

Newsletter

Hello Again!

The first batch of students arrive on Tuesday 15th September to new ways of doing things. Unfortunately these are now part of our daily routines until the pandemic is under control. Forsan British School is a large school with wide corridors, big classrooms and plenty of space but still we took no risks. In Years 1—12, only half the pupils were in classes on any given day, the other 50% of children stayed at home for online lessons.

We began online lessons in the middle of March when the Ministry of Education closed all schools because of the virus. Amazingly our teachers quickly adapted to this new way of teaching so we could complete the curriculum by the Summer holidays. The examination classes were taught throughout the Summer vacation in order to prepare them for their external exams.

Around the world, Covid-19 created major problems for schools and universities especially for those depending on their results. Forsan British School was lucky in that it continues to attract good numbers of new pupils and this year recruited twenty more new teachers. On top of that we had our best exam results yet.

It would be foolish to say everything is back to normal. We must maintain strict health and safety restrictions until the virus is not a threat anymore. One of the sad outcomes of these measures is the reduction of extra-curricular activities such as trips, clubs, events, group sessions and assemblies.

We are all glad to be back to school again. Thank you parents, pupils, teachers and everyone else for their patience, understanding and support.



Inside this issue

A Global Shadow.....	2
WHO Club	2
Science Fair 2020	3
El Alamein Trip.....	3
National Studies.....	3
Leadership Course	4
Raising Standards.....	4
Community Spirit	4
Summer School.....	5
Academic Awards	5
Welcome Back	6

"We don't develop courage by being happy every day. We develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity."— Barbara De Angelis



A Global Shadow!



Covid-19 was a new word for many of us who have allowed our conscience to forget SARS and MERS viruses that have plagued us in previous years. We believed that our scientific and technological advancements in the 21st century would help us prevent these types of things happening to us again with such shocking results globally.

Ironically it was our own ease of access to air and sea travel that helped spread Coronavirus around the world. I don't mind admitting that I was very worried about the spread and effects this virus were having on the life that I took for granted. The quote below reminds us that in the end, we are quite frail beings existing in a nature that we are responsible for dangerously altering.

I do believe some good things did emerge from this global shadow:

- * Countries realized that they cannot act alone in solving a major catastrophe and we must all pool our resources to overcome this type of crisis in future as it affects everyone
- * The illegal trade of certain wild animals is highly dangerous
- * We should appreciate our ordinary every day lives because there is magic in them

Global Perspectives allows children to have a better understanding of the world around them. I believe we are going to find our new 'normal' and for the children adapting will be easier than

"That the world should be filled with such detail, such tiny points of human frailty, threatened to crush her and she had to look away."

— Ian McEwan, *The Children Act*

We Help Others (WHO) Club

The 'WHO' club was set up to continue the community spirit initiative which is fundamental to our school's culture. Pupils from Year 5 wanted to do something not just to help other people but also animals. They became aware that the zoo in Alexandria needed help as well as money so the WHO club decided this was a job for them.

Initially, Miss Hania oversaw the different groups of pupils and helped them decide how they were going to raise money and when they would be doing it. Some of the pupils made posters advertising their events around the school.

Over a four week period, the Who club raised money through a number of different schemes such as selling books that were donated to the school. They sold these books during their break-times and I know this because I was one of those who went along and bought a copy of 'Stories of Sherlock Holmes'. They also sold healthy snacks as well as finding funding through getting other people involved in game-playing activities etc.

At the end of the four week period, the pupils had raised 2,700 Egyptian pounds which is amazing. Teachers asked the zoo exactly what they needed and in response to that the school bought cement, sand, paint and

medicines. Eventually the WHO club members visited the zoo on the day it was closed so that they could see how their money had been used to help the zoo.

"We learned that we need to help each and every living organism on earth. We could never leave a creature alone without help."

Farida Ahmed



Science Fair 2020

The science fairs were held in the second entrance hall to the main school. Each year group were allocated a day when they would have an opportunity to share their research and findings with visitors and staff alike. The teams of pupils donned their laboratory coats and stood around their display table where their science experiments were exhibited. It was up to the pupils to explain and demonstrate their ideas to the onlookers.

What really stood out in the different science fairs was the amazing variety of models there were and how knowledgeable the pupils were when they explained the outcomes of their work.



We are lucky to have such enthusiastic and inspiring science teachers in our school. They were the ones who organized these events and spent so much time setting up the fairs and taking everything down afterwards. They also organized the production of the certificates and medals which were given out during morning assemblies.

This event has grown in size and quality since it first started last year. I wish to thank everyone associated with this event and especially you for coming into school to support your child in their education. Learning only comes alive when it has practical implications in our day-to-day lives.

The National Studies Department

Arabic, religion and national studies often play second best to the academic subjects on the timetable or the more popular activities such as art and P.E. In fact, I am guilty of initially feeling that if we did not have to teach these subjects, we could have more time for UK subjects like drama and design & technology.

Of course, these are foundation subjects and relate to the Egyptian culture. Indeed pupils need to complete their studies in Arabic, religion and national studies to get into universi-

ties here. I really should be ashamed of myself because we have dedicated and passionate



teachers of these three subjects who work hard to make their topics interesting and fun.

The mid-year results in these important subjects were outstanding and everyone who received special honours had scored in the high nineties in one or more of these national subject tests. Good results only come from good teaching and I am now really appreciative of the special job that they do!



El Alamein Trip



El Alamein was a battle of World War 2. The allied forces used massed artillery and with limited advances eventually overcame all German counterattacks until the final breakout. Its significance was the first major German defeat.

The *Panzerarmee* withdrew, ultimately to Tunisia; within days of El Alamein, Anglo-American forces landed in Morocco. By May 1943 the campaign was over and the Mediterranean dominated by the Allies. Meanwhile, in Russia the Germans were suffering disaster at Stalingrad: the two battles, Stalingrad and El Alamein, proved to be the watershed of the war against Germany.

We hope our pupils enjoyed the trip and maybe got some sense of the historical significance of this particular battle.



New Teacher Profile



Hello, my name is Mirna and I'm a Biologist with a Master's degree in Ecology. I had the privilege to do my studies in the middle of the Amazon in Brazil and, because of this, I'm very passionate about the environment. Everywhere I go, I



believe we should always try to make a positive impact in the community we are inserted in. Having this belief, I became a Global Shaper in 2018. Global Shaper is a community born from the World Economic Forum, which is a network of inspiring young people working together to address challenges. Currently I'm the Vice Curator of the Alexandria hub. This year, I also became a Climate Leader by the Climate Reality Leadership Corps run by former Vice President Al Gore. I truly believe that teaching is one of the most impactful way to change society and that is why I have a degree in teaching Biological Science. This year, I'll be teaching PSHE in Foundation Stage and I can't wait to make the little ones into big thinkers.

Flying the Flag of Hope



When the school closed suddenly and all the teachers found themselves at home in front of their computers, they knew that online teaching was going to be quite a challenge for everyone. As parents you also tried teaching your child while they were at home so we all agree it is not easy. Covid-19 struck unexpectedly with no time for teachers to train how to do online teaching or to prepare material for doing this.

There was further pressure on all teachers to complete their curriculum before the Summer holidays

so pupils could begin afresh in September when they went up a year. It was more frightening for teachers with exam classes who needed support right up to the date of their exams. Our teachers have a very strong team spirit but now all teachers were cut off from each other during the day.

On our WhatsApp group, teachers started posting items that were uplifting and reminded everyone we were still a team even if we were not physically together. Above are pictured the contributors of some of the best uplifting ideas and images.

How Standards are Raised

The key to raising standards in education is through expectations. We thankfully don't have to recruit a lot of teachers each year to replace those who have left. Most of the staff who began with us in 2017 are still here so new teachers are usually recruited because of our steady growth. All our staff have access to regular training so they can keep their skill set up-to-date.

Facilities and equipment are serviced and updated. We are proud of who we are so everyone proclaims it through wearing the uniforms, sports gear, riding on our buses and Facebook. The best ambassadors of the school are the students themselves who in years to come will elevate the school beyond its own wildest dreams.



The Only Way to Learn is to do it Yourself!

Our founder, Mr. Mohamed Ragab believed in hands-on learning rather than the old fashioned method of rote learning. This means all children should prove something is true by trying it out for themselves rather than believing what the text book tells you. So when you are in a Science lesson, you become the scientist and use the equipment to discover new things through research.

If you walk down a corridor on a typical school day, you will see every classroom is doing something different; so in class one, pupils are presenting their ideas to the rest of the class; in class two, pupils are running around the classroom solving problems on each table; in class three, they are up in the theatre practicing their French play.

This 'hands-on' learning starts from Foundation Stage and never really stops until the students have finished Year 12 (or does it ever stop?).



FS2 Graduation Ceremony 2020

How wonderful to be able to celebrate with our present Year 1 pupils, their graduation celebration for successfully completing FS2. They leave one school for an even bigger school but they are still part of the overall Forsan British School family. We were also delighted to welcome the parents to the event held in the Foundation Stage garden.

There was a proud look on everyone's faces to see the children reach this milestone in their education. Teachers from FS2 mingled with the teachers from Year 1 to also see this event. All the graduates were smartly dressed in their graduation sashes and mortar boards as they arrived to the ceremony for their lap of honour (pictured).

Each child was called up by Miss Dina Hashish to collect their scroll and a prize. The professional photographer did his best to keep up with the speed of the children as they ran up to receive their awards. It would have been a shame to let this opportunity pass without celebrating it properly. My thanks to all the FS teachers for the marvelous job that they do.



"Everyone here has the sense that right now is one of those moments when we are influencing the future." - Steve Jobs

2020 International Girl's Day House Competition



"My voice, our equal future."

This wonderful photograph (left) taken by Farah Ihab in Year 6 clearly proves how talented our girls are. During the lead up to 11th October I have received many entries for the International Day of the Girl House Competition from pupils in Year 1 through to Year 6.

Some of the entries were amazing videos of dancing, singing and all sorts of sports.

The girls in the secondary school wanted to take part in this event in a different way. Their contribution supports "Girl

Power" around the world. UNICEF is highlighting a less pretty picture of what is happening to some girls around the world such as child workers, child brides and mutilation. Stories like that seem a million miles away from our experiences but we must all be part of the solution.

COUNTRY	LEADER	No. of Deaths*
Denmark	Mette Frederiksen	260
Iceland	Katrín Jakobsdóttir	8
Finland	Sanna Marin	49
Germany	Angela Merkel	2,673
New Zealand	Jacinda Ardern	4
Norway	Erna Solberg	98
Taiwan	Tsai Ing-wen	6

Today's female leaders are running some of the top economically, socially stable societies in the world. They've also handled the present pandemic pretty well too. So let's celebrate all our daughters.



Welcome Back!

This photograph is in stark contrast to the one we took a year ago. However, we should remember how the children feel seeing their friends and teachers again after so long. What it feels like to be going back to school to face new challenges and experiences.

We were amazed to see so many pupils back in school each day. It was really lovely to hear voices down the corridors and laughter coming from the stairwells. I guess in the end we all missed each other!



A Centre of Excellence

