



# MESSENGER

FROM VISION TO LEGACY - 35 YEARS OF CARING, CHALLENGING AND INSPIRING THE MES CAIRO FAMILY



Graduation 2025, Results, Pink Day, Sporting Success, Trips, Productions, and so much more...



# MOBILE APP

## The MES Cairo App

Has Officially Launched! We're thrilled to introduce our brand-new MES Cairo school app, designed to make school-parent communication easier than ever! Tap the link in bio to download the app & watch the tutorial now!

Available on iOS & Android



Upcoming  
Event



Academic  
Progress



Attendance



Behaviour



[www.mescairo.com/App.asp](http://www.mescairo.com/App.asp) 

# CONTENTS

- 4 Foreword
- 5 The Heart of Learning At MES Cairo
- 6 MES Cairo Graduation Ceremony 2025
- 10 Class of 2025 University Destinations
- 11 Exam Results 2025: Celebrating Success Across The Secondary School
- 16 IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) News
- 22 Pink Day
- 24 Grand Egyptian Museum
- 26 Keep Egypt Warm Campaign 2025
- 28 Library News
- 30 The Grade 7 Journey Begins
- 32 Shine On Middle School
- 33 Student Of The Month
- 33 Learning Development Department
- 35 Nile Adventure for Year and Grade 9
- 38 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme News
- 41 British and IB Mathematics
- 42 Key Stage 1 News
- 44 Settling into FS1
- 45 FS2 News
- 46 A Sparkling Start in Year 2
- 47 Year 3 News
- 48 Exploring Space In Year 5
- 50 Year 4 Mary Poppins
- 51 Science in Year 6
- 52 Art Beat
- 54 International Award
- 56 Secondary Sportsdesk
- 59 Primary Sportsdesk
- 61 MESmerised



# FOREWORD



As we bring our first term to a close, I find myself reflecting with immense pride and gratitude on what has been an extraordinary few months here at MES Cairo. The energy, creativity, and sense of belonging that define our school have been on full display in every classroom, every corridor, and on every field. It has been a term bursting with achievement, compassion, and community spirit, a true celebration of what it means to be part of the MES Cairo family.

From the inspiring Keep Egypt Warm campaign, when our playing field was transformed into a moving display of generosity as blankets were laid out in solidarity with those in need, to the International Adventure Camp, where our students camped under the stars right here on campus, learning teamwork, resilience, and independence, our students have embraced every opportunity to grow and give back.

Our athletes have shone brightly in BSME and CISSA tournaments, proudly representing MES Cairo both at home and away. Their sportsmanship and teamwork continue to make us proud. Adding to our list of major accomplishments, MES Cairo was honoured to host the IBSEA Conference this December, welcoming schools from around the world to our campus. The exchange of ideas, innovation, and deep learning that took place underscored our commitment to remaining at the forefront of education in the region.

The school calendar has been packed with colour and joy from dress-up days that filled our hallways with laughter, to House Extravaganzas that united students across every age group in spirited competition and creativity. The Workers' Iftar Fundraising events organised by our seniors was a moment of true community spirit, reminding us all of the importance of gratitude and service to others.

This term has also been a spectacular celebration of Performing Arts at MES Cairo. The Year 4 production of Mary Poppins was "practically perfect in every way," enchanting audiences with its charm, talent and joy. Not to be outdone, our Year 6 students dazzled with their performance of Hercules, a dynamic, humorous and heartfelt show that showcased their growing confidence and creativity on stage. Both productions were a shining testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication of our exceptional teachers.

Our Winter Concert and Seasonal Concert have been equally magical, musical journeys that captured the warmth of the season and the remarkable range of talent among our students. From choirs to solo performances and ensembles, the music this term has filled our campus with harmony, emotion and genuine pride.

And while the curtain may have fallen on these memorable performances, excitement is already building for what lies ahead, our Secondary Production, coming to the stage this April. The rehearsals are already underway, and we can promise that something truly spectacular is in store.

It has been a jam-packed term, rich with learning, laughter and lasting memories. As we all prepare to rest and recharge, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our outstanding team of teachers for their dedication and care, to our students for their boundless enthusiasm and creativity, and to our parents for their constant support and trust.

Life is truly colourful if you belong to MES Cairo, and this term, every shade of that colour has shone brightly.

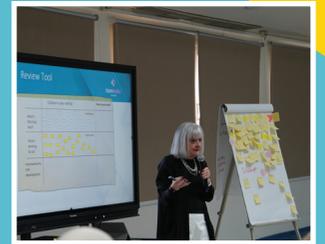
With warmest wishes for a peaceful and joyful break,

**Mrs. M Midwood - School Director**

# THE HEART OF LEARNING AT MES CAIRO

As we come to the end of a rich and rewarding term, it is a wonderful moment to reflect on the vibrant learning that takes place every day across our classrooms. At MES Cairo, education is not just about lessons and grades, it is about curiosity, confidence, and preparing our young people for a world full of possibility.

This term, we were thrilled to welcome Karen Ardley into school to lead professional training for all of our teachers. Her work on the culture of leadership and immersive learning reminded us that great teaching begins with meaningful relationships and a shared purpose. Our teachers left the training inspired to make learning even more engaging, and full of discovery.



Walk into any classroom at MES Cairo, and you can feel the learning. In our English and language lessons, students are finding their voices, expressing ideas with clarity, exploring cultures through words, and developing confidence as global communicators. In the sciences, curiosity drives investigation: our young scientists ask big questions and test out their own ideas about how the world works. Mathematicians build logic and precision through challenge and problem-solving, while our historians and geographers learn to think critically, connect ideas, and understand the past to shape the future. The arts are alive with colour, movement, and imagination, from the hum of music rehearsals to the energy of drama and the creativity of design and visual art. These experiences open our students' minds to new ways of thinking, expressing, and collaborating, helping them grow into confident, thoughtful individuals ready for the careers and opportunities of tomorrow.

Together, through open dialogue and shared purpose, we are continuing to ensure that every MES Cairo student thrives both academically and personally.

The results speak for themselves: our students continue to make excellent progress and achieve high levels of attainment across all sections of the school, British, American, and IB. However, even more importantly, their eyes are opened to the wonders of knowledge and life. They learn not just to remember facts but to think deeply, to question, to innovate, and to see learning as a lifelong adventure.

At MES Cairo, we are a family of learners: teachers, students, and parents, all growing together. We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are at the heart of every child's success. This term, we have introduced our Thursday Morning Huddles, informal coffee mornings designed to bring parents and teachers together in meaningful conversation.

These gatherings provide our teaching teams with a valuable opportunity to share important insights about students' learning, classroom experiences, and the exciting developments taking place across our school. More importantly, they give parents the chance to engage directly with our educators, ask questions, and learn more about how to support their child's progress at home.

The Thursday Morning Huddles are part of our wider commitment to enhancing parental outreach and building a stronger, more connected school community. We have been delighted to see such positive attendance and engagement so far. Your participation truly makes a difference.

Each day brings new discoveries, shared successes, and moments of pride. It is a privilege to watch our young people blossom into kind, capable, and confident individuals, ready to take on the world.

**Mrs. M Midwood - School Director**



# MES CAIRO GRADUATION CEREMONY 2025



The Class of 2025 marked a milestone moment that will be remembered for years to come during a spectacular graduation ceremony held outdoors on our school field. This year, the purpose-built Ceremony Arena was larger than ever before, allowing families, friends, and teachers to gather in joy and anticipation as the graduates were celebrated for their achievements. At the heart of the evening stood a newly designed stage, introduced by Ms Ghada Dajani our Managing Director, which ensured every student could be fully seen by their proud parents and friends throughout the event.

Mrs Melanie Midwood, School Director, introduced the Class of 2025 and the ceremony commenced with a moment of grandeur as the graduates entered to Aaron Copland's iconic Fanfare for the Common Man. The soaring brass and resonant percussion set the tone for an evening of pride and celebration, with parents and friends rising to their feet as the students processed into the Arena, their presence illuminated by the bright lights of the arena.

The Class of 2025 entered the Graduation arena in a processional march, walking confidently towards the stage where they would receive their final school award, the graduation diplomas and certificates. Once they took their places, the audience stood for the National Anthem of the Arab Republic of Egypt which was performed beautifully by the Secondary Choir.

Omar AlSaftawy - Graduating Senior then took to the stage and read a verse from the Holy Koran.

This was followed by a delightful rendition of Salem Ala Masr (by Nader Abdallah and Oussama Rahbani) performed beautifully the Year 5 and 6 Choir.





The speeches began with words of inspiration from **Mrs Sawsan Dajani, our esteemed Chairman of the Board**, who addressed the graduates with warmth. Mrs Dajani urged the students to feel gratitude: “Gratitude, like all things in life, is a habit, like a muscle you need to build and nurture. It’s a way of looking at life with appreciation for all that is in it; good and bad. It allows you to be at peace with yourself and others. With practice, it attracts even more things into your life for which you can feel grateful.”

Amongst many other words of advice, Mrs Dajani reminded the graduates that it should not take something painful or drastic to allow one to appreciate life. “It should ideally be instinctive. Very much like living and appreciating the moment. Just like this moment, right now. You are here being admired and celebrated by those who love you the most. It puts into perspective the little things that take away from the preciousness of life. Every hardship, or celebration and everything in between, is just a moment that passes. They all combine to make up something bigger, called Life. In all its seamless eternity, Life is ultimately, just a moment.

Hold on to your loved ones a little tighter - even if it embarrasses you.

Smile a little bigger for that picture - even if you're having a bad hair day.

Laugh a little louder - even if, and especially if, you are alone.

Forgive quicker and love unconditionally. Not a single thing lasts forever. Everything is made up of moments that you will forever remember.

The Class of 2025 listened intently, inspired by the message that they have both the tools and the responsibility to make their visions a reality. Mrs Dajani concluded her inspiring speech and then introduced our Guest of Honour and Speaker, His Excellency, Mr Ahmed Kouchouk, Minister of Finance.



“Mr Kouchouk and his family have been part of the MES Cairo extended family for many years. Inshallah he will be joining us for his son’s Graduation next year. He is a proficient economist and policy advisor with over 25 years of applied experience involvement with the World Bank and a Board Member and Executive Director of several banks. We are very honoured to have him with us tonight. It is with great pride that I ask him to come to the podium and address you here tonight.

***Give Back to Your Country - an inspiring address by H.E. Ahmed Kouchouk***

Speaking with passion, Mr Kouchouk addressed the graduates on the future of the world of work, highlighting the skills and qualities that will allow them to thrive in higher education, business innovation, and world-changing enterprise. He reminded them to carry curiosity, resilience, and collaboration as they step into the next chapter of their lives, underscoring that they are poised to be leaders, creators, and problem-solvers in a rapidly evolving global landscape.



“You are a generation that has already seen so much. You witnessed a pandemic that disrupted life on a global scale. You saw trade routes freeze, economies shift overnight, classrooms turn digital. You’ve grown up in a world where artificial intelligence isn’t science fiction - it is shaping the way we live, work, and think. And yet, here you are: stronger, sharper, and more ready than ever. That’s not something small. That is something powerful. Be proud! Egypt is embarking on an ambitious reform agenda to grow our economy, to attract investment, to modernise infrastructure, to build a more inclusive society, and to build a prosperous future where every generation can aspire for more than what the previous one had. But these efforts will only succeed if you - our brightest minds - are part of the equation.

You are stepping into a future filled with challenges - but also bursting with opportunity, especially for you. You are among the first class to graduate into a post-AI, post pandemic, climate-conscious global society. No one is more ready to take on this new world.

I want you to remember:

- Be bold enough to change your mind.
- Be disciplined enough to chase the ideas that scare you
- And be generous enough to give back to your community, to your country, to those who don’t always get a seat at the table.”

H.E. Ahmed Kouchouk received a huge round of applause as his words evoked a sense of pride and accomplishment throughout all present in the arena. The Secondary and Staff Choirs followed by singing For Good (by S. Schwartz), an emotive piece that contributed to the building excitement and anticipation of what lay ahead.





### Senior Student Leaders - An Epic Novel

One of the most moving parts of the Ceremony then came when our 2024-2025 Scholarship winners and graduates reflected on the Class of 2025's journey, likening their school years to the unfolding of a great novel. Louay El Habiba (DP12), Amina ElMallah (G12) and Mariam Sharara (Y12) told us how each chapter introduced characters who played vital roles: teachers as mentors, parents as steadfast supporters, friends as companions, and all others who shaped their story. Every challenge overcome and every triumph achieved became part of this shared narrative, leaving a legacy that would stay with them forever.

As the final chapter of their school lives drew to a close, the Senior Student Leaders reminded everyone that endings are also beginnings. The lessons learned, friendships forged, and memories created form the foundation for the unwritten pages ahead - pages that the graduates will fill with courage, vision, and purpose as they step boldly into higher education, innovation, and life-changing endeavours.

### From MES Cairo Students to MESConians

In a master class of timing and precision, the Leaving Certificates and High School Diplomas were announced by **Ms Ghada Dajani, Managing Director.**

Mrs Sawsan Dajani, H.E. Ahmed Kouhouk, H.E. Mahmoud Esmat, Mrs Melanie Midwood, Mrs Linda Talbot, Mrs Dodie Pfeil, and Ms Suzanne Sheehan handed out the diplomas as each graduate walked across the stage to the applause of family, friends, and teachers. **Mrs Midwood, School Director** then took to the stage to officially present the graduates as the Class of 2025. She asked the students to twist their caps in the other direction, signaling their transition from students to MESConians. The graduates launched their caps into the night sky. The field erupted in celebration as voices lifted in joy, applauding the triumph of the moment - creating an unforgettable capture of the legacy of the Class of 2025.

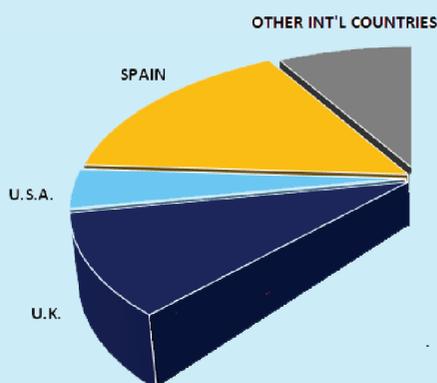
**Ms S Sheehan - Head of IB Section, Whole School Deputy Headteacher**



# Class of 2025 University Destinations



As another successful academic year ended, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of our recent 2025 graduates who have secured places at prestigious universities both in Egypt and abroad. Their hard work, determination, and resilience have truly paid off, marking an exciting new chapter in their academic journeys.



Last year's graduating class received offers from an impressive range of institutions across the globe.

In their final decision, 40% of the students will be pursuing their studies internationally, which includes universities in Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States, along with universities in Europe and Canada.

These students are set to embark on diverse programmes in fields such as Engineering, Business, Computer Science, and the Arts, reflecting the rich variety of interests and talents within their class.

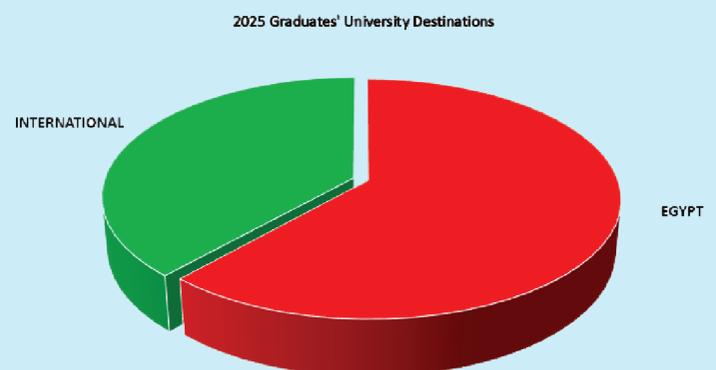
At the same time, a number of our graduates have chosen to continue their higher education here in Egypt, enrolling in top national universities.

While some students initially planned to study in the United States, the visa processing challenges last summer prompted several students to begin their studies locally, exploring the excellent opportunities in Egypt, a decision that underscores both their adaptability and commitment to their academic goals.

Regardless of where their next steps take them, we are immensely proud of all our graduates for their achievements, perseverance, and optimism in navigating an ever-changing global landscape.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! Your accomplishments inspire our entire school community.

**Ms S Caswel Ed.D - Assistant Headteacher, University and Careers Counsellor**



## EXAM RESULTS 2025: CELEBRATING SUCCESS ACROSS THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

This year's examination results once again highlight the strength of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of our families. As Cairo's leading British international school, we are proud to see our learners achieving at such a consistently high level across both the IGCSE and A Level programmes.

Our approach to teaching and learning focuses on developing confident, curious, and well-rounded young people. The results below reflect that commitment — and the hard work our students have invested throughout their school journey.

### A Level Results

Our Class of 2025 achieved an impressive set of outcomes, continuing our tradition of excellence of our Seniors.

#### A Level grade highlights:

- A\*–A: 33%
- A\*–B: 62%
- A\*–C: 83%

These achievements represent years of determination, focus and collaboration between teachers, students, and families.

#### Top A Level Performers

We are delighted to recognise the exceptional achievements of our highest-performing students:

- Karim Sameh Aboelsaad – Three A\* grades and one A
- Aly Tamer Elakkad – Three A\* grades
- Zuhair Mohamed Hassan – Two A\* grades and one A
- Mariam Karim Sharara – Two A\* grades and one A
- Ahmed Moustafa Kamal – Two A\* grades and one A



Karim Aboelsaad



Aly Elakkad



Zuhair Hassan



Mariam Sharara



Ahmed Kamal

### IGCSE Results

Our IGCSE cohort also celebrated an outstanding year, demonstrating both academic excellence and resilience.

IGCSE grade highlights:

- 9–7 (A–A): 30%
- 9–6 (A–B): 47%
- 9–4 (A–C): 78%

These results reflect the strong performance across subjects and the breadth of achievement across the year group.

#### Top IGCSE Performers

Congratulations to our highest achievers:

- Miriam Ehab Attalla – Five Grade 9s, Two Grade 8s, One Grade 7
- Gamila Ahmed Elsayed – Seven Grade 9s
- Mohamed Khaled Reda – Four Grade 9s, Four Grade 8s
- Hoda Mohamed Shabana – Four Grade 9s, Three Grade 8s

We are incredibly proud of every student who sat exams this year — each result represents effort, growth, and perseverance. We look forward to supporting our learners as they take their next steps and continue to shape their future with confidence.



Miriam Attalla



Gamila Elsayed



Mohamed Reda



Hoda Shabana

**Mr D Brindges - Deputy Headteacher, British Section**



# AMERICAN SECTION **ADVANCED PLACEMENT** (AP) SCHOLAR STUDENTS SHINE!

Each year, students in the American Section at MES Cairo challenge themselves by enrolling in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, rigorous college-level classes that prepare them for future academic success. With eighteen courses available across English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, and Technology, AP offers students the chance to explore subjects in depth and demonstrate their mastery on standardised exams administered each May.

AP exams are scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with a score of 5 indicating a student who is extremely well qualified in the subject. After the testing period, the College Board reviews all current and past AP results and recognises exceptional student achievement through three prestigious awards:

- AP Scholar: Awarded to students who score 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.
- AP Scholar with Honors: Awarded to students with 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: Awarded to students with an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

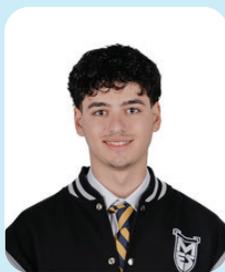
In May 2025, 134 students from the American Section sat for 273 exams across 18 different subjects. Their hard work paid off; 39 students earned recognition from the College Board for their outstanding results, achieving an impressive average AP score of 3.61.

Congratulations to the 2024–2025 AP Scholar Award Recipients!

## AP Scholars (Average Score: 3.10)



Adam Badran



Adam Mansour



Ali Kansoh



Amina Hebeika



Amina Neamatallah



Farida Waly



Hazem Abu Elfadl



Ismail Abouhussien



Joyce Merhom



Judy Badawy



Karma Abugabal



Laila Abdelwahed



Layla Morsy



Maleeka Ramadan



Muhammed Bekhehit



Omar Masoud



Seif Mahmoud



Youssef Kirollosdan

**AP Scholars with Honor (Average Score: 3.93)**



Adel Khalil



Mostafa Aly



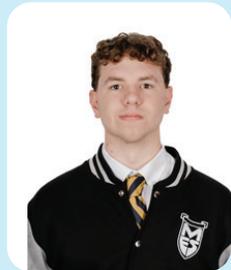
Omar Ezzat



Selim Sadek



Yaseen Fayed



Youssef Badawy



Zeyad Elshahed



Zidan Allam

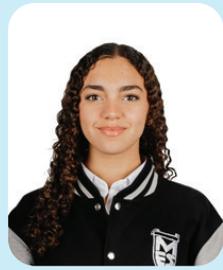
**AP Scholars with Distinction (Average Score: 4.36)**



Ahmad Touni



Amina El Mallah



Angelina Gurguis



Hussein Sabry



Jana Rabie



Laila El Moallem



Lara Elnashar



Maya El Zuhairy



Mohamed Azab



Nadine El Rashidy



Sama Arafa



Talia El Husseiny



Tia Sheta



# International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Results May 2025

It is with great pride that we share the results of our MES Cairo IB Class of 2025 students. Their achievements this year reflect not only their dedication and resilience but also the unwavering support of their teachers, families, and our wider school community.

The IB journey is not only about grades, it is about growth, perseverance, and preparing for the future. More than 202,000 students worldwide received their Diploma this summer. This marks a 4.8 percent year-on-year increase in the number of DP students. Our graduates join more than 2.7 million 'lifelong learners' across more than 150 countries where the DP is offered.

The global average DP score for the May 2025 session, drawn from 3,401 schools worldwide, is 30.58 points. ***The MES Cairo average is a very pleasing 33 points, meaning that our students achieved more than 2 points above the global average.***

Worldwide students scored an average of 4.89 per subject. At MES Cairo, the average score per subject was 5.14, which is higher than the global average per subject.

Mr Olli-Pekka Heinonen, Director General of the IB said: "I'm inspired by the dedication, resilience and compassion shown by IB students during such a complex time in the world. As IB graduates move forward into higher education, careers or service to their communities, they carry with them the competencies, values and global mindset needed to thrive and make a meaningful difference.

IB graduates leave not only with knowledge but also with the perspective and purpose to lead, serve and shape a better world. We are proud of who they are and the impact they're already making. Their results are not only a reflection of their academic ability but also of their perseverance, character, and commitment to learning. Each student has travelled their own unique journey, and today we celebrate both their achievements and their growth along the way. Such success does not come in isolation. Behind every student stands a team of supportive teachers, mentors, staff, and of course families, whose encouragement and guidance have been instrumental in helping our students reach this point. We thank you all for being part of this journey."

## IBDP Results Highlights

- Our students achieved an average score of 33 points, well above the world average.
- Students achieved over 36 points, placing them amongst the top achievers worldwide.
- Our highest score this year was 41 points.



Mostafa Abbas - 41 points  
American University in Cairo  
- Economics



Ali Fahmy - 38 points  
Sciences Po University  
in Paris - Economics



Ramy Wahib - 37 points  
University of Waterloo,  
Canada - Mechatronics



Louay El Habibi - 37 points  
Vrije University, Amsterdam  
- Psychology



Bashier Salih - 37 points  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison Computer  
Science



Malak ElSaadani - 36 points  
American University in Cairo  
Psychology



Adam ElHady - 36 points  
University of Manchester  
International Relations

These results open doors to some of the world's most prestigious universities, but more importantly, they demonstrate the power of effort and hard work. To our graduates: we are incredibly proud of you. You have carried the name of our school with distinction, and we are excited to see the next chapter of your journey unfold.

Congratulations to the MES Cairo IB Class of 2025!

**Ms S Sheehan - Headteacher, IBDP Section, Whole School Deputy Headteacher**



# IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) General Meeting

A General Meeting for all IBSEA member schools was held on Tuesday 4 November 2025 at Modern English School Cairo.

The meeting opened with a warm welcome from President Ghada Dajani, who expressed her appreciation for the ongoing support and contributions of the Executive Committee members, each of whom was introduced and acknowledged. A special welcome was also extended to all new and returning IBSEA member schools, celebrating their active participation and continued growth within the Association.

Appreciation was extended to the organising IBSEA administrative team at MES Cairo, including the IT and logistics staff, for their excellent coordination and support. Members of the administrative team gave presentations highlighting the development of the IBSEA website and social media platform and the progress of the Cluster Workshops.

## IBSEA Multi-School Workshops

The meeting then turned to the upcoming IBSEA Multi-School Workshops, which will take place as follows:

- ✔ 14–15 November 2025: MES Cairo (DP and Leadership)
- ✔ 12–13 December 2025: Hayah International Academy (MYP & PYP)
- ✔ 23–24 January 2026: MES Cairo (PYP)

Members were reminded that IBSEA membership provides schools with a valuable opportunity to access face-to-face IB teacher training in Cairo, eliminating the need for international travel.

Following the previous General Meeting, seven Heads of Schools collaborated to design workshops aligned with member schools' needs and IB professional development requirements. It was announced that David Arungen, IBO Professional Development Delivery Coordinator, now planned to visit Cairo and participate in the first workshop at MES Cairo. Mr Arungen explained that these would be the largest IB PD events of this nature ever to be held in the region and indeed some of the largest to be hosted in the world.



EMPOWERING VOICES

# THE SOUND OF LEARNING

## IBSEA Annual Conference 4–6 December 2025

The theme of this year's IBSEA Annual Conference is Empowering Voices: The Sound of Learning, which emphasises the importance of collaboration, active listening, and effective communication.

President Ghada Dajani shared the anticipated highlights of the conference, including a welcome address by

**His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdel Latif  
and the attendance of  
Dr. Maya Morsy, Minister of Social Solidarity.**

IB representatives confirmed to attend and give a variety of presentations include:

- ✓ Mr Jean-Christophe Goris, Head of Development (Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, AEM)
- ✓ Ms Dominique Turner, IB Development and Recognition Manager
- ✓ Dr. Kawther Saa'd Al-Din, IB Development and Recognition Manager and longstanding supporter of IBSEA

Ms Dajani also announced the participation of several overseas IB Associations from Jordan, Lebanon, and the Caucasus & Central Asia, alongside details of this year's exhibitors and IBSEA partners for 2025–2026.





## CAST Committees (Creativity, Activity, Service, TOK)

Exciting developments within the IBSEA community include the formation of four sub-committees, each led by an IBSEA Executive Committee member at their respective schools:

- ✔ Creativity: Hayah International Academy
- ✔ Activity: New Vision International School
- ✔ Service: Global Paradigm International School
- ✔ TOK (Theory of Knowledge): Green Land Pré Vert International School



Representatives from each host school spoke with passion about their committee's early initiatives, outlining their vision and future goals. The committees aim to foster collaboration and student engagement across Egypt, with the shared purpose of making a positive impact on local and global communities.

### The IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) has been recognised as an official organisation by the Egyptian Government

Since its inception in 2020, the IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) has grown from a small collective of like-minded IB educators meeting to share expertise, into a thriving organisation that continues to expand. This year marks a major milestone in IBSEA's journey as it has been officially recognised as a legal entity by the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity, a testament to the credibility, dedication, and impact of our IB World School community.

Today, over 50 IB schools across Egypt are proud members of the Association, united in their commitment to promoting the IB Mission. Our shared passion for IB Education continues to drive collaboration, professional development, and innovation across our PYP, MYP and DP Programmes.

We are also thrilled to announce the second annual IBSEA Conference, themed **Empowering Voices: The Sound of Learning**, which promises to be our largest yet. The event will bring together over 1,500 IB educators, alongside over forty partner exhibitors, as well as visiting Associations and IB representatives from across the region and beyond.

Our growth has also resonated globally. During the IB Global Conference in The Hague, our President was asked to present a session about IBSEA's success; offering guidance to other Associations.

As IBSEA continues to evolve, we remain committed to collaboration for the continued advancement of IB education across Egypt. The future is bright and it is one we are building together.

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

# IBSEA holds IB Multi-School Workshops (MSWs) at MES Cairo A New Era of IB Professional Learning in Egypt



MES Cairo was proud to host the first in a groundbreaking series of IBSEA IB Multi-School Workshops (formerly known as Cluster Workshops), offering an invaluable opportunity for IB educators across Egypt to come together for high-quality, face-to-face professional learning and certification. The November workshops welcomed over 100 participants from more than 20 IB schools, creating a vibrant professional learning environment on campus. Ten workshops ran across a variety of disciplines, ranging from DP subjects to the IB Core, as well as a parallel strand of leadership workshops for Coordinators, Administrators, and Programme Leaders.

The outstanding sessions combined strong pedagogical grounding with practical strategies suited to the needs of IB classrooms across Egypt. The tone throughout was supportive and forward-looking, reminding participants of the shared mission at the centre of IB education: developing inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people.

This event was especially meaningful because, for many schools and teachers, access to face-to-face IB training has long been difficult, whether for financial, logistical, or travel-related reasons. Hosting Multi-School Workshops in Egypt allows teachers to receive world-class development close to home, accessing training that directly benefits students and strengthens whole-school practice. Participants expressed deep appreciation for finally having local professional learning of this calibre.

The organisation of the event was impeccable, thanks to the tireless efforts of the IBSEA team, whose meticulous planning and warm hospitality ensured that participants felt supported from start to finish. From registration and campus logistics to catering, signage, and resources, the entire weekend reflected exceptional professionalism and teamwork.

The second round of IB Multi-School Workshops will take place at Hayah International Academy (HIA) on the 12 - 13 December, followed by a third round at MES Cairo in late January. A fourth set of workshops is already being planned for May.

Along with other IBSEA schools, MES Cairo looks forward to hosting more IBSEA MSWs as the Association continues to serve as a hub for professional growth in Egypt.

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



# IB Global Conference, The Hague 2025

## Our Humanity, Connected

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Global Conference 2025, held in The Hague, brought together thousands of passionate IB educators, leaders, and innovators from across the world; all united under the inspiring theme “Our Humanity, Connected.”

Representing both MES Cairo and the IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA), Ms Ghada Dajani, Managing Director of MES Cairo and President of IBSEA, attended the event alongside Ms Suzanne Sheehan, Headteacher of the IB Section. Together, they joined colleagues from across continents to explore how IB education continues to transform lives, empower learners, and foster meaningful global connections. They were invited to be interviewed by the IB, with Ms Ghada featuring prominently as she spoke proudly about her experience on the promotional video that was shared across the IB social media pages.

The conference opened with an inspiring address from the IB’s Director General, who reminded delegates that “learning happens between the learner and the world.” This statement set the tone for a weekend rich in reflection, innovation, and collaboration - a reminder that education is most powerful when it bridges cultures, ideas, and human experience.

A highlight of the opening ceremony was the announcement of the inaugural IB Community Inspiration Award, a new annual honour that recognises outstanding individuals and groups who exemplify the IB’s mission to create a better and more peaceful world through education. This initiative celebrates the spirit of service and connection that lies at the heart of the IB community.



Throughout the conference, sessions explored themes of intercultural understanding, the power of inquiry-based learning, and the role of education in addressing global challenges. Ms Dajani and Ms Sheehan engaged in dynamic discussions with IB Association leaders from around the world and within, sharing insights from Egypt and contributing to conversations on how schools can work across borders to drive transformation and impact.



### IB Schools in Egypt Association (IBSEA) at the IB Global Conference

We were proud that IBSEA was represented at this year's IB Global Conference in The Hague by Ms Ghada Dajani, (Managing Director of MES Cairo and President of the IB Schools in Egypt Association). Together with IB educators from across the globe, she explored how our shared humanity connects us through learning and action.

Ms Ghada Dajani led a presentation at the pre conference Associations AIBWS meeting along with Mr Francesco Banchini, CEO & Director at European Azerbaijan School and Chairman of CCAIBWS. They met with leaders to share insights about running successful Associations and share ideas about how to unite their schools and engage in productive collaborations.

For MES Cairo as well as the IB Schools in Egypt Association, participation in this global gathering reaffirms a shared commitment to nurturing internationally minded learners who are ready to engage with the world with empathy, curiosity, and courage.

"Our humanity is what connects us — as educators, as learners, and as global citizens," reflected Ms Ghada. "It is this connection that inspires us to continue shaping education for a more compassionate and sustainable future."

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





# Pink Day 2025

A Celebration of Pink Power, Teamed with a Fantastic House Competition

**BAHEYA**  
**POWER IN PINK**

**On** 11 October, students and teachers joined together for our annual Pink Day fundraiser in support of the Baheya Foundation. The event was not just a day of fun and festivities, but also a heartfelt reminder of the power of community, compassion, and awareness.





This year, Pink Day celebrations were matched with House competitions, heightening the spirit and energy of the activities.

During breaks, students gathered around a variety of activity stations across the Primary and Secondary yards. The face-painting booth was a favourite, with creative designs brightening smiles everywhere. Meanwhile, the hair-spraying corner added bursts of fun; streaks of pink, silver, and sparkle could be spotted across the playground, making the day feel even more festive.

The bake sale tables were equally popular, laden with cupcakes, cookies, and pastries all lovingly prepared by students, parents, and staff.

All proceeds from Pink Day were donated to the Baheya Foundation, an incredible organisation that provides support and treatment for women who may not be able to afford care. The Foundation also engages in vital research and educational initiatives, raising awareness and empowering women across Egypt to take charge of their health.

This year's Pink Day reminded us all that small actions, whether painting a nail, buying a cupcake, or donating a few pounds can come together to create a powerful impact. The MES Cairo family showed that when we unite behind a cause, we can bring hope, joy, and make a real difference.

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





GRAND  
EGYPTIAN  
MUSEUM

يُعد المتحف المصري الكبير من أعظم المشروعات الثقافية والحضارية في مصر والعالم؛ فهو أكبر متحف أثري في العالم يضم كنوزاً خصصت لحضارة واحدة، هي الحضارة المصرية القديمة. يقع المتحف بالقرب من أهرامات الجيزة ليرسم مع أهرامات الجيزة لوحة فريدة تجمع عظمة الماضي وعبقرية الحاضر. يضم المتحف آلاف القطع الأثرية التي تروي قصة مصر عبر العصور، ومن بينها كنوز الملك توت عنخ آمون التي تُعرض كاملة لأول مرة. شارك في تصميمه وتنفيذه مهندسون وعلماء آثار مصريون بذلوا جهداً كبيراً فأصبح هذا الصرح شاهداً على إبداع المصريين قديماً وحديثاً، ولتظل مصر قادرة على إبهار العالم.

ومنذ الإعلان عن فكرة إنشاء المتحف، تناولت الصحف العالمية هذا المشروع بكثير من الاهتمام والتقدير، فقد كتبت صحيفة The Guardian البريطانية أنه "أعظم مشروع أثري في العالم الحديث"، بينما وصفت صحيفة New York Times المتحف بأنه "بوابة جديدة نحو ماضيها المجيد". كما أشادت صحيفة Le Monde الفرنسية بالروعة المعمارية لتصميمه، معتبرة أنه تحفة تجمع بين الجمال الفني والدقة الهندسية.

وبعد افتتاح المتحف، تصدّر الحدث عناوين الأخبار العالمية، حيث وصفت وكالة Reuters الافتتاح بأنه "عيد عالمي للحضارة"، بينما قالت قناة CNN إن "المتحف المصري الكبير يعيد تعريف مفهوم المتاحف في العالم".

إن المتحف المصري الكبير ليس مجرد مكان لعرض الآثار، بل هو جسر يربط الماضي بالحاضر، ورسالة فخر واعتزاز لكل مصري، تؤكد أن حضارتنا القديمة ما زالت تنير طريق الإنسانية.

وفي اليوم التالي للافتتاح العظيم، احتفل معلمو المدرسة مع الطلاب بهذا الحدث العظيم منذ الصباح، حيث استمع الطلاب إلى فقرة خاصة عن المتحف وأهم معالمه، واستكملت الاحتفالات خلال حصة اللغة العربية التي خصصت لعرض آراء الطلاب وأنشطتهم التعبيرية حول المتحف.

وقد عكس هذا الاحتفال مدى حرص المدرسة على ربط أبنائها بتاريخهم المجيد وغرس شعور الفخر والانتماء تجاه حضارتهم العريقة التي ما زالت تبهر العالم.



# المتحف المصري الكبير... فخر الماضي والحاضر



حرص قسم اللغة العربية بالمدرسة الإنجليزية على متابعة هذا الحدث العظيم مع طلابه، لما يحمله من قيمة تاريخية ومعرفية تعكس عظمة الحضارة المصرية الممتدة عبر آلاف السنين. وقد تابع الطلاب بشغف أخبار افتتاح المتحف المصري الكبير، وذلك ضمن جهود القسم لربط المناهج الدراسية بالواقع الثقافي المصري وتنمية روح الانتماء الوطني لدى الطلاب.





# Keep Egypt Warm Campaign 2025



Every year, starting early in November, MES Cairo runs the Keep Egypt Warm campaign. This wonderful campaign unites the MES Cairo family, as we help less fortunate families to gather warmth in preparation for the harsh winter months ahead. This year we are delighted to share that we have helped many more families by donating blankets and winter clothing. We are extremely grateful for the generous contributions to this worthy cause and for helping MES Cairo to spread warmth this winter.

Throughout November, collection boxes were located in the school reception area and House Points were earned for every contribution.

## Keep Egypt Warm Patchwork

In order to encourage as many blanket donations as possible, the annual live blanket patchwork project was coordinated on our sports field, adding an exciting element of anticipation, the thrill of physical exertion and a great deal of fun to the culmination of the campaign. Our enthusiastic students from KS2 and Secondary enjoyed being a part of the patchwork's creation.

Our Senior Students did us proud by arriving very early in the morning to support staff in carrying the heavy blanket bales from the storage area to the centre of the school field. They then proceeded to distribute the blankets across the vast space of the school field.

This was a demonstration of our family spirit, with MES Cairo staff and students working together for a good cause.

Driven by the simple belief that no family should face the winter cold without warmth, the campaign focuses particularly on supporting vulnerable communities in South Saeed, where the need is greatest. Each donated blanket has a clear purpose: to bring comfort, dignity, and hope to those who need it most.



The resulting patchwork, captured by a drone overhead, offered a glimpse of hope and a warm comfort to many hearts.

The whole school celebrated in a flag salute followed by the National Anthem of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Next the



blankets were cleaned, wrapped and taken to a storage centre as the first step towards their delivery to their final destination in Saeed (الصعيد).

### **IB Schools in Egypt Unite to Support MES Cairo's Keep Egypt Warm Blanket Campaign**

Our blanket campaign has taken on inspiring new momentum this year, as schools across Cairo have stepped forward to join the effort. What began as a MES Cairo community project has grown into a collaborative effort by the IBSEA Service CAST Committee involving students, parents, and educators from a group of IB schools in a shared commitment to compassion and social responsibility.

This year, several partner schools have reached out to contribute their own blanket collections, fundraising drives, and awareness activities. Their participation reflects a growing understanding that meaningful change happens when communities work together.

By joining MES Cairo in this initiative, these schools are helping to transform the campaign into a powerful example of what can be achieved when educational institutions collaborate for the common good.

As more and more blankets are gathered, laid out, washed, and delivered, they carry with them the warmth of a broader community, one that understands the importance of standing together in times of need.

MES Cairo extends heartfelt gratitude to all the schools and families who have contributed. Through unity and shared purpose, we are making a real, lasting difference.

Together, we truly can *Keep Egypt Warm*.

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



# LIBRARY NEWS



As the first term of the academic year draws to a close, it has been a busy and vibrant time in the primary & secondary libraries. Students and staff have made the most of the resources, opportunities, and events on offer. From community-building days to research trips and information literacy guidance, the libraries have been buzzing with activity.



## Pink Day in the Library

One of the term's most memorable occasions was Pink Day, a whole-school initiative to raise awareness and show support for breast cancer research and patients. The libraries became hubs of pink with displays of pink-covered books. The day gave all students, regardless of their age-group, a chance not only to dress up in pink but also to reflect on the importance of empathy, solidarity, and health awareness. The libraries' role as both a place for learning and for coming together as a community was clear throughout the day.



## Visit to the American University in Cairo (AUC)

Another highlight was the IBDP 12's trip to the American University in Cairo. Students had the opportunity to experience a university-level library environment, exploring the vast online and physical collections, using an array of valuable databases and getting a taste of what academic research looks like beyond school.

The experience at such a large and awe-inspiring library was both exciting and eye-opening. With guidance from a very experienced and knowledgeable AUC librarian, students practised locating sources and using online databases. They were able to compare the university library's systems with those in our own school, gaining confidence in their ability to navigate research tools and the plethora of databases available.

The trip was not only practical but also inspiring. Our IB students returned with a clearer understanding of how research skills connect directly to their future studies and careers. Many commented that the visit gave them a glimpse of what life as a university student might be like, sparking both motivation and curiosity.



Lara Elokda (Y11R) "I like coming to the library since it is quiet and I feel like I can enjoy my work or wind down during study halls, where I need a peaceful space to study in."

Mariam Hassan (Y11Y) "I enjoy coming to the library because it is very peaceful and I can always find time to study in it."



## Information Literacy Sessions

Returning to school, in Primary, students have been learning to live in harmony through literature, whilst trying to understand morality through stories & their friendships. In KS1, their lessons included learning parts of a book (cover, spine, author contents page etc.), how to take care and being responsible for their books as well as enjoying engaging stories and rhymes, Pete the Cat being an absolute favourite.

In KS2, students have been very creative writing their own stories, some even being shared and read to KS1 students! The Primary libraries both enjoy rewarding the 'Stars of the Week' with a quintessential tea party.

Meanwhile the Secondary library team has been busy running short, snappy information literacy sessions within the students' usual library slots. These sessions are designed to equip students with the skills they need to succeed academically, not just this year, but throughout their education. Students have practised using library databases and catalogues, learning how to search more efficiently and how to distinguish between trustworthy and less reliable sources. The sessions have been interactive, with activities that challenged students to test their critical thinking skills in real-world scenarios.

Winnie Mohamed Robb (Y1G) "I like the library because I like stories and it makes me calm. I liked the story 'MIXED' as we were divided into teams and loved it when all the characters lived together again."

Sophie Mina Fahmy (Y2G) "Our Library is colourful, calm and we have amazing books to borrow. I also like it when Ms. Nancy reads us stories and we sing nice songs."

Alfred Daniel Dawes (Y6Y) "It's quiet and I've got a lot of books, I have got my own time by myself"

Giamila Elsayed (Y11G) "When I open a book, I am transported into an alternative world where my dreams have the possibility of becoming a reality."



Adam Aboueita (Y7Y) "I feel that the library is much bigger and has a bigger selection of books."

## Looking Ahead

As we reflect on Term One, it is clear that the libraries continue to play a central role in the academic life of the school. The libraries are much more than just rooms full of books, they are spaces for growth, curiosity, and connection.

We look forward to Term Two, where more events, workshops, and opportunities await. The library teams are already planning new initiatives to support students' research, reading, and wellbeing, including theme days based on literature, celebrations and understandings of Ramadan. In the meantime, we thank all students and staff for making Term One such a lively and inspiring start to the year.

Sophia (Y3G) "I like the Arabic part in the Library and the search website on Follett"

Sarah Abaelhasson (Y8Y) "Reading is a portal to another world. What better way to escape than to go to the library? Something for everyone, a place for everyone!"

Omar Ahmed (G8B) "The secondary library is a great and calming place to study. It has a wide selection of books to read as well as spaces to study, relax and get away from louder environments."

# The Grade 7 Journey Begins

Moving into Middle School represents a major step, a transition toward greater independence, new responsibilities, and deeper academic exploration. The entire Secondary team is thrilled to welcome these students as they launch this exciting chapter in their educational careers.



## Setting the Course: Meet the Team and Embrace the 'Pathways'

The school year kicked off with a mandatory, high-energy Middle School Assembly, which formally welcomed the new Grade 7s and introduced them to the dedicated team steering the Secondary section. The students met Mrs Pfeil (American Section Principal), Ms Edmond (Vice Principal), the Grade 7 Homeroom Teachers led by Ryan Bielby and Ms Sedika (Grade 7-8 Administrative Officer).

The key theme for this academic year is Pathways, a concept designed to help students understand the wide range of opportunities and choices available to them in Secondary. Ms Williams emphasised that the choices and habits students establish now are crucial, as they will define their future paths. The team set clear behavioral and academic expectations rooted in the P.R.I.M.E. elements: being Prepared, Reliable, displaying Integrity, being Mindful, and committing maximum Effort. This framework is essential for fostering a successful and productive learning environment.

## A Taste of Grade 7: Back To School Event

Understanding the world of Secondary can be a challenge for parents, too, which is why the annual Back to School event for Grade 7 parents was a huge success. This was an engaging afternoon where parents got to sample life in Grade 7 by following a rotation schedule.

Just like their children, parents moved from class to class, sampling mini-lessons across the core curriculum areas. Led by the Grade 7 Homeroom teachers, they participated in activities in Math, Social Studies, English, Science, and World Languages. This unique structure gave parents an invaluable, hands-on appreciation for the varied academic rigor and the physical demands of navigating the Secondary schedule.



## The Big Leap: Features of Secondary Life

The differences between Primary and Secondary are significant, and the Grade 7 students are mastering them with grace. They have quickly adjusted to the foundational Secondary routine: starting the day in Homeroom for important announcements and community building, and then moving to specialized classrooms for every single lesson.

Perhaps the most iconic symbol of this new independence is the locker. Students are now responsible for managing their books, supplies, and materials throughout the day, a key lesson in organisation and time management. Academically, the curriculum is broadening with new subjects like Design and Technology and Drama, and students are enjoying a World Languages elective (French or Spanish). In Science, they are moving beyond theory to exciting, practical instruction conducted in the laboratory. Their academic output is measured through a structured grading system that tracks progress on quizzes, homework assignments, tests, and class participation, giving them clear feedback on their academic effort.

## A Positive Momentum

We are genuinely proud of the adaptability and maturity our Grade 7 students have displayed. The Middle School Team has been especially delighted by the number of Positive Behaviour Referrals already earned, a clear indicator of the students' commitment to the P.R.I.M.E. expectations. These positive reports have been warmly received by parents, underscoring the strong and successful partnership between the school and home.

This positive start has given the Middle School Team tremendous motivation. We are excited about the many great opportunities ahead, including various special events, extracurricular activities, and the much-anticipated annual Week Without Walls experience. The energy is high, the expectations are clear, and the pathways are open, we know this will be an extraordinary year for our new Secondary students.



Ms C Williams - Assistant Headteacher

# Shine on Middle School!

Every day, our Middle School halls are filled with students learning, laughing, and growing, but what happens beyond the classroom walls is just as inspiring. Many of our students shine in ways that go far beyond schoolwork, and it is time to celebrate the incredible things they are doing out in the world.



**Take Isabelle Morgan (G7B)** for example. She is an accomplished pianist whose music fills any room with joy. She can perform famous pieces such as Für Elise and *The Pink Panther* with skill and confidence, showing a true passion for her craft



**Retal Ayoub (G7B)** impressed everyone by winning first place in Inktober, a creative writing competition that challenges participants to write and draw based on daily prompts. Her imagination and dedication to storytelling are truly inspiring.



**Sophia Shehata (G7R)** is creating beautiful works of art. Her drawings show not only artistic talent but also patience, focus, and a wonderful sense of creativity.



**Talia Abdelrahman (G7B)** shines on the gymnastics floor as a celebrated rhythmic gymnast. Her grace, strength, and discipline make her performances both elegant and powerful, a reflection of her hard work and determination.



**Yassin Abdelkader (G7B)** shows passion and excellence in horse jumping, where he has earned recognition as a skilled jumper. His bond with his horse and his courage in every jump demonstrate true sportsmanship.



**Ayla Samy (GR80)** is a superstar in football and a proud member of the Aimz Football Academy, where she continues to develop her physical strength, coordination, and sportsmanship, as well as important emotional skills like teamwork, resilience, and confidence.



Each of these students reminds us that learning doesn't stop when the school day ends. Whether through music, art, writing, sports, or performance, they are showing us what it means to follow your passions and never stop growing.

So, to all our amazing middle schoolers, keep reaching for your goals and sharing your talents with the world. You make our community proud. Keep shining on, Middle School!

**Ms L Rodriguez - Grade 8 Spanish, Secondary American Section**

**Mr R Bielby - Grade 7 Social Studies, Secondary American Section**

# Students of the Month



## Celebrating the Power of Choice and Living with Honor

At our school, we have long celebrated our students' achievements and character through the Student of the Month programme. Remember the thrill of "Star Student" days? That feeling of recognition for something uniquely you, whether it is your academic accomplishments, infectious enthusiasm, or acts of kindness. We believe that every student deserves recognition, not just for grades, but for the choices they make each day that shape who they are becoming.

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

- **Own their academic journey:** Demonstrating a strong work ethic, consistent effort, and a genuine desire to learn.
- **Embrace empathy and compassion:** Fostering a supportive and positive environment, lifting others up and treating everyone with respect.
- **Take risks and explore:** Stepping outside comfort zones, embracing new challenges, and showing creativity.

**Habits, Patterns, and the Future You :** Your brain thrives on patterns; it craves routines and consistency. Every time you repeat a behaviour, your brain begins to expect it, reinforcing that pathway. That is how habits are formed, not in seven days, but through repetition, decision after decision. Every time you choose kindness, focus, or perseverance, you are training your brain and shaping your future self. Your feelings may change every hour. But your choices? They are designing who you are becoming.

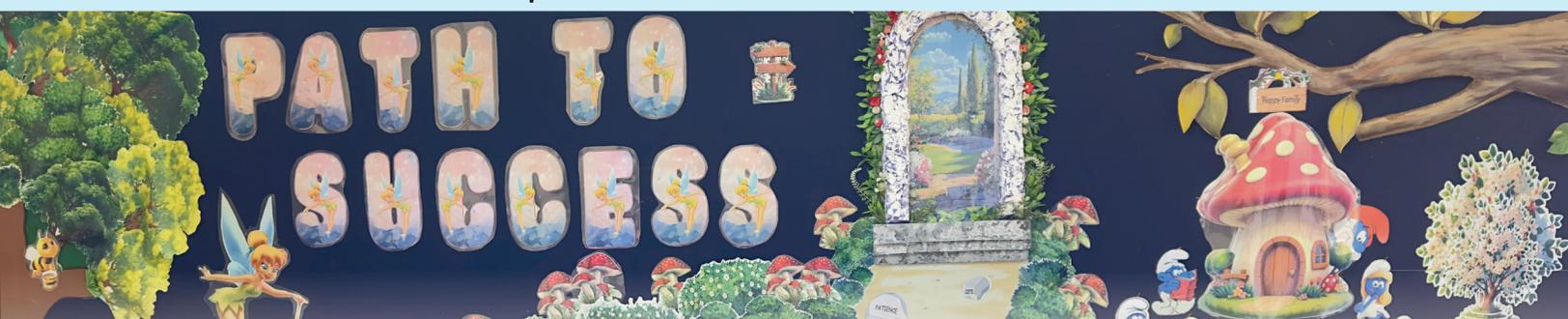
**Stepping Outside Ourselves:** Both honor and choice challenge us to look outward, to see and appreciate others actively. True honor means moving from silent admiration to active appreciation: a kind word, a quick note, or a simple smile that says, "I see you, and I value you." And every time you make that choice—to notice someone else—you're reinforcing the kind of person you want to be.



**Looking Ahead:** Being nominated as Student of the Month is more than a title; it's a reflection of the thoughtful choices a student makes every day, choices that show integrity, empathy, effort, and care for others. So as we celebrate this year's honorees, remember: Life is the sum of your choices. Each moment is a chance to design your future self.

Keep choosing kindness. Keep choosing effort. Keep choosing honor. Because every choice matters.

Ms D Pfeil - American Section Principal



## MES Cairo Learning Development Department (LDD) in the

## Secondary American Section: Half Term Highlights!

The first half of the term has been an eventful and productive period for the MES Cairo Secondary Learning Development Department. Our focus has been on assessment, growth, and celebrating the values that lead our students along the Path to Success.

A special mention goes to Ms M Farag and Ms H Wadie for creating the beautiful new display board that captures our department's core philosophy the Path to Success. The display highlights the stepping stones

that guide students on their journey: **Preparation, Resilience, Effort, Patience, Discipline, Consistency, Enthusiasm, Perseverance, and Care**. Each word reflects an essential quality we seek to instill in our learners, reminding everyone that success is built step by step.

### The Path to Success: Building Strong Foundations

Success does not happen by chance — it is built step by step through intentional habits and attitudes. Each of the Steps to Success displayed on our new board represents a quality that every student can learn and strengthen over time.

- **Preparation** means being ready to learn — arriving with the right materials, having reviewed notes, and approaching each lesson with focus. Preparation sets the stage for confidence and achievement.
- **Resilience** is the ability to recover from challenges and setbacks. When students face difficulties, resilience helps them stay motivated and try again, knowing that progress often comes after persistence.
- **Effort** is the fuel that drives improvement. Natural talent is valuable, but consistent effort is what turns potential into performance. Every small action matters.
- **Patience** teaches students that learning takes time. Mastery does not come overnight, understanding deepens with steady practice and reflection.
- **Discipline** is about self-control and commitment. It means sticking to goals, even when distractions appear, and following through with responsibilities.
- **Consistency** reinforces discipline. Success comes from doing the right things regularly, not occasionally. Even modest daily progress leads to long-term growth.
- **Enthusiasm** adds joy and energy to learning. When students approach tasks with curiosity and positivity, they are more engaged and creative in their thinking.
- **Perseverance** is the steady determination to keep going when things get tough. It is the quality that transforms effort into accomplishment.
- **Care** underpins them all, caring for oneself, for others, and for one's work. It creates a culture of kindness, respect, and pride in what we do.

Together, these stepping stones guide our learners toward success not only in their studies but also in their personal growth. Each step can be practised and strengthened daily, reminding us that excellence is a journey that begins with a single step in the right direction.

### MAP Testing: Tracking Achievement, Guiding Improvement

In recent weeks, MAP testing has taken place for students in Grades 7–9, under the careful organisation of Ms M Hanno. This three-part assessment, which measures student progress in reading, language usage, and mathematics, provided valuable insights into each student's academic development. It was certainly a busy time for both students and teachers, and we are proud of the focus and effort demonstrated throughout the testing period.

Through MAP testing results, teacher referrals, and special forms of assessment, the department is also currently in the process of identifying students with outstanding academic abilities. Those who demonstrate exceptional performance will soon receive invitations to join the Gifted and Talented Programme, led by Ms Terry. This initiative aims to challenge and nurture our high-achieving learners, helping them reach their full potential.

As we move into Term Two, we look forward to continuing our mission to support every student in achieving their personal best academically, emotionally, and beyond.

### Ms M Terry- LDD/English Inclusion Teacher



## Making Memories, Making a Mark: A Service-Filled Nile Adventure for Year and Grade 9!

It is with a heart full of wonderful memories that I share an update on the incredible adventure our Year and Grade 9 students (the amazing Class of 2029!) recently embarked on. We set sail on a magnificent Nile cruise to Luxor and Aswan, and honestly, as one of the staff members lucky enough to join them, I can truly say this trip was pure magic! The stories, the laughter, and the positive impact it had on every single student are something I'll cherish forever. It was a journey that truly left its mark, and I know it will stay with our students for a very long time.

### Stepping into Ancient Luxor

Our adventure began with an early flight to Luxor, where we literally stepped straight into ancient times! The colossal Karnak Temple just left us all in awe, imagining pharaohs walking those grand avenues, surrounded by giant pillars and old writings, was incredibly powerful. We learned so much more about the past at the Luxor Museum, seeing priceless treasures up close.

As the sun set, the majestic Luxor Temple glowed, creating such a magical feeling. After that, we loved exploring the busy Touristic Luxor Market, which was a delightful burst of colours, smells, and friendly faces! Our time in Luxor also included unforgettable visits to the famous Valley of the Kings, where students pondered ancient beliefs, and the stunning Hatshepsut Temple, a true symbol of strong female leadership.

### Exploring Aswan: History, Heart, and Culture

Our journey then continued south to Aswan, where we first explored its other significant historical sites. Students visited the unique Kom Ombo Temple, learned about modern ingenuity at the Aswan High Dam (a true engineering wonder), and admired the calm beauty of Philae Temple.

But the real heart of our journey, and what filled me with the most immense pride, truly came alive in Aswan. Here, our students showed such incredible kindness and helpfulness. A very important stop was our visit to the Magdy Yacoub Heart Foundation. Our students did not just observe; they became active helpers and brought so much joy to the young children there and their families! With such warmth and enthusiasm,





they created handmade crafts, including drawing bright paintings, crafting sweet messages of hope, making colourful flags, weaving pretty bracelets, and putting together thoughtful gift bags for the young patients and their families at the hospital. Witnessing their direct interactions, the big smiles they created, and the genuine kindness they showed was profoundly heartwarming. This experience taught them deeply about community service and truly inspired them to help others in the future, just like Professor Sir Magdy Yacoub's wonderful vision.

Another big highlight was our cultural immersion in the Nubian Village. We started with a very special visit to a Nubian school, where our students had the wonderful chance to meet and play with local children and even learn some basic phrases in the beautiful Nubian language! Exploring the vibrant village afterwards was hot but incredible! Students enjoyed walking through the lively local market and spotting unique crafts. We also had the pleasure of tasting delicious local food, including the traditional Fateer. Amidst all this, our students eagerly participated in a community service activity with the village children. These moments of shared activity, learning, and cultural exchange deeply enriched their understanding and appreciation for diversity, truly showing the power of connecting with others.

Beyond these profound experiences, our students also had exciting opportunities to explore local commerce and craftsmanship. We visited a lively spice market in Aswan, where the air was filled with exotic aromas. They also explored an alabaster factory, watching skilled artisans transform raw stone into beautiful art. These visits were fantastic chances for students to practice their negotiation skills and bargain with vendors as they thoughtfully bought special gifts for their families and friends, a truly authentic cultural exchange!

One evening, as the sun began its glorious descent, painting the sky with breathtaking colours, we had a truly unforgettable experience. Our students sailed on a traditional felucca (a beautiful sailboat) to a different local Nubian village. There, they had another wonderful chance to connect with the community, playing games with the village children and experiencing their warm hospitality firsthand. These moments of fun and genuine connection were absolutely priceless!

### **Bonding and Fun on the Nile**

And beyond all our incredible excursions and heartfelt service, the evenings on the cruise were just as magical and truly cemented unbreakable bonds. One night, our students got to dress up in vibrant traditional galabeyas for a lively party, filled with music and so much laughter! On another evening, we transformed the deck into a cozy outdoor cinema for a movie night, complete with popcorn and snacks under the stars. These special times allowed everyone to relax, share stories, and simply enjoy each other's company. It was during these moments that deep friendships were made, and memories that will truly last a lifetime were created amongst them.

### **Reflecting on the Journey**

Throughout our adventure, our students were busy documenting their experiences in special reflection journals. These weren't just notebooks; they were personal memory books filled with their thoughts, feelings, and incredible photos, capturing every moment of their learning journey.

The Luxor and Aswan Cruise was a truly life-changing experience for our amazing Year and Grade 9 students. They didn't just see Egypt's famous places; they felt its rich history, its warm culture, and its kind people. They came back with minds full of new knowledge, hearts full of understanding and kindness, and a stronger desire to make the world a better place.



### **Our Deepest Thanks**

My biggest thanks goes out to everyone who made this possible: to the dedicated team at WellSpring Expeditions for their exceptional organization and professionalism; to our incredible chaperones who guided and cared for our students every step of the way; to all the parents for your trust and support in making this invaluable experience a reality; and most importantly, to our incredible Year and Grade 9 students – thank you for being so curious, so caring, and so inspiring. You truly made this trip incredible.

**Ms S Taha - Dean of Students G7-9, American Section**





## IB Team Building and Bonding Day at Melahy Fun Park

Our IB students kicked off the year with an unforgettable Team Building and Bonding Day at Melahy Fun Park. The day was packed with energy, laughter, and a sense of adventure as students and teachers alike enjoyed the rides, shared lunch together, and even tested their balance on the ice rink.

From the very start, the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement. Students cheered each other on during the thrilling rides, encouraged one another to try new activities, and demonstrated the IB spirit of collaboration and open-mindedness. It was not only the students showing their enthusiasm; Mr Moumen and Mr Romiewicz were right in the middle of the action, proving that you're never too old for rollercoasters! By the end of the day, it was hard to tell who had more fun—the teachers or the students.



Beyond the fun, the event had a deeper purpose: to help our new Diploma Programme students develop key attributes of the IB Learner Profile. The experience strengthened their communication and social skills as they built new friendships and connected across year levels. The challenges of ice skating and team activities encouraged risk-taking and resilience, while reflecting on the day's highlights helped students become more reflective and aware of their personal growth.

Most importantly, the trip fostered a strong sense of community and international-mindedness, reminding everyone that learning extends far beyond the classroom. The day at Melahy Fun Park was more than just a break from routine—it was the perfect start to a journey of collaboration, confidence, and shared success for our IB learners.

## IB Extended Essay Workshop

### Focus, Progress and Inspiration

Our IBDP Year 12 students recently took part in an excellent and engaging Extended Essay (EE) Workshop, a key milestone in their Diploma Programme journey. The day was filled with purposeful activity as students made real progress on their essays, meeting with their supervisors to refine research questions, analyse sources, and strengthen their arguments.

The atmosphere in the LMC was one of concentration and collaboration. Students worked independently yet supported one another, demonstrating the IB Learner Profile attributes of being enquirers, thinkers, and communicators. Each conversation with a supervisor pushed their critical thinking further, helping them reflect on their research process and make informed academic decisions.





# The IB Times

## International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme - IBDP News



A big thank you goes to Ms Handley for preparing the LMC so effectively and creating such a productive learning environment, and to Mrs Dawes, whose excellent organisation and enthusiasm ensured the workshop ran smoothly and that every student received valuable support.

The range of Extended Essay topics was particularly impressive reflecting the diverse interests and intellectual curiosity within our IB cohort. Whether delving into global issues, literature, or the sciences, students are clearly embracing the challenge of independent inquiry that the EE demands.

As a central element of the IB Diploma Core, the Extended Essay encourages students to become more reflective and principled learners, capable of managing their time, conducting rigorous research, and expressing ideas with academic integrity. This workshop was not just a step forward in their essays, but an important step in their development as lifelong learners ready to tackle complex ideas with confidence and purpose.

### **Building Knowledge, One Brick at a Time in TOK**

Our DP11 students recently took part in an innovative and thought-provoking Theory of Knowledge (TOK) lesson using LEGO to explore how we construct and perceive reality. Through this creative activity, students were challenged to build representations of both 'accepted knowledge' and their 'self', prompting deep reflection on how personal and shared understandings shape the way we see the world.

The lesson drew inspiration from Erving Goffman's sociological classic "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life", encouraging students to consider how we consciously and unconsciously present different versions of ourselves depending on context. As students compared their LEGO models, they questioned to what extent our identities and beliefs are authentic or constructed by societal expectations.

The session perfectly embodied the IB Learner Profile traits of being reflective, open-minded, and thinkers, while also engaging with key elements of the TOK knowledge frameworks, particularly those related to knowledge and the knower.

By literally building their understanding, students gained a more tangible appreciation of abstract ideas—discovering that even a simple LEGO brick can become a tool for examining complex questions about truth, perception, and identity. It was a colourful and creative reminder that knowledge itself is something we all continue to construct.



### CAS CORNER

#### Diving into Adventure and Service at Marsa Alam

As the New Year approaches, our IB students are gearing up for an unforgettable CAS experience on Egypt’s stunning Red Sea coast in Marsa Alam. This four-day adventure promises to combine Creativity, Activity, and Service: the three pillars of the IB CAS programme - in one exciting learning journey.



Students will begin with a true sense of adventure, travelling along the coast before diving into team-building challenges, beach games, and cultural exploration. The trip will introduce them to the wonders of the Red Sea ecosystem, inspiring curiosity about environmental conservation and sustainability.

One of the trip’s highlights will be the Marine Conservation Sign Project, where students will design and create educational signage to raise awareness about protecting fragile beach habitats. From crafting eco-friendly messages to collaborating on design and installation, this activity perfectly captures the creative and service-oriented spirit of CAS.

Students will also engage in meaningful beach clean-ups, promoting responsibility and global citizenship by protecting marine life and local communities. For the activity element, snorkelling and marine exploration will immerse students in the Red Sea’s vibrant biodiversity, deepening their appreciation for the natural world.

More than a trip, the Marsa Alam experience is an opportunity for reflection, growth, and connection. It will allow students to embody the IB Learner Profile as caring, balanced, and reflective individuals, while building unforgettable memories that link learning to life beyond the classroom.

### IB Diploma Programme Information Session at MES Cairo

The IB Leadership Team recently hosted a well-attended Information Session for Year and Grade 10 parents, introducing the structure, benefits, and requirements of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. The event aimed to support families as they explore pathways for students entering their final two years of MES Cairo, with the IB Diploma presented as an alternative route to graduation.



During the session, parents received a clear overview of the Programme’s academic framework, including its six subject groups, core components (Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay, and CAS), and the balanced combination of breadth and depth that distinguishes the IB. Leaders highlighted how the programme develops internationally minded learners who value critical thinking, research, and global engagement; skills that prepare students not only for university, but for life.



The session also clarified entry requirements, expectations for study habits, assessment structures, and the support MES Cairo provides to ensure that students are able to thrive. Parents appreciated hearing from staff about the personalised guidance students will receive as they select courses and plan their pathways.

Enthusiasm among students is already building. Year and Grade 10 students who are considering the IB Diploma have expressed excitement about choosing their options and engaging with a programme known for challenge, independence, and discovery. As MES Cairo looks ahead to the next academic year, the school is proud to offer this world-class qualification that empowers students to reach their fullest potential.

**Mr E Macaulay - Assistant Headteacher Y/DP11 and 12**



United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust

# Faculty of Mathematics and Computing

## British and IB Sections

Congratulations to all of our participants for their outstanding achievements throughout the academic year: MES Cairo KS5 British Mathematics and International Baccalaureate students participated in the annual Senior Mathematical Challenge competition that is organised worldwide by UKMT on Thursday 9 October 2025. The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice challenge.

It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think.

Most questions are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

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

### ✓ Silver Certificate



Mohamed Reda  
(Y11R)



Yassin Boghdady  
(Y12Y)

### ✓ Bronze Certificate



Samin Haque  
(Y12Y)



Malak Nosseir  
(Y12Y)



Adam Heteba  
(IBDP12R)



Mohamed Tawfik  
(IBDP12R)



Mohammed Aboualabbass  
(IBDP12R)

# KEY STAGE 1 NEWS

This year, we welcome three new Year Team Leaders to the KS1 team. Ms Sara Samy, FS1 Year Team Leader, who has been teaching in FS1, Ms Lauren Read, who has moved from teaching in Year 6 to take on the YTL position in FS2 and to Ms Margi Victor, who has come from Qatar and joins the Year 1 team as Year Team Leader. We also welcome back Ms Mona Salama the Year 2 Year Team Leader.



Ms Sara Samy



Ms Lauren Read



Ms Margi Victor



Ms Mona Salama

Our Primary staff remain committed to ensuring all students are **Cared for, Challenged and Inspired** and will continue to reinforce the importance of our students being **Ready, Safe and Respectful** in all areas of learning; academically and socially.

## FS1

The orientation experiences provided to our FS1 students has ensured a smooth transition for our youngest students, and they have settled extremely well. Moving into Term 1b, we will continue to focus on the Prime Areas of Learning with a particular focus on Personal, Social and Emotional Development as well as Communication and Language.



## FS2

The students are adjusting to the longer day and building the stamina to continue learning until 2.50pm.

While we continue to focus on the Prime Areas of Learning, the Specific Areas of Learning become more of a focus i.e. Reading, Phonics, Writing, Mathematics, Expressive Arts and Design, and Understanding the World. These areas of learning will help students develop the skills and knowledge to move successfully into Year 1.



## Year 1

This is a major transition point for Year 1 students. Not only are they moving to a new Key Stage - from Foundation Stage to Key Stage One, they have also been 'shuffled' and therefore, have new classes. We appreciate that this is a lot of change for some of our youngest students; however, our transition experiences, that began last academic year, have ensured a smooth transition and already students have begun to develop new friendships and engage in new learning experiences that Year 1 has to offer.



## Year 2

In Year 2, the curriculum becomes more rigorous and continues to build on the knowledge and skills taught in Year 1. Students are expected to take more ownership and be more independent in their learning so they are ready for Year 3. At this age, we also expect students to be more reflective, to continue to improve their self-regulation skills and to enhance their problem-solving and conflict resolution skills.

The change to the Meet and Greet format this academic year enabled us to highlight to parents the importance of partnership between home and school.

We expect parents to fully support us in all areas of learning, particularly when it comes to behaviour. We have very clear expectations of behaviour across Primary, regardless of age or year groups. We ask all parents to support us in helping their child/ren manage their behaviour, to take responsibility for their actions and understand there are consequences for the choices they make. This will ensure all students are able to learn in a safe and respectful environment.

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

We look forward to a positive year of fun, learning, achievement and success for all students.

**Ms Catherine Readman - Headteacher KS1**



## Settling into Foundation Stage 1

The beginning of the school year is always a special time especially for our little ones in FS1. The transition from nursery to school can be very challenging. However, after just a few weeks, the children settled in to their new surroundings and started following our daily routines and procedures smoothly. Ready, Safe and Respectful is our Primary motto that we try to instill from day one. The children are showing readiness for learning by arriving on time, bringing their resources needed for school and engaging actively with their teachers and friends. They are learning to follow the rules, both inside and outside the class in order to move and play safely with others. Moreover, they are learning to show respect to everyone around them by using kind words and by listening to others.

The children are gradually showing greater independence and a sense of responsibility as members of the MES Cairo family. It is lovely to see them exploring and engaging with the Continuous Provision activities. Children's curiosity and creativity are revealed whether they are building imaginative structures with blocks, experimenting with messy play or taking on different roles in the roleplay area. The children are learning to make their own choices, work cooperatively and access the resources independently.

The parent's orientation event played a significant role in this smooth transition. Parents and children were invited to visit their new classes, meet their teachers and classmates and spend time in their new environment. This helped create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where everyone engaged together to help build confidence and trust to start the new year.

We are very happy to have such a vibrant and eager cohort and we are looking forward to watching each child grow, succeed and achieve milestones in their own special learning journey!

**Ms S Samy - FS1 Team Leader**





# FS2 News

The children in FS2 have had an exciting and engaging start to the year, filled with creativity, exploration, and learning through hands-on activities. To start the year, the classes began by reading *Colour Monsters* and *Fox in Socks*, which helped develop their language skills while fostering emotional awareness and we had a lot of fun with tongue twisters!



As autumn began, the children took part in nature walks, embracing the changes in the environment and using their five senses to explore the environment around them. This gave the children an opportunity to explore learning beyond the classroom and put their observation skills to the test. From this, the students had a fantastic opportunity to make perfume and potions in class, which encouraged them to explore their imaginative play, fine motor skills and explore nature in a way that they wanted to forward their own understanding and learning.

Whilst it was a very busy start to the year, each class also had the opportunity to work collaboratively on an art project with Ms Ruby. The individual classes created a class butterfly, using their Expressive Arts time. This was a fantastic activity for the students to display their individuality, as well as work towards a shared goal.

**Ms L Read - FS2 Team Leader**



## A SPARKLING START IN YEAR 2!

This term in Year 2, our inquiry question was “I wonder what materials are good to build a structure?” It has been an exciting journey of discovery, investigation, and creativity.

We began our topic with a teacher’s pod assembly, where we explored which materials are waterproof and which are not. The children were challenged to use their scientific knowledge to protect their teachers from the rain; a fun and memorable start to our learning.

Back in the classroom, we continued testing and observing different materials. We put our Paddington Bear in plastic cups and covered the cups with different materials, and we recorded our predictions. We tried with different materials and found out which materials kept Paddington dry and which ones did not. We shared our results and compared them with our initial predictions.

Next, we explored hard and soft materials, discussing how their properties influence the choices we make when designing or building something. This helped us think carefully about which materials are best for building strong and stable structures.

Our investigations became even more hands-on during our trip to Fagnoon. There, we worked with clay, learning how to shape, adapt, and redesign our pottery. The children reflected on the importance of timing and flexibility when creating. Sometimes things don’t go to plan, and that’s when creativity shines.

Later, we explored insulators and discussed how they affect our decisions when choosing materials to keep things warm or cool. This led us to think about the materials used to build our own homes, how different climates and temperatures influence the way houses are built around the world.

This term also included our exciting Year 2G, 2Y, and 2R assemblies, where we focused on being Ready, Safe, and Respectful. Some classes helped Paddington choose the best materials to help him survive the heavy rain in England, linking our learning in science to real-life problem-solving in a fun and creative way.

We concluded our topic with a fantastic History Day, where the children designed houses from different periods in history. They compared how homes have changed over time and how our growing knowledge of materials has helped us develop safer, stronger, and more comfortable structures.

It has truly been a sparkling start to Year 2, a term full of questions, creativity, teamwork, and discovery!

**Ms M Salama - Year 2 Team Leader**



# Year 3 News

## “New Friends, New Challenges, Endless Learning!”



This term has marked an exciting new beginning for our Year 3 students as they stepped confidently into KS2. With the reshuffling of classes, they embraced change with curiosity and optimism, quickly forming new friendships and adjusting to fresh routines. We have been truly proud of how smoothly they have settled into this new phase, showing growing independence, responsibility, and a genuine enthusiasm for learning.

From the first weeks of the term, Year 3 classrooms have been filled with energy, teamwork, and thoughtful learning. Students have worked hard to understand new expectations, build positive habits, and support one another through every challenge. They have shown great maturity in adapting to new learning styles, taking more ownership of their work, thinking deeply, and collaborating with classmates. Their ability to reflect, cooperate, and communicate effectively has created a caring and focused environment where everyone feels valued.

In Topic, students began their KS2 journey by diving into the theme of self-care, wellbeing, and the human body. They explored how the skeletal and muscular systems work together to help us move, grow, and stay strong. Through hands-on activities and investigations, they discovered how small daily habits can have a big impact on our health. Students also made meaningful links to PSHE, discussing families and the special roles family members play in supporting our physical and emotional well-being. This cross-curricular approach helped them see how learning about the body connects to understanding how to care for ourselves and others.

The unit culminated in wonderful topic projects where students worked in groups to present what they had learned. From colourful posters to creative models, their projects showed curiosity, teamwork, and pride in their learning.

In English, Year 3 explored the world of poetry and instructional writing. They began by reading and analysing different types of poems, experimenting with rhythm, language, and imagery to express their own ideas. Students enjoyed writing their own poems inspired by emotions, nature, and school life finding their unique voices as young writers.

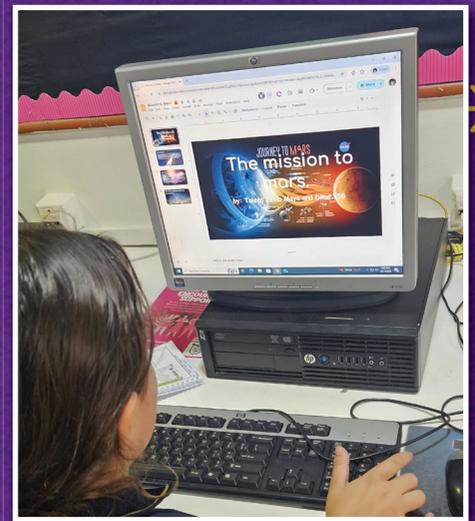
Later in the term, they shifted focus to instructional writing, learning how to organise information clearly and use precise verbs and sequencing language. The highlight of this unit was following a set of written instructions to make their own healthy sandwiches - and then enjoying them! This fun and practical task beautifully linked their English writing to their topic, learning about healthy food choices.

Across the term, Year 3 students have also had many opportunities to come together as a community. From lively class assemblies to special celebrations like Pink Day and History Day, they have enjoyed expressing their creativity, sharing their achievements, and celebrating successes. These experiences have helped build confidence, teamwork, and a strong sense of belonging across the year group.

As we look ahead, we are excited to see our Year 3 learners continue to grow as independent, reflective, and enthusiastic individuals. With their curiosity and positive attitude leading the way, there is no doubt they will make the rest of the year just as memorable and inspiring.

**Ms M Kaddoura - Year 3 Team Leader**

# YOUNG SPACE EXPLORERS REACH FOR THE STARS!



## Learning About Outer Space in Year 5

This term, our Year 5 students have been on a fantastic journey through space without even leaving the classroom. From the planets in our solar system to distant stars and galaxies, our young astronauts have been discovering the wonders of the universe.

They have built planet models, learned about the phases of the moon, and explored the pull of gravity. One favourite activity was the “Mission to Mars”, where students worked in teams to design space suits, plan a Mars habitat, and calculate supplies for a space journey.

We did not stop at Mars. Students also explored gas giants like Jupiter, with its 92 moons, and Saturn, known for its beautiful rings. During a special star gazing project, everyone created their own star maps and learned to spot constellations like Orion and the Southern Cross. They were amazed to learn that stars are actually giant suns, some even bigger than our own!

We also looked into the mysteries of black holes, which led to exciting class discussions about time travel and space adventures. Throughout the topic, students asked great questions and shared brilliant ideas some might even become future astronauts or scientists!

## Poetry, Reports, and the Power of Words

In English, students have been letting their creativity shine. They wrote all kinds of poems, including haikus, acrostics, and limericks, and even performed them in a fun Year 5 Poetry Slam, which we shared with our Year 1 rainbow buddies. Alongside poetry, students created non-chronological reports on exciting topics like planets and space



history. They learned to use headings, bullet points, and diagrams to present their research clearly and confidently. These writing projects have helped our young authors build important skills-and show off their imaginations too!

#### Maths Adventures: Place Value, Negatives, and More

In Maths, Year 5 students have been working hard on some big number challenges. They explored place value with numbers up to tens of millions, then moved on to addition and subtraction, using clever mental strategies. They also explored the chilly world of negative numbers and finished the term learning about multiples and factors, spotting patterns and number connections. What a great start to the year.

#### You are Amazing!

We are so proud of how hard Year 5 students have worked this term. From scientific thinking to creative writing and number mastery, they have taken on every challenge with enthusiasm and teamwork. Keep it up, Year 5 your learning journey is out of this world!

**Ms D Saeed - Year 5 Team Leader**



# Year 4 Musical Production - Mary Poppins

October brought a delightful burst of talent and energy to the Modern English School Cairo Theatre as our amazing Year 4 students took centre stage to perform a spectacular rendition of the beloved musical, Mary Poppins. The anticipation had been building for weeks, and the hard work of the students, along with their dedicated teachers, certainly paid off, creating a show that was truly "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!"

The vibrant performance showcased the students' diverse abilities in acting, singing, and dancing, all delivered with infectious enthusiasm and dazzling costumes. From the moment the curtains opened, transporting the audience to Cherry Tree Lane, the students were captivating. We saw confident and expressive acting, with the young cast embodying their roles, from the Banks children to the magical nanny herself, with commitment and charm.

The theatre was filled with the joyful sound of the Year 4 chorus. The singing was pitch-perfect and full of life as they delivered classic numbers like A Spoonful of Sugar and Jolly Holiday. Adding to the spectacle was the dynamic choreography, featuring coordinated movements that saw chimney sweeps clicking their heels and kites soaring high, perfectly complementing the music and story.

We thank the students for their effort, the parents for their commitment and the teachers for their skills.

**Ms S Morgan - Year 4 Team Leader**





# Year 6 Biology



This term, Year 6 students have been exploring the fascinating topic “How Are We Made for Survival?” and discovering just how incredible the human body really is.

We began our learning journey with an exciting hook activity where students travelled around all Year 6 classrooms. In each class, they explored one of the body’s vital systems: the circulatory, respiratory, skeletal, integumentary, digestive, and nervous systems. During these sessions, pupils took part in a variety of hands-on investigations, including measuring their lung capacity, making a plasticine heart, and examining skin under a microscope. It was a fantastic opportunity to be curious and take risks as scientists.

Next, students worked together to draw around their bodies and add in any organs they already knew. Some amazed their teachers by confidently naming parts of the body, such as the pituitary and thyroid glands. This activity showed how resourceful our learners could be, using prior knowledge and teamwork to build their understanding.

We then took part in a lively class debate to decide which organ is the most important. Discussions became very passionate when comparing the heart and the brain, with everyone showing excellent reasoning skills and respect for different opinions. This activity demonstrated how great at relationships Year 6 have become, listening carefully and sharing ideas thoughtfully.

Later, the focus turned to learning how the circulatory and digestive systems work together to transport nutrients, water, and oxygen through the body. Students showed real resilience when tackling complex scientific ideas, asking thoughtful questions and applying their knowledge in new contexts.

To conclude the unit, students carried out independent research into what humans need to survive and how animals and plants have adapted to their environments. Their creativity and curiosity shone through as they used a range of sources and presented their findings clearly and confidently. This was a perfect opportunity to be reflective learners, thinking about what they had discovered and how all living things are connected through the need to survive.

The Year 6 teachers were extremely proud of how enthusiastic, resourceful, and resilient the students have been throughout this topic. It has been a truly inspiring exploration into how our amazing bodies are made for survival.

**Ms S Rawlings - Year 6 Class Teacher**



# ARTBEAT

## Creativity in the British Section Art Project Highlights

### YEAR 8

Our Year 8 artists have shone this term with their enchanting **Under the Sea** project. Exploring everything from coral reefs and shipwrecks to mythical sea creatures and the vibrant ecosystems beneath the waves, students have shown exceptional imagination. Their pieces range from unusual, highly creative interpretations to more traditional representations of underwater life. The thoughtfulness in their work is impressive and I am very proud of what they have produced.



Khalid Hayel (Y8Y)



Sameh Ismail (Y8B)



Joud Agabawi (Y8Y)



### YEAR 9

Meanwhile, Year 9 students have embraced the theme of Food, Glorious Food. Their work celebrates shape, texture, and colour in inventive ways. The students' developing skills promise an exciting artistic future as they progress towards IGCSE.



Khadija Tawfik (Y9R)



Jana Aly (Y9Y)



Ali Nagy (Y9B)



Talia El-Sharkawy (Y9R)

## YEAR 10

### IGCSE

Our Year 10 students have produced remarkable pieces based on the powerful theme of Identity. Their artwork delves into the complexities of self-perception, culture, memory, and personal stories.

Using a wide range of media and an impressively bold colour palette, students have created pieces that are both visually striking and emotionally resonant. Portraiture, symbolism, and mixed-media experimentation feature strongly, with many students demonstrating mature insight and an ability to communicate intense emotion through their work. Their dedication to mastering technique and refining their ideas is evident.



Julia Sultan (Y10G)



## DP12 VISUAL ARTS

DP12 students are entering a very busy stage in their creative journey. Their art room has become a hub of ideas, experimentation, reflection, and determination as they prepare work for their Exhibition. Students are working around three central themes that they have explored in deeply personal and innovative ways: Nature, Balance, and Human Emotion.

Students are experimenting boldly with materials from traditional paint to recycled elements, natural pigments, and mixed media to echo the complexity and beauty of the world around them.

The idea of balance has challenged students to think both visually and conceptually, as students explore the delicate balance between order and chaos, modern life and tradition, self and society. Their artworks reveal mature artistic reasoning, showcasing how balance can be both a visual principle and a philosophical statement.

From pieces expressing vulnerability, resilience, and identity to works confronting grief, joy, memory, and hope, students are using art to communicate the feelings that shape their inner worlds. Their pieces are powerful in their honesty and impressive in their technical skill, showing how art can give voice to experiences that are often difficult to articulate.

Behind every finished artwork is a wealth of process: sketchbooks filled, experiments tested, techniques refined, and countless reflective notes written for their Process Portfolio and Comparative Study. The level of commitment shown by this cohort is impressive and we wish them all the best in the months ahead.

**Ms M Parr - Visual Arts Teacher, British and IB Sections**



Talia Sakr  
(DP12R)



Nelly Abdelazim  
(DP12R)



Nelly Abdelazim  
(DP12R)



Lina Motawea  
(DP12R)

# International Award

This October, a cohort of committed MES Cairo students embarked on their Bronze International Award Practice Expedition; a two-day adventure into the rugged beauty of Wadi Degla Protectorate. Led by newly appointed I.A. Coordinator Ms Reynolds and supported by a team of dedicated teacher chaperones, the trip was a milestone in students' journey toward completing the Award.

The Bronze Award encourages young people to build resilience, leadership, and independence through a structured program of physical activity, skill-building, community service, and outdoor adventure. Students spent the weeks leading up to the hike participating in after-school training sessions, and, during the trip, students worked in small groups to pitch tents, plan meals, and complete two 12-kilometre hikes across challenging terrain. From the first step on Friday morning to the final checkpoint on Saturday afternoon, participants navigated physical and mental challenges that stretched their endurance and strengthened their camaraderie.



Ahmed El Attar (G10Y) said, "I was provided with lots of support in specific situations, allowing me to enhance current skills and learn new things. Throughout my struggle, there would always be the feeling of pride and satisfaction as the reward at the end."





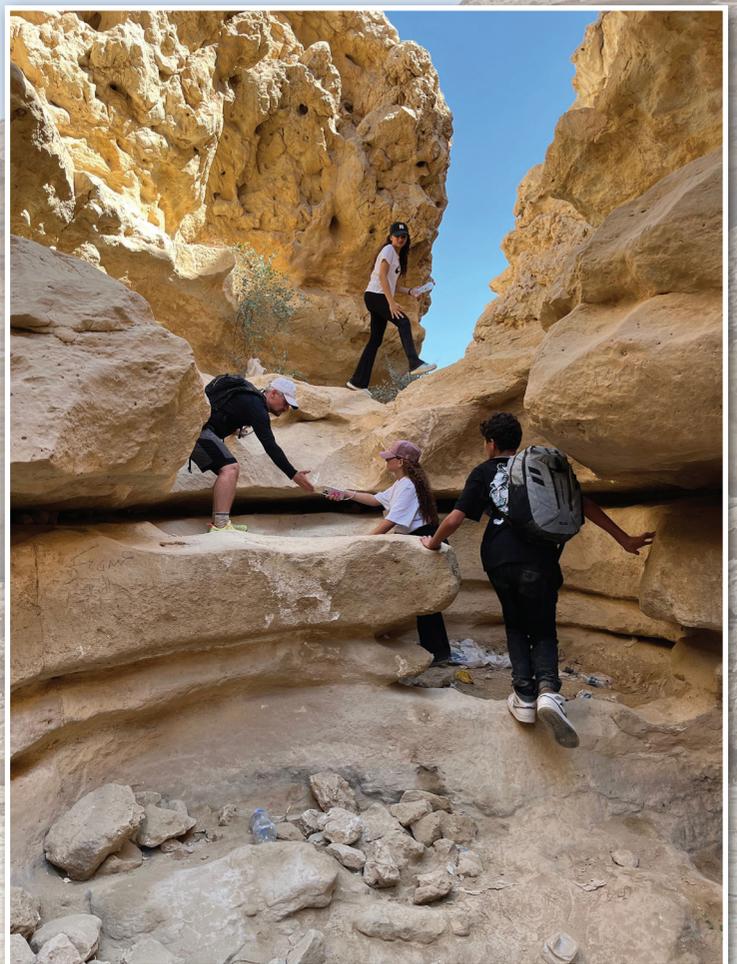
After a chilly night of camping under the stars, students rose early for day two, showing incredible perseverance and a positive attitude, even with sore feet and limited sleep. The team spirit and shared determination on display were a testament to the Award's values.

The International Award goes far beyond physical exertion. In their reflections, students repeatedly emphasised the deeper impact of the journey: strengthened friendships, improved communication, and a clearer sense of what they are capable of.

Farah Maged Kamel (G9G) said, "Even when we were tired and sore, my team helped each other through it. The hike made me feel more confident and independent."

This trip was just the beginning for these students, as they prepare for their Qualifying Expedition, and potentially the Silver Award in Cyprus. The International Award is more than a challenge, it is a transformative journey that helps young people grow and thrive.

**Ms E Reynolds - International Award Coordinator**



## Secondary Sportsdesk



It has been a wonderful half term for our Cougar Teams. As soon as school started, we were in fifth gear, conducting tryouts for the numerous teams and attending many fixtures with many more planned throughout the year. It has been a pleasure as the new Athletic Director to be leading a remarkable group of coaches who are committed to inspiring and motivating our young athletes to be the best they can be. On behalf of the whole PE team, here's looking to more future success. Congratulations on a great term!



### JUNIOR VARSITY AND VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAMS

The Varsity season is now in full swing. Although results have not always gone our way, the team's performances have improved with every game. We are incredibly proud of the grit, determination, and teamwork the players have shown on the pitch. Their commitment and growth are clear to see.

Our Junior Varsity team has also made a strong start to their season, competing in their first tournament, the BSME Games, where they finished in an impressive 3rd place. The girls displayed excellent teamwork, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Both teams have shown fantastic spirit, and we are excited to see what the rest of the season brings!

**Coaches: Conor McArdle and Euan Macaulay**



### COUGARS U13 NETBALL TEAM

The U13 Netball Squad has made an excellent start to the season, showing great energy, enthusiasm, and commitment during training sessions.



Their netball skills and game understanding are developing rapidly, reflecting their dedication and teamwork. Captain Hana Atef (G8R) and Vice-Captain Malak Saad (G8B) have been instrumental in motivating the team, fostering a positive and competitive spirit both on and off the court. With their guidance, the squad is training hard and looking forward to the upcoming fixtures with excitement and determination.

**Coach: Shelby Freeman**



## COUGARS VARSITY BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM



The MES Cairo Varsity Football programme has quickly built a solid, disciplined foundation over the last five weeks, already showing significant progress from last season. Key results include a 3-1 win against AIS and a challenging 1-1 away draw with CAC, balanced by a narrow 0-1 loss to NCBIS. This early success is rooted in the team's strong defensive structure and high-energy transitions. With three games remaining, the focus is now on adding attacking creativity to the mix without sacrificing that vital structure, ensuring the Cougars maximise their potential for a strong finish.



**Coach: Darren Collins**

## COUGARS JV AND V GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Volleyball team had their first tournament on Saturday 18 October at the International School of Choueifat. The Varsity Girls Volleyball team showed tremendous heart and competitive spirit at the recent CISSA tournament. Facing six tough schools, our athletes gave their absolute best in every rally. While they secured an excellent win in their opening match, their true grit shone through in their three close losses. The scorelines were incredibly tight, and the team consistently forced a decisive third set, winning one set in each of those tough matches. This performance is a testament to the girls' dedication, hard work, and fighting nature. They should be proud of their efforts!



**Coach: Eduardo Carbono**

## COUGARS JV AND V BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The boys' Volleyball Team had their first tournament of the year at Cairo American College on 18 September. The boys played very well with great spikes from Adam Badran. The team progressed to the semi finals with a comfortable win vs. CES, but unfortunately did not make the final and came fourth. Well done to the team and Coach Edourdo



**Coaches: Haitham Tayel and Taher Naggar**

## Secondary Sportsdesk



### COUGARS SWIMMING TEAM

The swim season is off to a fantastic start! From our first practices, it is clear that this group of swimmers brings an excellent combination of energy, teamwork, and commitment. Athletes are already demonstrating growth in both skill and confidence, and the sense of team spirit on deck has been inspiring.

One of the highlights so far has been the swim meet at CES. Seeing returning swimmers take on leadership roles encouraging new teammates, modeling good sportsmanship, and setting a positive tone for the swim event is inspiring.

Coaches have been impressed with the swimmers' focus during workouts and their willingness to challenge themselves. The early emphasis on technique, endurance, and consistency is paying off, and we are already seeing measurable improvements in times and form.

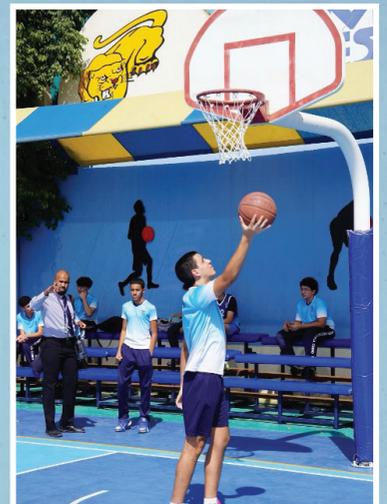
**Coaches: Laura Hamilton, Shaima Yahia and Lana Mahmoud**



### COUGARS BOYS JV AND V BASKETBALL

The Basketball Team is looking good attending regular training sessions. The main bulk of the season is in term 2 so this training will prove invaluable for our team. They are starting to gel and really improving on set basketball plays and fundamental skills. Here is looking forward to future games and tournaments! tournaments!

**Coach: Sakariye Moumen and Justin Hazel**



### COUGARS GIRLS JV AND V BASKETBALL

It is clear to see why the MES Cairo girls won the CISSA Basketball tournament last year. They have great skill and awareness as a team. They work hard and concentrate on improving their fundamental skills as well as maintaining a strong offensive and defensive shape when playing. I look forward to future fixtures for the girls' team.

**Coach: Mark Naylor**



## PRIMARY PE IN TERM ONE

It has been an action-packed and rewarding term of physical education across the school, with students from FS1 to Year 6 showing dedication, enthusiasm, and real growth in their physical skills.

In FS1, our youngest learners have been taking their first steps into structured PE. They have been developing early instructional skills by following simple directions and participating in guided movement activities. Alongside this, they have been working hard to improve their agility, balance, and coordination through obstacle courses, movement games, and playful challenges. Their confidence and independence are growing every week.

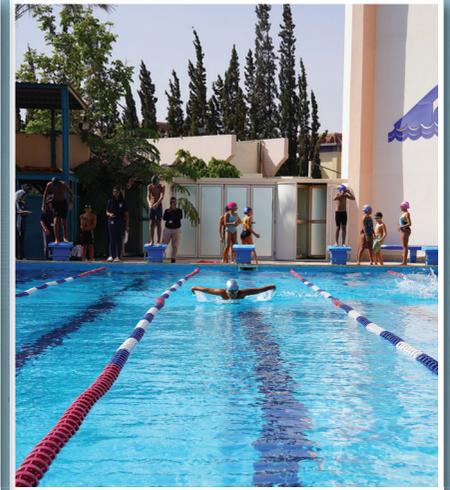
In Key Stage 1, students have been focusing on games that develop teamwork and cooperation. Through paired and group activities, they have been learning how to communicate, take turns, and make joint decisions during play. These experiences are not only improving their physical abilities but also building social skills such as leadership, respect, and encouragement.

Students in Years 3 and 4 were introduced to volleyball this term. They have been learning the fundamentals of the sport, including serving techniques, volleying, footwork, and court awareness. Many students are beginning to apply these new skills in small-sided games, demonstrating improved coordination, timing, and understanding of team roles. Their enthusiasm for trying a new sport has been fantastic to see.

In Years 5 and 6, the focus has been on swimming, and the bright sunshine has made it an even more enjoyable experience. Students have been working on stroke refinement, breathing techniques, and developing water confidence. From improving speed and stamina to mastering safe entries and floats, their progress in the pool has been impressive. Some students have even begun preparing for more advanced swimming challenges.

Across all year groups, students have shown excellent attitude, resilience, and a willingness to try new things. Their hard work this term has laid a strong foundation for further development, and we are excited to continue building their skills and confidence next term.

**Mr H Gad - Primary HOD, PE**





# RECORD TURNOUT AND IMPRESSIVE TALENT AT TEAM COUGAR TRYOUTS



This year's Team Cougar tryouts saw a record number of Primary students stepping up to compete for spots in football, basketball, swimming, and netball. From the first whistle to the final trial, the energy was high, the competition was fierce, and the commitment from every participant was clear to see.

Across all sports, students showcased not only impressive skill but also outstanding sportsmanship. Players encouraged their peers, showed respect for coaches, and gave every drill and activity their all. Whether it was a precise jump shot, a lightning swim lap, a strategic pass, or a determined sprint down the field, each athlete left a strong impression.

The coaches had the especially challenging task of selecting the final squads. With so much talent on display, making the final decisions was incredibly difficult. Every student who tried out should feel proud of the effort, discipline, and teamwork they demonstrated throughout the process.

A big congratulations goes out to those who earned a place on the teams; your hard work has paid off, and we cannot wait to see what you do this season. For those who were not selected this time, we are equally proud of your dedication. We encourage you to keep training, stay involved, and come back even stronger next year! Progress comes from persistence, and we are excited to see how you grow.

Now, with teams selected, attention turns to the upcoming competitive season. Training is already underway as Team Cougar prepares for CISSA and BSME competitions. Coaches and athletes alike are eager to build on this strong start and carry the momentum forward.

With such passion and promise across all sports, this season is shaping up to be one of the most exciting yet for Team Cougar.

**Mr H Gad - Primary HOD, PE**



# MESmerised





# MESmerised





# MESmerised



**MESsenger 77 Team**  
Ms E Mahmoud, Ms N Wishah, Mr A Samir  
Mr M Ali, Ms S Sheehan and Ms S Handley  
With special thanks to Mr Sherif Mohy for Design



New Cairo, South of Police Academy

Hotline: 19836

Website: [www.mescairo.com](http://www.mescairo.com)

E-mail: [mescairo@mescairo.com](mailto:mescairo@mescairo.com)

Mailing address: P.O.Box 5, New Cairo, Tagamoa Khamis, 11835, Cairo, Egypt