

THE MCE TIMES



Thursday 31st May 2018

Dear Parents and Friends of Malvern College Egypt,

Reflection has been a key aspect of the last few days for many of our pupils as they receive initial feedback from their end of year assessments. Although these assessments are now complete there is still a lot to be achieved before the end of the academic year. Lessons have been continuing at full pace and we would ask all parents support in encouraging the students to not only attend school but to keep their approach to learning at the highest possible level. The following table is a reminder of the approaches to learning grades that we use from Year 1 and above and would be useful if parents could discuss this with your children. For instance, a valuable thing for parents to do is to ask your child what approach to learning grades they think they will achieve in their end of year reports. However, more valuable is to ask your child to give you examples of what they think they have done to be deserving of these grades.

| Grade | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Descriptor | Exceptional | Above Expectations | Meets Expectations | Below Expectations | Improvements Needed |



Malvern College International School

Last week and over the weekend I was fortunate enough to visit Malvern College UK to attend a conference of all Heads of Malvern College International schools as well as the annual MCEUK commemoration. The opportunity to collaborate with the heads of other Malvern Colleges from around the world (this now includes the UK, Egypt, China and Hong Kong) was quite unique.

We spent some time looking at how the various Colleges can collaborate to further share our combined experiences to benefit the almost 2000 Malvern College students around the world. The MCEUK commemoration was a celebration of the achievements of pupils at MCEUK and culminated in their Speech / Prize ceremony. Our own Prize day will take place in the last week of term and we look forward to welcoming a special guest from Malvern College UK to make a speech and help award some of the prizes to our students.



IB Diploma

On Wednesday and Thursday this week we welcomed our IB consultant Mr William Wanyonyi to the College. William has been working closely with our IB Coordinator, Nicola Maher, on supporting our developments and preparations within the IB authorisation process as we work towards our first teaching of the IB Diploma courses from September 2019. He met with a wide range of staff and students and was delighted with the enthusiasm and understanding of the IB expressed by so many

members of our community. Before William left he offered some advice on areas for further development and this will be taken on board for our planning over the next academic year to be fully ready to offer this exciting opportunity to our students.



Professional Summer Art Classes for Kids

Mrs Eman AbdElBakey from Cairo Smart Art organization is hoping to run Art Classes at the BCA Maadi clubhouse for children 4-16 who may be struggling for something to do in the summer months in Cairo. To try and promote this, she is running a free trial class on Friday 1st June 11am-1pm, at BCA Maadi. This free class is aimed at the younger age spectrum, and if you would like your children to experience this, please contact Eman on the number at the foot of the attached flyer. Please do likewise if you have older children and would like them to sample a free trial, or to learn more about her extracurricular classes generally. You can also visit her website:

www.smartartegypt.net

Wayne Maher
Headmaster

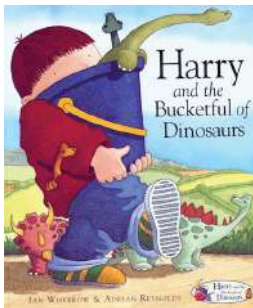
Early Years News from Sally Dibb-Holland – Head of Early Years

Dear Parents,

It is good to be back in Cairo following my week inspecting an international school in Lagos. It is always personally beneficial to be part of an inspection team and to have the ability to stay informed of all the latest best practice and initiatives within the top international schools. It was a joy for me to be reunited with all your lovely children and to be welcomed back so warmly.



In Pre-Nursery this week the children have continued to learn about the Sea-Side. They have made crabs using handprints and jellyfish using a variety of media and materials. They continue to revise the names of 2D shapes. The children are also revising numbers 0-5 using the Numicon and the Interactive White Board for appropriate games. On my visits to the Pre-Nursery classrooms the progress the children have made this year is evident. They have grown and developed in so many ways and their classrooms are full of their wonderful artwork and paintings.



In Nursery this week the children have been busy sorting and counting dinosaurs into groups. Whilst counting the dinosaurs they have formed the numbers on whiteboards. All the children made a big dinosaur and labelled the dinosaur body parts. The teachers have read the story of *Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs*, to the children and the children have talked about the different dinosaur names and used vocabulary from the story. After reading *Harry and the bucketful of dinosaurs*, children drew their own dinosaur and made up their own adventure. In RWI we have studied the sound "x" - X-ray, fox, box. Letter formation of "x" using drawing; playdough and a variety of letter sound crafts. The children have also enjoyed taking part in a dinosaur melting race, where each group of children has a set of dinosaurs and use tools to break the ice. Their task is to predict which tools would get the dinosaurs out. In ICT: the children have used the ipad for dinosaur iPad games. Everyone has made a big dinosaur using different tools and materials for the labelling activity. When I visit the Nursery classrooms to deliver the star of the week, I am delighted at the progress the children have made since September.



Congratulations to RM children on their excellent assembly on Monday. All of the children delivered a key message about the importance of being me! I was amazed at their confidence and ability to sing, deliver their lines and to act on our stage. The College Theatre is a dauntingly large space for such small children to perform, yet perform they did and to all of their credit!

It has been another busy week in Reception and the children are settling into their new topic of weather and water.

The children have been finishing off their rainmakers and sun catchers. They have also been looking at the language of weather and making weather reports. The children have been excited to explore different types of clothes worn for different types of weather. We will be continuing this next week so please help your child to choose something to bring in for *show and tell*. In mathematics, the children have been working hard using number lines and learning counting back strategies to help solve different subtraction number sentences. A game we have played in class is below. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=TakeAway>.



Hats – as the weather becomes hotter please ensure your child has their own named hat in school each day, along with their refillable water bottle.



Reception class assemblies coming up in the College Theatre: -

RA on Monday 4th June

RL on Monday 11th June

Please note the slightly earlier start time for each assembly due to our Ramadan Timetable rescheduling. **All the assemblies will start promptly at 1pm, so**

please be seated in the Theatre for 12:55pm. Your attendance is so important to your children, all of whom will be looking out for you in the audience.

Ramadan Kareem to all of our families.

Kind regards,
Sally Dibb-Holland

Primary School News from Johnnie Kittermaster – Head of Primary School

Dear Parents,



Last week was dominated by the end of year assessments and I have been greatly encouraged by the results. It has demonstrated the huge improvement that the students have made over the year.

Some of the students will have scored very highly in these tests which is fantastic however, it is equally important for the students to learn from their mistakes if things did not go so well. The obvious errors the students make tend to be the old favourites. Did they read the question properly?

Did they understand exactly is being asked for in the question? Did they look at the mark scheme and finally did they check their work through? At MCE it is important that students learn from making mistakes whether they are academic mistakes or social mistakes. Our job as teachers is to prepare them for the secondary school and so it is fine for students to make mistakes in the Primary School and learn from them and not to repeat them.



The problem with assessments is that they are most often knowledge based and there are no tests for the character that the student possesses. There are no tests for kindness, loyalty, resilience, charity, good manners, gratefulness, empathy, a sense of fun and humour, honesty, teamwork, collaboration, optimism, fairness and grit.

These qualities are the ones that determine who you are and these will be the true tests as you go through life. These tests it could be argued are more important than academic assessments.

At MCE we recognise the importance of passing tests and making great academic progress but at the same time a lot of time is put into developing the whole child and instilling these other vital qualities into the students.

| STAR OF THE WEEK | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| PNM | Khadijah Radwan |
| PNA | Sarah Elzarqa |
| NM | Ali Mahdy |
| NA | Mohamed Ali |
| NL | Muhammad Rateb |
| NV | Lama Youssef |
| RM | Mostafa Fouad |
| RA | Jana Mattar |
| RL | Saif Matter |
| Year 1M | Beau Bennett |
| Year 1A | Youssef Amin |
| Year 1L | Hania Badr |

| Star of the Week | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Year 2 M | Malak Farag |
| Year 2 A | Hamza Younis |
| Year 2 L | Farid Elbehery |
| Year 3 M | Yassin El Sayed |
| Year 3 A | Kareem Korashy |
| Year 4 M | Merla Beshara |
| Year 4 A | Maya Mandour |
| Year 5 M | Seliem Aglan |
| Year 5 A | Omar Diab |
| Year 6 M | Mohamed El Batal |
| Year 6 A | Ali Al Jabri |
| Year 6 L | Ahmed Nashaat |

House Points

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1 st | Foster |
| 2 nd | Elgar |
| 3 rd | Lewis |
| 4 th | Sanger |

Ramadan Kareem,
Johnnie Kittermaster

Secondary School News from Mr. Richard Moore – Head of Secondary

Dear Parents,



With the students focused on their exams, secondary school has been very limited in the activities outside of the classroom this week. I thought it would be interesting to discuss why we have exams, especially after a few students asked me the question... "Why do we have to do them"!

Being a parent of four children I still remember the agony you go through when my first child reached Year 11 and the other two were to follow him in successive years. To let them succeed with excellent grades, we had to suspend all social engagements like travelling, play dates etc. at the same time we limited watching TV shows, mobiles were disconnected, internet connection was no more and all these just to ensure that they do not lose focus from their study for the exams. This situation continued until all my children finished and now all attend university. I am sure this is the case with almost every responsible parent these days.

In the present century and the centuries to come, life is becoming so complex that examinations have come to play an important role in one's educational career. It is said that "the child is the father of the nation" and today's child may be the leader of tomorrow. Every country must have mechanism starting from school to select good students to become leaders and successful workers in every walk of life of their country.

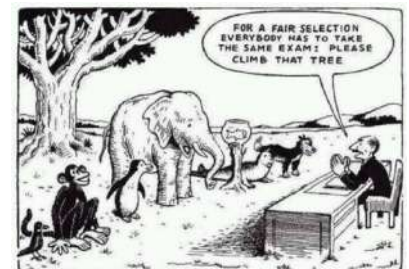
Examinations teach our students a lot of things and give training to various skills like punctuality, writing skills, timing sense and above all expressing their thoughts and opinions. Without Examinations it is very hard to find out the real knowledge of individual students and where they have gaps in their knowledge and where they need to improve.

I am sure you will agree that examinations should be taken as checkpoints in learning, students need to learn from their mistakes and take ownership of their own learning and reflect on their progress and teachers reflect on their students learning and adapt and change where necessary.

My final point is that examinations are important, but I am also a strong believer of the holistic approach of learning and allowing students to find their own pathways in life. As parents we want the best for our children, but we cannot all be astronauts, doctors or artists! Nurturing strengths, encouraging them to achieve and follow their dreams is far more important, with our support and encouragement we will ensure all MCE students become leaders of tomorrow and truly global citizens.

I leave you with this quote from Albert Einstein...

Warm regards,
Richard Moore



Our Education System

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Albert Einstein

Sports News from Joshua Sussex – Head of Physical Education

Dear Parents,



During our PE lessons over the past two weeks, we have been running very successful orienteering lessons where students have been able to improve their map and compass reading skills whilst working within small teams to complete specific tasks.

As a PE department we are working incredibly hard to plan and prepare for the beginning of the next academic year where we are aiming to achieve further academic and sporting excellence. Next year we are aiming to run swimming, football, basketball, tag rugby, netball and table tennis clubs for all students across the College, competing with other schools within Cairo.

Please note, as the weather temperatures are now increasing, we are actively encouraging all students to arrive to each PE lesson with a sun hat and they also have the opportunity to wear a 'UV skin tight rash vest' during swimming lessons. However, this must be a rash vest, regular t-shirts are strictly prohibited as this could have a detrimental effect on the students' ability to swim. If a student arrives with incorrect uniform, then the relevant PE teacher will follow the '*student PE & swimming uniform policy*'. Please also be aware that if the temperature rises to 40 degrees or more, all PE lessons will be indoors and swimming lessons will be canceled.

Head of Physical Education
Joshua Sussex