charity organisation that aims to help homeless children and orphans. It supports cancer patients and is made to help children live the life they deserve.

Roaa Bayoumi's (DP12R) contribution to 'Be My Eyes' has been outstanding. It is an application that connects you to individuals who are visually impaired and cannot guide themselves to do simple activities while they are on their own. Whenever someone needs help, she is connected to someone who is visually impaired and will help guide them via video call, accomplishing whatever challenge they face, no matter how simple.

DP11

The Class of 2023 are off to a great start with their CAS journey. In the short space of this term, they have really made meaningful contributions to the wider community.

Reem Sabagh (DP11R) has committed her time to Volunteering in a local orphanage where she will be teaching the children English and Maths as well as creative activities. Reem will also help to address mental health and help the children to be able to discuss their feelings in a safe space with their peers, creating a more holistic community within the Orphanage.

Omar El Ghoraihy (DP11R) has committed himself to a creative outlet in the nurturing of his graphic design skills. Omar has been designing everything from Music covers to Posters for live bands. He is getting consistently good feedback from professionals as well as learning new design concepts.

Mr G Scott - CAS Coordinator

Google Gurus!

Egypt's Only Google Educators are here at MES Cairo!

MES Cairo continues to lead as Egypt's only Google Educators are here.

Mrs Pfeil leads our MES Cairo team of Google Gurus and welcomes two new members to the Google Trainer Group. Mr Alex Hinchliffe, Primary Computing Teacher joins the team alongside Ms Deena Abu Hassan, Assistant Head for Primary Key Stage 2.

We asked our newest Google Gurus about what it takes to be a Google Educator.

Celebrating our successes...

Google Certified Trainers



First and foremost, you have to enjoy helping people and you are ready for an onslaught of amazing resources to trial and teach others. It is a privilege to share with teachers how to integrate interactive technologies into their classrooms. The Google Certified Trainers group is dedicated to sharing with other educators for free, we all offer training sessions, and are able to attend training sessions all over the world! We connect globally with like-minded professionals.

This year, we are happy to introduce you to our new members of the Google Trainer Group! We are fortunate to have Egypt's only Google Certified Trainers at our school. We welcome to the team Alex Hinchliffe, Primary Computing Teacher & Deena Abu Hassan, Assistant Head of KS2. There are around 2000 Certified Trainers globally, as the program takes a great deal of time, effort, and dedication to complete. Please join our school in congratulating our newest trainers!

Dodie Pfeil

TEACH-WORLD

Google Certified Trainer

'LEVEL UP!'



DeeNA Abu-Hassan



Google has been a huge passion of mine over the past few years, and I am thrilled to have been certified by Google as a Google trainer. Preparing the application was exciting and challenging, but waiting for the result was definitely the hardest part! Creating the video did require being resourceful and a risk taker, but with a second to spare I got it done, sharing why I think I am 'Googley' enough to be a trainer and modeling some training skills.

Being part of the Google trainer community is amazing as educators from around the world collaborate, discuss and support one another, sharing resources, advice and tips and tricks. With all this support and perks like early access to updates and training resources means that I can continue to work with our awesome MES Cairo teachers, students and administrators and support our collective development of the use of Google within our school, and since Google is constantly updating this means there is always something new to learn.

My favourite app:

TEACH-WORLD



As Certified Trainers they are integral in our partnership with Google For Education to ensure MES Cairo teachers and students are getting the best support for learning at school and at home.

Ms S Sheehan - Deputy Head

Welcome to Secondary Learning Development Department

Here in the Learning Development Department, we strive to ensure all students at MES Cairo achieve their full potential. We offer support in both extension and remediation, across the whole range of subjects offered in both the American and British Secondary sections.

This year, I have joined as Head of Learning Development for the British Section and Todd Duncan has joined as a Learning Support teacher for the American section. We both bring extensive experience in teaching students with extra support needs and are pleased to be part of the fabulous MES Cairo team. Completing the team are Mona Hanno, who heads up the American Section for LDD, alongside Mona Farag and Hanan Mansour.



When a student is being supported by LDD, we work alongside both the student and the classroom teacher to ensure that all their needs can be met effectively. We look at the way content is being presented and then take into consideration all of the students' needs and learning styles. We then use this knowledge to create extra, accessible resources- such as audio versions of texts or visual layouts of data - and ensure these resources are available for students. Other ways in which we support our students are by ensuring exam accommodations are met, spending one-on-one time with them during class times, and offering extra tuition opportunities during breaks or Homeroom - which can all happen both online, and during face-to-face teaching time. Extra help is offered for both extension and for remediation.

The Secondary Learning Development Department is here to support all of our students through Secondary School and even through A-Levels and SATs. We ensure any students with specific learning difficulties are granted accommodations for their exams, and throughout their time in the classroom.

Ms C Chilton - Secondary Learning Development Department

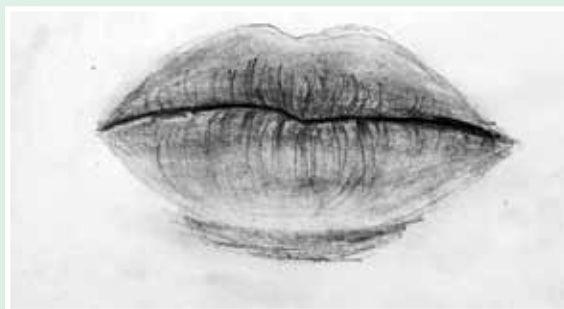
Secondary

ARTBEAT

YEAR 7 ART

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to the year. Students have developed their tonal drawing skills by drawing different parts of the face and will build on these skills to create their own self-portraits. Students have also explored their own ideas creatively by producing a font in which they have applied colour and pattern of their own choice.

Ms R Seabrook - Art Teacher



Halla Sheriff Y7Y



Mohamed Reda Y7Y



Esther Andres Y7Y



Salma Hegazy Y7Y



Alia Zahran Y7Y



Sophie Rayner Y7Y



Zan Diab Y7Y



Lama Elgamal Y7Y



Layla Salah Y7Y



ARTBEAT

YEAR 7 ART



Hanya Maraie Y7B



Mahynour Badawi Y7B



Hoda Shabana Y7B



Salma Mohamed Y7B



Miriam Atalla Y7B



Youssef Kamel Y7B



Zain Shaalan Y7B



Juwayriya El-Masry Y7B

This term the focus in Year 7 Art was to introduce students to the formal elements of line, tone, colour, pattern and texture. Students investigated the use of typeface and designed their own style of calligraphy.

YEAR 8 ART



Yassin Boghdady Y8B



Menattallah El Habashy Y8Y



Nadia Eissa Y8Y



Zein Eissa Y8Y



Tarek Ibrahim Y8Y



Hassan Motawea Y8Y



Ali Mahmoud Y8B



Abdalla Hassanin Y8Y



Jameela Hamouda Y8Y



Azza Ashmawy Y8B



Lana El Beltaji Y8B



Hussein Mohamed Y8Y

This term in Art, Year 8 students have been studying the Surrealist movement. The theme is conflict and resolution and students have been investigating the connections between dreams and reality. So far, they have created designs for surrealist creatures.

Ms L Lee - Art Teacher



Maya Abbas Y8Y



Adam Heteba Y8B

YEAR 9 IGCSE ART AND DESIGN



Abdel Rahman Rostom Y9Y



Jasmine Othman Y9R



Tia Duwederi Y9R

Year 9 students have made an excellent start to their IGCSE course; they have produced some great observational drawing skills and are now developing their colour-blending skills with a focus on the artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

Ms R Seabrook - Art Teacher

YEAR 9 IGCSE ART AND DESIGN

In Year 9 this term, students began the first year of their IGCSE Art and Design course exploring the theme of 'Still Life'. The focus so far has been on shape, form, tone and composition.

Ms L Lee - Art Teacher



Ayssel Dwidar Y9B



Malak El Saadani Y9Y



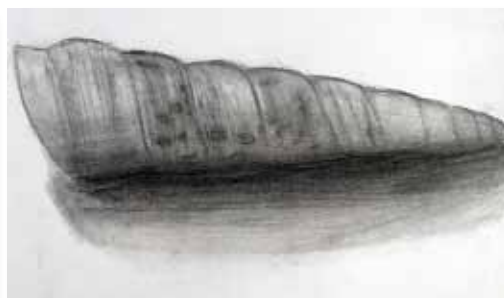
Neamatalla Hendam Y9Y



Malak El Saadani Y9B



Abdulrahman Ibrahim Y9Y



Layla Qasem Y9B

ARTBEAT

YEAR 10 IGCSE



Mehraeel Wahba Y10r



Farah El-Adl Y10Y



Sarah Seif-El-Nasr Y10G

In Year 10, students have been busy working on the coursework component of their IGCSE Art course. Examples of individually chosen themes include, portraiture, nature, still life, seascape and landscape.

YEAR 11 A-LEVEL ART



Janna Hassan Y11B



Malak Hanafy Y11G

A-level students began component one, the coursework portfolio, of this two-year course. Chosen themes include 'The Environment' and 'Beauty in the Broken.'

Ms L Lee - Art Teacher

ARTBEAT

American Section

GRADE 7 and 8 ART

Grades 7 and 8 students have been working on tessellations and creating original patterns.



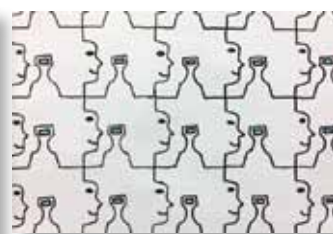
Rana Selim G7R



Rehab Tayel G7R



Seif Teira G7R



Lara El Nashar G8G



Habiba Assassa G8G



Misk Mohamed G8G



Maya Mahmoud G8G



Zeina Mohamed G8G

ART 1

Art 1 students have been working on point of view, negative space and pattern making.



Ahmed Khalil G9G



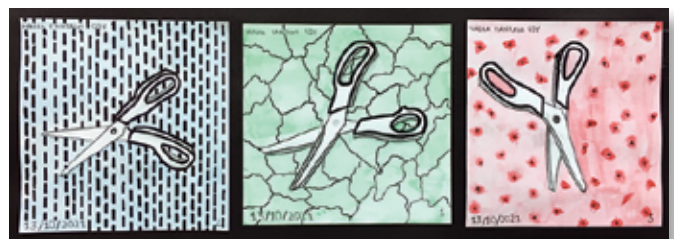
Haya El Barhamtoushy G9Y



Laila El Sherif G9R



Maya El Zuhairy G9O



Nadia El Tantawi G9Y



Ingy Ibrahim G9G

Ms T Cuff - Art Teacher

ARTBEAT

ART 2

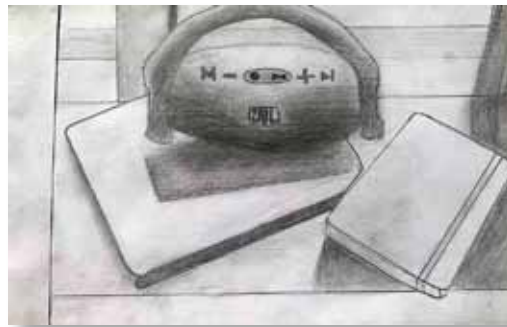


Tasneem Mohamed G10G



Nour El-Fendy G11B

Art 2 students began the year with a still life drawing, where students selected objects important to them and completed a shaded still life drawing, attempting to render space and depict light. In the follow-up assignment students were asked to revisit them in colour in a more expressive manner including a reference to themselves in a mirror, and a broader world that in many cases left the still life world for an interior space. While it is easy to see that the results were expressive and fun, the compositions also increased in complexity, and students were more inventive with adding imagined objects. Both types of work offer building blocks for developing artists.



Hana Mahmoud G10B



Perihan Ghalban G10B

Mr B Austin - Art Teacher

PRE-AP ART



Janna Shahin G11R



Taya Galab G11B



Salma Ali G12R

ARTBEAT

Students who elect this course have a love of art and have elected to take this preparatory course for the AP course the following year. The primary goal of the course is to broaden the students understanding of the possibilities of exploring subject matter and media in preparation for the AP course to follow, and to instill in the students the foundation of the personal responsibility for guiding one's own learning the following year.

Students worked with Surrealism. The initial idea was to create a surrealist creature, an impossible creature assembled in a way to puzzle the imagination. The first work is exactly that. In the works that follow students chose to work with a human rather than a creature.

AP ART



Rand Gailani G11R



FAHAD BAGHAFAH G12R



LEILAAGLAN G12R



Students in AP Art, design their own sustained investigations by first picking a topic, and inquiry questions, then they begin creating...not only the art, but the assignments. The process of advancing the work in the sketchbook through various phases is what leads to maturity and development in the student's work over the course of the year.

The pieces included here by Fahad and Leila emerge from the very beginning of this process. Fahad is exploring his personal relationship with nature and the threats that face our natural world. Leila is exploring the notion of distorted faces and how alterations like these might speak about emotion.

Mr B Austin - Art Teacher

DIGITAL ART AND DESIGN 1: ME, MYSELF, AND I

As students progress, they apply their newly acquired software skills in the form of an imaginary portrait. In this imaginary portrait they appear three times, doing different things within a specific space. Applying skills learned from project 1, student



Abdalla Khalil G12B



Hazem Abu El Fadl G9G



Jana Shahin G11R

ARTBEAT



Kareem Ali G11B



Layla Morsy G9G



Maleeka Ramadan G9Y

must apply the two critical components for merging photos in Photoshop: the photos must have the same light and be taken from the same perspective.

Further students learn the difference between “low res” photos and “high res” photos. Therefore no “WhatsApp” photos, as they are too “low res” to work with in Photoshop, meaning they will appear pixelated once brought into Photoshop.

DIGITAL ART AND DESIGN 2: MULTIPLICITY IN A SINGLE PHOTO



Adham Amr G12R



Yassin Soliman G10Y



Yassen Saeed G12R



Seif Dakrouy G12Y

In this project, students will explore the idea of multiplicity, layering, and meaning through the use of a single photo. What does multiplicity mean to you? As you look around, and reflect on what you see, how might a single photo be reimagined to send a different message? How can one thing multiplied x10 make us, the viewer, see differently?

Students will begin by brainstorming ideas about pattern, repetition, and scale, keeping in mind only one photo may be used. Once an idea has been approved, students will take a single photo to be used as the foundation of their composition. They will build at least a 10-layer file in Photoshop, each layer named that includes at least one layer mask.

PHOTOGRAPHY: LIGHT, SHADOW + REFLECTION



Hashen El Meligui G12R



Maya Hamouie G11R 2



Hashen El Meligui G12R



Maya Hamouie G11R



Kenzi Teira G11B



Salma Ali G12R

In this second exercise, as with the first, students begin by taking at least one hundred photos exploring light, shadow and reflection. After analysing their work, and reducing it to a final ten photos, create an 11-slide presentation (includes a title slide). As with their previous exercise, their images must also address at least two Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Space, Value, Texture, Form, Colour, while also making sure their final ten photos are very different.

Ms C Comerford - Visual and Digital Arts Teacher

ARTBEAT

IBDP VISUAL ARTS

Artwork by Jomani Eid (DP11R)



DP11 Visual students have learnt how to research artists and explore how they use materials, symbols and imagery to develop ideas and communicate with their audience.

Students are currently developing their painting skills by focusing on artists Jenny Saville and Lucien Freud.



Ms R Seabrook - Art Teacher

BRITISH SECTION DRAMA

Year 8 Drama

Year 8 Drama students have recently completed their music video unit. For this project, the students selected a song and then created a scene to act out while the song played. They had to utilise their skills in miming as well as their knowledge in creating an interesting plot line.



Year 9 IGCSE Drama

Year 9 IGCSE Drama students have been learning how to build tension in their performances. They have achieved this by using various facial expressions, voice, gestures, posture and movement techniques. Next, they went from page to stage, taking an excerpt from the script for the play *Dara* and brought it to life in performance, showcasing what they learned about creating tension.

SECONDARY BRITISH SECTION MUSIC

Year 7

Year 7 students started this academic year with an introduction to Graphic Scores. Students created their own and composed music individually to demonstrate the different shapes they had used. The Musical Elements were a focus of the unit and students learned how we can use specific musical vocabulary to describe music. Students ended the unit by taking part in a whole class ensemble piece where they played an instrument to perform 'Ode to Joy'. I have also enjoyed listening to the Year 7 solo singing submissions and it has been a pleasure to hear some of their lovely voices.



Year 8

In Year 8, students have learned about Jazz including its history and the people behind the genre. Students learned to improvise using a blues scale and performed and recorded successfully. They then performed as a whole class ensemble and rehearsed and performed a Blues piece over a number of weeks. This was recorded and it was good to see the progress made.

Mr G Thomas - Head of Expressive Arts, British Section

SECONDARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

It has been wonderful to welcome all members of our MES family back at school and we all look forward to what the future now holds following what has been at times a difficult journey through the global pandemic. As our students have transitioned from Hybrid to a normal school day our All Stars have shone brightly and have been commended for their outstanding contributions to their year groups. Displaying Elements of Dependability, Effort, Integrity, Readiness and Respect makes them exemplary role models within our school community.

BRITISH SECTION

Hosting our All Stars offers me the opportunity to award certificates and a 'gold' star pin that can be worn on their uniform and a chance to discuss students' success stories, their passions and aspirations. All Stars is certainly the highlight of the month for me.

September All Stars

As the month of September was relatively short, we looked at our Key Stage 3 student cohort and their ability to settle into the school environment. For some like Kenzy Ammar (Y8Y), a new school environment or simply the secondary environment for Ali El Zayat (Y7G). Both students impressed their teachers, displaying initiative, dedication and focus in their classes. Joudi Ghoneim (Y8Y) was busy helping others around the school including our Year 7s, new to the section. Thank you Joudi. Hoda Shabana (Y7B) has made a splendid start to the year in all her lessons, but you will also find her around the school reading at opportune moments. We love to see students who show passion outside the classroom too. A fantastic start to the academic year!



October All Stars



Year 12 Mentor, Ali Abdel-Hady (Y12R), is currently studying A Level Maths, English and Business Studies and mentors our younger students during Homeroom classes before lessons begin. Undergoing training at the beginning of the year, our Year 12 Senior mentors work with students to build a strong trusting relationship so students feel comfortable discussing personal and academic challenges they may be facing. We anticipate that many of our younger All Stars will be mentors when they are in Year 12 too. Salma Assal (Y11G) has been lauded for outstanding participation in AS Biology, Chemistry, Psychology and Business Studies classes. A gifted musician, Salma also finds time for her passion for all things equestrian, proving that there is time for work and play, even in Year 11.

Sameh Ganzoury (Y10Y), Laila Reda (Y10R), Hana El Helepi (Y9Y) and Yahya Kandil (Y9B) lead by example and have supported fellow students in their year group. Their level of participation in class shows them to be curious and fully engaged in their learning as they start the final year of their IGCSEs.

Our Year 7 and 8 All Stars shine no less bright than their Key Stage 4 and 5 counterparts. Our Key Stage 3 students have been actively involved in their lessons and their teachers have been very impressed with their commitment to their studies. Mohamed Tawfiq (Y8R) impressed his teachers who have noticed his resilience and ability to adapt and learn in Music and Science. Abdalla Hassanin (Y8Y) was commended for embodying the Elements of Readiness and Respect in all he does. Danny Zaher (Y7R) and Hamza Mansour (Y7G) are celebrated for their academic contributions but also supporting their peers.

I look forward to hosting All Stars monthly throughout the academic year and sharing their success with you.

Ms L Talbot - Secondary Headteacher, British Section





IB LEARNER PROFILE AWARDS



The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme allows students to focus on and develop the key attributes, identified by decades of academic research, that allow them to succeed to the best of their abilities in university and their future careers. These ten attributes are described in the Learner Profile and are highlighted and used within all IBDP subjects. From *Knowledgeable* to *Principled*, from *Reflective* to *Inquirer*, our IBDP students are expected to embody these attributes within their studies and beyond.



As part of this journey, we identify the students that have shown the best of an attribute each month and celebrate their success. In September the attribute was *Thinker* and October was *Communicator*.

We would like to congratulate Seif Hendam (DP12Y), Leilah Raphael (DP12R), Miriam Guirguis (DP12R), Roaa Bayoumi (DP12R), Jomana Arnous (DP11R) and Reem El-Sabagh (DP11R) for their superb thinking skills.

For their communication skills we congratulate Catherine Girguis (DP12R), Roaa Bayoumi (DP12R), Dina El-Nahas (DP12Y), Seif Hendam (DP12Y) and Reem El-Sabagh in (DP11R).

Ms S Sheehan - Deputy Head



American Section Student of the Month

What does it mean to be the Student of the Month?

I am sure most of us have fond memories of when we were in school and were selected as the 'Star Student', 'Spotlight Student', or 'Student of the Week'. It bolstered our confidence and celebrated something that was specifically unique to who we are as a person. As students, you are honoured for a variety of reasons and each child is selected for something that is uniquely them. It is in this vein we also celebrate our Students of the Month. We celebrate our students and your children for being risk-takers, exemplifying creativity, showing empathy and compassion for one another and many others. We honour students for not only developing their mind, but also shaping the demonstration of their character. In short, our philosophy is that all people, no matter the age, can achieve in many ways!

So, how does one become a 'Student of the Month'?

Each month, teachers and the Deans of Students select students who demonstrate academic pride, empathy, a positive work ethic, consistency in effort and attainment, as well as having a positive and supportive attitude toward the greater learning community. It is not only an honour to be a 'Student of the Month', but also to be nominated.

Since our last published article, we have honoured the following students for the months of September and October:

September

Rouqaiya Tahoun (G7Y), Amr Baraka (G8B), Salma Mohamed (G9B), Aly Gaber (G10Y), Zain Ayhoub (G11B) and Adham Abdelmaguid (G12R).

October

Nicole Botros (G7B), Jana Rabie (G8R), Seifeldin Aboueilla (G9O), Youssef Sallam (G10Y), Rand Al Gailani (G11R) and Razan Hassouna (G12Y).

**Ms D Pfeil - Secondary Principal,
American Section**





PIONEERS

SECONDARY PIONEERS NEWS



It was great to see the Pioneers receiving their 2020-21 awards in September 2021, when the ceremony was streamed live for parents at home. Even though the Pioneers did not receive the usual programme due to Pandemic restrictions, there was still much to do and their perseverance and commitment shone through.

I am pleased to say that the 2021-22 Pioneers programme began with a visit to the Great Pyramids of Giza on an expedition to achieve the Pioneering Pyramids badge. The Pioneers benefitted from the expertise of some very knowledgeable guides who led them on a historic tour of the Pyramids, Sphinx and Plateau. They entered the burial chamber of one of the Pyramids and learned about the building processes and materials used as well as the Pharaohs who built the Pyramids. Another part of the experience was learning about navigation and orienteering. Pioneers were taught how to use a compass to work out directions. It was a very successful visit overall and great to see the Secondary Pioneers back together again.



We look forward to our next visit and working with charities and the community during the Keep Egypt Warm campaign

Mr G Thomas - Secondary Pioneers Coordinator

Primary Pioneers are Back!

What a year it has been! Over the past twelve months we have had to overcome many obstacles to ensure the continuation of our Pioneer programme and although it was not the traditional version of our usual programme, I am proud to say that we were able to offer a programme that was meaningful and engaging.

After what has seemed a lifetime, I am pleased to finally say that the Pioneers are back in the classroom! It has been wonderful welcoming the Year 6 Primary Pioneers back after a year of online learning and getting the chance to meet the new Year 5 Pioneers. It is also exciting that we are back to the full traditional version of the Pioneer programme.

So far this term, all Primary Pioneers have completed their first badge and are well on the way to completing their second. The Year 5 Pioneers have been completing their maiden badge – the photographer with the help of Ms Emily and Mr Josh. For this badge, our Pioneers have been using newly acquired photography skills to take a variety of photographs around the school to include in their photography portfolio.

Myself and Mr Colin have been working with our Year 6 Pioneers to get creative! For this badge, Pioneers have learnt how to make their very own Hobbit House sculpture out of paper mache and recycled materials such as plastic bottles and straws.

Mr T McDermott - Primary Pioneers Coordinator



MES CAIRO WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS

Mr Nathan DeSouza - Secondary Assistant Headteacher, British Section

I am honoured to be able to join the team at MES Cairo. I am originally from London and having studied at the University of Surrey, started teaching science at Charterhouse, Godalming in 1995. I became Head of Science at The British School of Bahrain and continued teaching British curriculum Sciences at the International School of Ho Chi Minh City. I started teaching the IB Science curriculum at International School Kuala Lumpur and continued at Anglo American School Moscow where I received my International School Counsellor and University Counsellor qualifications. Moving on to Tamagawa University in Tokyo I remained committed to supporting students through their university applications.

I am joining MES Cairo from my most recent post as University Counsellor at Bandung Independent School in Indonesia. I am really excited to be in Cairo and I look forward to exploring the rich history and of course the delicious culinary offerings of Egypt. I would like to thank the MES Cairo community and especially the students for making me feel so welcome and for their numerous restaurant and local food recommendations. I look forward to diligently working through that long list.



Ms Liz Mottram - Primary Early Years

My name is Liz Mottram and I am happy to return to MES Cairo after a break of 11 years! I am the Year Leader for FS2 and teach Orange Class. This is my 14th year as a qualified teacher, mostly in the UK. I am a KS1 and EYFS specialist and also have lots of experience in LDD. I qualified at the University of Sheffield and am originally from beautiful Yorkshire in the UK. I am married with four lovely daughters, three of whom have very happy memories of their time at MES Cairo! Our youngest is 11 and lives here with us and our three eldest are 'grown up' and studying in the UK.

I am very excited to rejoin the family at MES Cairo - it feels as though I was never away! I look forward to working with the fantastic staff and students here and exploring more of wonderful Egypt.

Mr Stephen Thurgood - Secondary Science, British Section

Hello, my name is Stephen and I am in Cairo with my wife, Deborah. We are both here to visit and soak up the rich, ancient history and traditions of North Africa. I have worked at MES Cairo before so I have some idea of what to expect - hot sun, great food and in the company of friendly, open-hearted people.

We both love to keep active including trekking, cycling, swimming with a little bit of Pilates or Yoga. As you can see, we also enjoy the snow (now to be the local Wadi), including putting on our warm coats and hats and going out on a snowy English winter day. So, all that has definitely changed but that is the point, change is to be encouraged and exciting opportunities should be grasped where possible. We cannot wait to meet old friends and make new friends, to swim in the warm sea and enjoy seeing Egypt from boats, bikes, buses, camels, rooftops and underwater



Ms Suzzie Sauer - Secondary Drama and Theatre Studies, American Section

Hello MES Cairo community. I am originally from Canada but have been teaching internationally for the past seventeen years in schools across the UK, Thailand, and most recently, in Hong Kong.

I earned my Bachelor of Arts and my Bachelor of Education at The University of Lethbridge, Canada, before moving to the UK to put them to use! After teaching in the UK for 4 years and in Thailand for 2, I spent the next 11 years teaching in Hong Kong. Whilst living and working in Hong Kong, I earned my Master of Applied Theatre and Dramatic Education from Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia with my thesis focus being devising youth theatre, and the empowerment that this process can awaken in young people. I am currently also in my last term of studying a Master of Educational Technology through the University of British Columbia, Canada.

In my spare time I love reading, music, swimming, spending time with my dog Harley, and studying and teaching Dance. I look forward to meeting the wider MES Cairo community very soon.

Mr Ed Burrows - Primary Key Stage One

This is my first year teaching in Egypt and my first international teaching post. Since graduating from The University of Hull, United Kingdom, I have been teaching in Nottingham for five years prior to moving out to this wonderful country. In my previous school, I was fortunate to teach in a range of year groups across Key Stage 2 and am very excited to be with Year 2 this year as a new experience. So far, I have really enjoyed being immersed in Egypt's culture and I am so glad to have the opportunity to work in such a positive school with a fantastic community, where the staff, parents and students have all been so welcoming. My hobbies mainly revolve around sports, including football, golf, squash, and tennis, which I hope to carry on playing (and improving) while here in Cairo. I have already played on many wonderful golf courses since arriving in Egypt and look forward to playing on many more.



Ms Aimee North - Primary Early Years

Hello! I am the class teacher for FS1 Orange. I am from Wales, which is a beautiful country to the west of England, full of friendly people, stunning castles, beaches and luscious greenery. Whilst this is my first year at MES Cairo, I have been teaching for 10 years now, both in Egypt and Dubai. I first came to Cairo in 2012 and it holds a special place in my heart as this is where I met my husband Josh and where our son Jack was born. I love travelling, especially within Egypt, as it is a beautiful country, full of culture and history. My hobbies include reading and cooking, but most of all I just love spending time as a family with our 2 Golden Retrievers, Scout and Roxy.

Since joining MES Cairo, I have loved becoming a part of this wonderful community of staff, parents and children; everyone is incredibly welcoming. My passion in education is the Early Years as I believe it is such a magical time for children to develop their foundations within education through playing, innovating and exploring. By ensuring children feel safe and secure in their environment, it enables them to take risks, ask questions and widen their range of experiences, helping them on their journey to becoming lifelong learners. I look forward to a great year at MES Cairo and wish you all a great year too.



Mr John Turkdogan - Secondary Maths, American Section

Hi! I have been teaching Mathematics for about seven years now and believe that every student can succeed in Maths as long as they work hard and believe in themselves.

I am originally from Istanbul, Turkey but lived more than half of my life in New Jersey where I studied Mathematics as a bachelor's and Mathematics education as a master's degree at Rutgers University. Previously, I taught at a public High School in New Jersey for 3.5 years before deciding to teach internationally. This is my third international post and I am very excited to be in Egypt. I have joined the MES Cairo community with my wife Ezgi and our two young children: Eliza and Eli. We love the outdoors and taking long hikes. I personally love playing sports such as soccer, volleyball, and table tennis.

We feel very fortunate to be joining the MES Cairo community and hope to immerse ourselves in the rich history and culture of Egypt.



Ms Meridyth Everette - Secondary Social Studies, American Section

I am originally from Richmond, Virginia before moving to Texas to complete my undergraduate degree in International Studies at Baylor University. I went on to complete my MA in Education Curriculum and Instruction and have spent the past two years teaching secondary Social Studies in the United Arab Emirates. I am excited to be here at MES Cairo and especially here in Egypt which is overflowing with history and culture.



Dr Roberto Ollivier - Secondary IBDP and American Section English

I am originally from Texas, USA and was educated internationally in Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, Congo and Spain. My international teaching career extends to Korea, Japan, Bolivia, India, Saudi Arabia and Mainland China. I have post-graduate qualifications including a PhD in Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies.

I have received a very warm welcome by the MES Cairo community and I look forward to living, learning and exploring Egypt over the next few years.



Miss Laura Eccleston - Primary Key Stage Two



Hello, I am the new teacher for Year 6 Red. This is my first time in Cairo and my first international teaching post, and I am thoroughly enjoying my time in this wonderful country so far. I am originally from a small village in Cheshire in the northwest of England, but since going to Nottingham Trent University to study Primary Education, I have lived in Nottingham, UK. Since graduating, I have taught in an inner-city school in Nottingham for the last thirteen years, where I worked my way to the role of Assistant Headteacher before packing my bags to come to Egypt. MES Cairo was the only international school I wanted to teach at, and I feel very lucky to be part of the family with such amazing staff, parents and of course the fantastic children.

In my spare time I enjoy keeping active and I have recently joined a fitness membership and have been going to the gym. My aim for my first year in Egypt is to take golf lessons as it is so popular here and the courses are so beautiful. I also hope to travel and see many amazing places whilst I am based in a new part of the world. I am thrilled about joining MES Cairo and I look forward to seeing and immersing myself in the rich and diverse culture of Egypt at every available opportunity.

Ms Shelby Freeman - Secondary Physical Education

I teach Secondary Physical Education both British and American section. I completed my BA and PGCE in Yorkshire, England and I am delighted to be completing my ECT training at such an established school. It is my first time in Egypt, and I am having a great time exploring and learning about Egypt and its rich culture. I have been warmly welcomed by the school, PE department and the students and look forward to the time ahead at MES Cairo.



Mr Anthony Sanders - Secondary French and Spanish, British Section



I am from Liverpool, England. My one claim to fame is that I played (the recorder) and sang on the SAME STAGE as The Beatles (unfortunately, not at the same time as they played) in January 1962, and I performed in a Christmas concert in December 1967 when I was in Year 4! This will give you a clue to my age. The venue was the Aintree Institute, which was my Primary school hall.

After 20 years as a civil servant, I qualified as a teacher in 2003 and taught in the UK until 2016. I came to Egypt in January 2017, teaching at MBIS in Maadi and El Alsson British School in New Giza.

I have heard a lot of complimentary things about MES Cairo and am really looking forward to meeting the students and staff and having a great school year

Kerry McGrath - Primary Learning Development Department

Hello MES Cairo family, I am really looking forward to working in Cairo again this year and experiencing more of the warm and welcoming hospitality of Egypt. You may already recognise part of my family, Mr Ross, who has been a part of MES Cairo for a few years. We are here with our two dogs, Betty and Zander who are well travelled and have been to Cyprus and now Egypt from the UK.





Mr Brian Austin - Secondary Art, American Section

I am an explorer at heart, and have spent decades trekking, rock climbing, skiing, kayaking, and for the past eight years teaching in Abu Dhabi, Kazan, and Shenzhen. During Covid I unknowingly committed to 16 months of isolation from the rest of the world when I crossed back into China ahead of the border closure. Now that I am out of China and have visited with my family that I missed for so many months, I am happy to be in the warmth of Egypt, the sounds of Arabic, and the opportunity of teaching older students once more.

Ms Carly Chilton - Secondary Learning Development Coordinator, British Section

I am originally from Sydney, Australia and have come to MES Cairo with my husband, our two children and our dog from my previous teaching position in Dubai. As a family, we enjoy travelling, swimming and watching movies together. We cannot wait for our next adventure in Egypt!



Mr Hazim Saleh - Secondary Chemistry/Physics, British Section

What I enjoy most about teaching is being able to help people express in English their ideas and feelings with others. I found the hands-on approach to learning really beneficial - as they say, you can't learn to swim by reading a book! I still believe in "learning by doing" which I use in the classroom regularly.

My first degree was a BSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences, which involved the chemistry of drugs. It interested me as I am very passionate about Chemistry. Eventually I became more interested in Physics and began to re-train when I started my teaching course. I gained my Physics PGCE in 2014. One day I would love to have a PhD in Physics!

Outside the classroom, you can usually find me enjoying nature, swimming or fishing. I have been learning to code and one day plan to finish making my very own game.

Ms Emma Dawes - Secondary Physics, British Section

I grew up in rural Leicestershire, England and studied Microbiology at the University of Nottingham before completing my PGCE at Loughborough University. As well as teaching Science, I have a big family which includes my partner, Daniel and our three sons, Will, James and Alfie, our two dogs and two rescue cats. We are all very excited about living in Cairo. We love travelling and exploring the ancient monuments and amazing landscapes of Egypt. I am currently learning to speak Egyptian Arabic and play beginner's keyboard. I love scuba diving and playing board games with my family and friends.



Ms Terese Cuff - Secondary MS Maths and Art, American Section

I was born in Tacoma, Washington USA but raised on the east coast (New Jersey and Philadelphia). This is my second international teaching position. Back in the 1990s I taught in Tongducheon, South Korea. I am looking forward to teaching Maths and Art and exploring the rich history and culture that Cairo offers.

Ms Joanne Coxage - Primary Key Stage Two

I am from the UK and have been teaching over the past seven years in Romania and Slovakia. My family and I are excited to experience what life in Egypt has to offer and the buzz of a huge city. We enjoy lots of walking and travelling together (pre-Covid!) and I enjoy arts and crafts in my spare time. Our baby will be 15 months old when we arrive, and we look forward to our adventures with a little one while our less adventurous dog sleeps on the sofa!



MES CAIRO ACHIEVERS

Adam Ragab (Y3Y)

Adam trains Squash at the Egyptian Shooting Club and he recently won the silver medal in the under-9's category of the Nationals.



Farida El Sersy (Y5V)

Farida won the Silver medal in the 2021 Wakeboarding Championship hosted by the Egyptian Water Ski and Sailing Federation.

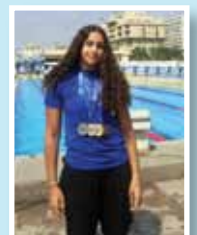
Yehia El Fakharany (Y9B)

Yehia is an up-and-coming member of the Egyptian Rowing Club and won third place in the Egyptian Optimist Sailing Nationals last summer.



Alia Saba (G10B)

Alia won 3 Bronze medals, 1 Silver medal, and 3 Gold medals in the Cairo Summer Swimming Championship 2021.



Omar El Ghoraihy (DP11R) - Equestrian Excellence

We are extremely proud of Omar for his superb first place win in the 90cm jumping competition during the Platinum Showjumping competition here in Cairo.



Mahmoud Karim (G10G)

Mahmoud recently won 4 Bronze medals, 1 Silver medal, and 1 Gold medal in the Cairo Summer Swimming Championship 2021-2022.

Seif-Allah Hendam (DP12Y) and Mohamed Fouda (DP12Y) - Triathlon Champions

On 1st October 2021 Seif-Allah and Mohamed, two of our IBDP12 students, complete a sprint triathlon as part of the annual Somabay Endurance Festival in Hurghada. The boys raced across a 750-metre swim, 20km cycling and 5km running course back-to-back and finished 2nd and 4th respectively. A fantastic achievement that required months of dedicated training and preparation, made even more special as it was their first ever triathlon attempt!

Seif added: "My training happened naturally, since cycling was already a hobby and one of our IB CAS activities. In the summer, I kept active with daily runs and bike rides and had a few friends that also took cycling seriously, with a passion, which helped me push to limits that I have never reached before including two 70K mountain bike challenges.

So, when Mohamed proposed the idea months before the event, I was partially ready. From here on I started working on my swimming technique, which to this day is the hardest thing. I focused on long distances and practised doing the three combined to experience the transitions. The race is an experience I will remember for the rest of my life and definitely do again, because I'm now in love with the sport!"



Well done to all of our MES Cairo Achievers!

Ms C Boswell - MESsenger Editor

SENIOR DINNER

Our Senior Dinner took place on 14th October 2021 and was very well attended by nearly our entire Senior student body. We were able to enjoy a socially distanced outdoor event by the pool at the Renaissance Hotel. There seemed to be a little magic in the air that evening as the Senior students made the most of their opportunity to spend time with all their peers in a social setting for the first time in nearly 2 years.



Gentle music wafted on the cool breeze as both Senior students and teachers reminisced about times past all the while continuing to look to the future. We were all very grateful to have this opportunity to spend time with each other and look forward to a very successful year ahead at MES Cairo.

Mr N DeSouza - Assistant Head Years 11 and 12, British Section



Secondary Sportsdesk

Physical Education classes have carried on at MES Cairo throughout the first term of the 2021-2022 school year. To ensure student safety while still maintaining our dedication to fitness and healthy living, MES Cairo Secondary PE Programme has adapted the curriculum to focus on individual student fitness levels. This has



included students participating in workouts and fitness tests in their own designated areas. The levels of participation have been excellent, and the students genuinely enjoy the opportunity to get outside and exercise in our beautiful Egyptian weather.

The area of focus during the second half of Term One has turned from fitness testing to track and field. Students have enjoyed the opportunity to develop their individual skills in a number of different events. Many students have also taken the opportunity to take on leadership roles within their classes by leading their peers in a variety of fitness activities.

The teachers in the Secondary PE Department have been very pleased with the growth of our students' fitness and skill levels over the past two months. We fully expect this progress to continue throughout the rest of the school year.

Mr E Newton - Secondary PE Teacher and Athletics Director



SECONDARY AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (ASAs)

Following a difficult couple of years, MES Cairo has been able to reintroduce the After School Activity (ASA) Programme back into normal school life. Considering the increase in sedentary behaviour due to Covid-19, the programme has a focus on physical and



emotional wellbeing. This has meant that all activities included a physical element to cater for all fitness levels.

Students were offered activities from low impact such as walking and Yoga to high impact activities such as Football and Basketball.

The ASA Programme commenced with over 200 students signing up to an ASA. All secondary colleagues have stepped up to support and interact with students to create an enjoyable and motivating environment. With the success of the wellbeing programme, we hope to continue and offer even more activities in the coming year, and



to encourage even greater participation.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the programme's success so far.

Mr J Keast - Physical Education Teacher and ASA Coordinator



Primary Sportsdesk

We would like to welcome all our Primary students back to PE! It has been wonderful to have all our classes back in full capacity for the start of this school year. We are maintaining safe protocols within PE lessons, by ensuring that students are sanitising hands before and after lessons, as well as disinfecting any equipment that we use. Here is what we have been working on during Term One in each Key Stage.

Foundation Stage

Our youngest PE students have been getting used to following instructions and learning to play basic fun games such as tag, stuck in the mud and what's the time Mr Wolf? They have been learning how to take turns and share equipment within lessons, building good relationships with each other in the process. Our Foundation Stage students will continue to develop their fine and gross motor skills throughout the remainder of Term One.



Key Stage One



In Years 1 and 2, students have been working on small team games, races and activities. They have developed their ability to build relationships by working collaboratively with each other. Students have also begun to understand what it means to be respectful both to teammates and to opponents, especially during more competitive activities.

Our Key Stage 1 students will continue to work on their basic movement skills such as running, jumping, climbing, crawling, throwing, catching, and kicking.

Key Stage Two

Our Key Stage 2 students have been working on a variety of Invasion Games. Instead of traditionally working on one specific sport for a set period, teachers have utilised a wide range of sports such as Football, Basketball, Benchball and Endball to name a few. This has allowed students to reflect on the transferable skills that can be used throughout all Invasion Games. Students have developed their understanding of not only skills but also ideas and concepts within these games such as creating space, attacking and defending, passing and moving and communication. Photos 7 to 8

We look forward to continuing to develop fitness, skills and understanding within sport and physical activity for the rest of this year.

Mr J Vaughan - Head of Primary PE



KEY STAGE TWO STUDENTS ARE ACTIVE, HEALTHY AND HAPPY

Primary After School Activities in Term One

After a long break of not being able to offer any After school Activities, we were very excited to offer an ASA Programme once again!

Our ASA clubs this time are slightly different to the ASA Programme of previous years. We wanted to give our students the chance to be more active by offering sport activities to our Year Three to Year Six students. The focus for our Primary After School Activities was "Be Active, Be Healthy, Be Happy!"

Years 3 and 4 students took part in our Monday Clubs and our upper two Years 5 and 6 groups attended their ASAs on Tuesdays. The programme was set up by a great mix of ASAs we have offered in previous years and new activities to give our students the opportunity to get to know new games and sports. Fit for Fun Club, a new club, included a variety of track and field events like long jump or hurdle races. Another new ASA was the Pyramids Running Club which we were able to offer to all ASA Year groups. Students were able to learn basic stretching and running skills and were encouraged to join the Tri-Factor Pyramids Half Marathon "Race through History at the Great Pyramids of Giza". In the very popular clubs Ball Games, Team Games and Girls' Netball, our students had the chance to play in teams, learn new ball game skills and compete against each other in rugby, football or striking and fielding games.



To give our programme a great mix of activities, our MES Cairo students also had the opportunity to join ASAs based on a calmer and more relaxed atmosphere and take part in Yoga, Pilates, Mindfulness and Meditation. Students who loved water activities or wanted to improve their swimming skills were able to take part in the Splash Pool Games and Fit in the Water clubs.

In addition to the above clubs, we also offered Golf, Tennis and Table Tennis to make sure every student would find an activity that gave them the opportunity to be active, healthy and happy!

Ms K Newton - Primary ASA Coordinator



WHAT'S IN YOUR LUNCHBOX?

In order to maintain a healthy body and a healthy mind, children need good nutrition. With a hearty breakfast containing some fruit, protein and carbohydrates, our students are more ready to start their busy day at school. When at school, hydration and nutrition becomes all the more important in order to keep bodies fueled for action and brains ready to learn.



Balance and variety is crucial. Across the food groups, children need a lunchbox to sustain them that has fruits, vegetables, protein and carbohydrates. Refined sugar (biscuits, sweets, some cereal bars, some yoghurts and many fruit juices) is fine in moderation but should be an occasional treat as opposed to a daily habit.

We recommend that children get involved in packing their own lunchboxes, no matter what their age. Encourage them to choose from the following suggestions of items that work well in a packed lunch:

| FOOD GROUP | QUANTITY | SUGGESTIONS |
|---|--------------|---|
| PROTEIN *avoid processed protein such as nuggets and salami | 1 portion | Boiled eggs, chicken cold-cuts, beef cold-cuts, dried meats, salmon, tuna |
| FRUIT & VEG | 2-3 portion | Cucumber sticks, carrot sticks, capsicum, cherry tomatoes, celery, apple, banana, mandarin, strawberries, melon, grapes, raisins, dates |
| CARBOHYDRATES | 1 portion | Bread, roll or wrap, muffin, pasta, rice, cereal bar (check sugar content), crackers |
| DAIRY | 1-2 portions | Cheese, plain milk, plain yoghurt (maybe add honey) |
| OCCASIONAL TREAT | 1 portion | Biscuits, cake, fruit juice box, flavoured milk box, cereal |
| WATER | Plenty | |

What our students say about their healthy lunches?



Jamila Y1B - "Healthy lunch makes us strong and makes us feel good."
Cherifa Y2G - "We need to eat fruit and vegetables because it makes us smart and helps us learn at school."



Aly Y1G - "Healthy food makes us fit and strong."
Seif Y1G - "We need to eat healthy food to grow."
Hanna Y1G - "Healthy food makes us learn and be smart."



Nadeen Y6V - "I pack my healthy lunches because they make me feel stronger and healthier every day."



Jamila FS2R - "We have to bring healthy food to school because it's good for us."
Laila FS2B - "We have to be healthy."



Jumana Y6B - "If I eat unhealthy food I don't feel as good as when I eat healthy food."

Mrs N Singleton - School Director

Secondary House News



Master Oogway famously said that “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift... that’s why they call it present.”

Every House event, activity, and cherished moment that we have been able to share together this year has truly been precious!

Staff Quiz Bowl

We began on Tuesday 7th September 2021, with the Staff Quiz bowl, which was expertly hosted by Mr Konitz and Mr Pijanowski, with the support of Ms Downey and Ms Clingan as judges. Approximately 40 staff members took part in this event split into their Houses and competed at general knowledge questions in solo and grouped rounds. Selket staff took first place in this event.

90 Seconds to Win it

Alongside the Staff Quiz Bowl ran the “90 Seconds to Win it” staff competition, which was supervised by Mr Keast, Ms Shepherd and Mr Newton. Here, 48 members of staff competed in their Houses in events such as the ‘Hula Hoop Relay’, ‘Tilt A Cups’ and ‘Cornhole’. Edjo staff were victorious in this event!

School Spirit Day

Following this was the “School Spirit Day” which was held on Thursday 30th September, where 481 students and teachers, approximately 45% of Secondary, showed their comradery and their commitment to their House by wearing their House t-shirt to school. This ensured that the first two weeks of school ended in bright and vibrant colour.





Motivational Messages

On Thursday 14th October 2021, during breaks, hundreds of students and teachers, whilst maintaining Covid precautions, wrote motivational messages on strips of pink paper to a person in their life who is an everyday Superhero; an individual who is a Cancer survivor or Cancer sufferer. The students and teachers then folded these pieces of paper into a ribbon and attached them to their House board. There were many heartwarming messages.



Breaktime Rewards

On Wednesday 3rd November 2021, students in Year/Grade 7 and 8 cashed in their hard-earned merits for rewards during breaks. In total, 6 students cashed their rewards for a total of 200 House points giving each of their Houses a superb chance to be the House Champions of 2021-22.

The students listed below earned extra House points for their Houses:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tia Ibrahim (Y7G) | 20 House Points for Kheper. |
| Ahmed Shebeka (Y7G) | 35 House Points for Selket. |
| Amin Abou Laban (Y7Y) | 20 House Points for Edjo. |
| Ismail Abdelaal (Y7G) | 15 House Points for Kheper. |
| Maya Fawzy (G7Y) | 35 House Points for Edjo. |
| Omar Farag (Y7G) | 75 House Points for Selket. |

Student Elections

We were delighted run Year and Grade 7 student elections. Eleven students from Year and Grade 7 stood for four seats in our Student Council and impressed their peers and teachers with their Election Posters and Campaign Videos. In total, 146 students voted, and congratulations go to the new members of the Student Council:

Ahmed Shebeka (Y7G), Danny Zaher (Y7R), Alia El-Zuhairy (G7Y) and Karim Safi (G7R)



Ahmed Shebeika Y7G



Danny Zaher Y7R



Alia Elzuhaury G7Y



Karim Safi G7R

I look forward to updating you on more House news in the next issue of the Messenger magazine.

Mr T Kasmani - Secondary House Coordinator

MESMERISED



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MESsenger 68 Team

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

With special thanks to Elham Tadros at Glow Printing.



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

Our Mission

Leadership through Education: Caring, Challenging, Inspiring

We believe in:

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

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