The British School of Egypt

Crossing the boundaries of excellence…

Winter Newsletter

December 2019

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this year draws to a close and we find ourselves at the end of the Autumn Term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school, it is very much appreciated by all The BSE team. It has been a busy and informative term for me as I have strived to gather the thoughts and opinions of all our stakeholders. Hearing what our students, parents and staff value about the school and what they wish to see developed has truly enabled me to understand our community fully, and I would like to thank you all for contributing honestly and constructively to this process. I have been working on collating all of the feedback and using that to further inform our action plans so we are able to continue to cross the boundaries of excellence moving forward. I would like to take this opportunity to share some strategic accomplishments of this term and I hope you enjoy reading the all the learning highlights and updates throughout the newsletter. Happy reading!

Positive Behaviour

After identifying behaviour as an area to develop at The BSE, I set about designing a new positive behaviour for learning policy, aimed at creating a positive learning environment for both pupils and staff. The Great to be Green Behaviour Expectations center around four key principles in all areas and aspects of school life. The expectations are to be responsible, to be respectful, to work together and to be safe. We believe, it is our role as educators to teach our pupils what it looks like to be each of these things in all areas of the school. We began rolling out and applying the new policy after the half-term break in October, and we will continue to embed the understanding of the expectations with the children through assemblies, PSHE lessons and Circle Time over the course of the year and beyond.

Our approach to behaviour management at The BSE aims to focus on the positives, to reinforce the behaviour we expect to see and celebrate the pupils who consistently make the correct choices. In some cases, positive reinforcement alone, is not enough to correct negative behaviour. Therefore the policy also clearly maps out the sanctions and consequences so they can be consistently applied across the school. An element of the policy is also to involve parents at the early stages of any pattern of misbehavior, this is so we may work in partnership to overcome it. I would like to reassure you that staff have been trained into how to apply the new policy fairly and consistently, so I kindly request that you work with us and support our decisions regarding sanctions that may be applied to your child, I believe when we work together we achieve the greatest impact with our children.

Positive Playtime

Following feedback and observation we decided to improve the playtime experience and opportunities for our Junior School pupils. We have enjoyed implementing a new positive play initiative, which has included a variety of designated play zones, increased supervision, a football rota and playtime buddies. We are already seeing a morve positive climate develop and we look forward to what's in store for term 2.



Strengthening our Parent Partnership

Following the success of our Parent Focus Groups in EYFS and the Junior School this term, we are excited to welcome our Senior School parents to apply to be their child's class' representative and come in to meet the senior leadership team at regular intervals to discuss and share plans and ideas to develop the senior school. The application process will be shared with parents in a dedicated email and the successful applicants selected by the end of January 2020, ready to meet at the start of February.

We are also committed to sharing more regular newsletters so you can join us in celebrating the wonderful things going on at The BSE.

Getting prepared for a positive start to 2020

During the winter break please reflect on the Autumn term with your child. The basic expectation is that we expect children to arrive to school every day, on time, in full school uniform, ready and equipped to learn. This is followed well by so many of our pupils, and we are grateful for the continued efforts of parents and carers in supporting this. The vast majority of our pupils wear their uniform with pride. It is a strong statement of commitment to our community and values. A minority, however, have started to fall below the boundaries of what we expect in relation to jewellery, make-up, hairstyles and correct uniform.

During the break please check your child's uniform to ensure it complies with the policy and if in doubt please check the uniform page on the school website. Please be reminded that only BSE hoodies should be worn, trousers should be tailored and not tight fitting leggings, jeggings, treggings or jeans of any kind. Please ensure the PE uniform is also followed, particularly if training in after school clubs each week and representing the school. Please be aware students will be sent home to change if they continue to come to school in incorrect uniform, please use the break to visit the uniform shop if required, the stock has now been updated. Thanks in advance for your cooperation with this.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable time with your families over the festive period and I look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!!

Warmest regards,
Mrs. Yasmin Tabram - School Principal

Learning in Focus

News from EYFS

What a productive and busy term we have had. The children are all settled in now and have completed their end of term assessments. They have all been working and playing hard, learning through continuous provision with some amazing hands on activities to ensure a solid baseline of fine and gross motor skills, part of the PD (physical development) Prime Areas of learning in EYFS.

Trip to Club Liko

The children had a super trip to Club Liko where they had a very special program tailored for school trips. They follow the EYFS ethos of Free Play. Free Play allows children to expand their imagination and bring out their full potential. It is a place where children set their own standards rather than follow an adult set standard only. On our trip play items were selected with the help of play experts to allow the children to engage fully with all the senses to complement an enjoyable play experience and to support them in their learning of the 5 Senses. The children had an amazing time and were able to discover and explore different activities. The children visited different rooms to complete several exciting activities including role-play areas, dressing in different costumes and taking on various personas. In the Art room, they were able to identify the 5 senses. They visited the kitchen, where they learnt to bake cookies using different ingredients. In the Lego room, the children had a blast playing with the Lego, having a go at creating different shapes using their fine motor skills. They also went to the Theatre and watched an amazing puppet show.

The Importance of Rhyme in Early Years

Early Years team are very proud to present the new 'rhyming center'. Rhyme is an essential part of learning in early years as it helps children gain confidence in and enjoy reading. This is a place where children can work in small groups or pairs. There are a lot of amazingly fun and differentiated activities for them to use from our littlest ones in Pre-F up to our larger little ones in F2.





Dr Seuss wrote, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." It wasn't simply his words and wisdom that were important, it was also the rhyme.

Singing, rhyming, and storytelling are part of every culture. By singing and rhyming to children, parents and caregivers are not only keeping traditions alive, they are teaching children to articulate words, practice the pitch, volume and rhythm of their native language, and develop the listening and concentration skills essential for brain development and memory.
Music, in addition to supporting all areas of child development (intellectual, social and emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy), helps the body and mind work together to learn the sounds and meanings of words in a fun and interactive way.
The repetition of words teaches children to anticipate the rhyming word and this, in turn, prepares them to make predictions when they read,
Singing, rhyming, oral storytelling, and reading aloud are essential to helping children learn a language, along with the listening and concentration skills essential for brain development and memory.

News from Year 1





Throughout this term we have learnt so much; in topic we were introduced to Geography and History; our first main focus was the world. We used maps to locate Egypt and then we used our geographical skills to enhance our locational awareness. Following on from this, we learnt about the seven continents and five oceans – through the art of music. Then we turned our attention to 'history' and its meaning and purpose. We developed an understanding of timelines, starting off with a timeline of our own lives and ending up with the tragic timeline of the Titanic. We also compared past and present, toys, transportation and forms of communication.
In art, we focused on the core skill by looking at the work of known artists such as Picasso and Keith Haring.

Using these two artists' styles we were able to make collages and draw faces from different perspectives; create our very own sculptures and pop art using cartoon like figures, whilst developing an understanding of how to use different materials. We then began learning about primary and secondary colours and how with any colour and white we can create a colour chart with lots of different shades.

Learning in Focus

News from Year 1

Learning in Focus

In numeracy this term, we worked very hard to consolidate our addition and subtraction facts; to help us we used number lines, counters, number squares and our fingers. Following on from this, we looked at 2D shapes and their properties; we used our environment to support our learning as everything around us is actually a shape. We then used music to learn our number bonds to ten and pizza to introduce us to fractions (halves and quarters). The story of the Three Little Pigs supported us as we learnt how to sequence events and sort items into the correct order, and the game What's the time Mr. Wolf helped us understand how to tell the time when it is o'clock. Finally, we looked at capacity and volume, which was quiet, tricky, but we used water play to develop our learning by putting it to practical use.

We then began developing our scientific knowledge with our theme "Myself and My Family", we identified and labeled the basic body parts and we also looked closely at the human life cycle. Following on from this we looked at our 5 senses and asked big questions such as which body part enables us to touch, smell, see, hear and taste. After learning about 'us' humans we then moved on to animals and our focus was how to sort animals into groups (what they eat, different types etc.)



In PSHE, we learnt about the importance of personal hygiene and different strategies to deal with our emotions. We also had a discussion about what would we do if we got lost in a shopping center or in the streets, linking to safety.

We then looked at different signs and discussed the safest way to get across a road. Everybody had different ideas and this linked to our next topic diversity, where we discussed our likes and dislikes, what is fair and unfair, and what is right and

In Literacy, Year 1 got introduced to many topics throughout the term. Children first learnt how to write lists, like shopping lists and list of stationary products. They also labelled different body parts and wrote captions for different pictures. We then began to look at differents books and their genre's (fiction and nonfiction). We read many wonderful stories such as the Three Little Pigs, the Gingerbread man and many more; we then made our very own 'twist on a tale' rewrote the stories with alternate endings.











This term we also went to a wonderful place called Little Explorers; it was so much fun and the children were all able to acquire knowledge through play. Little Explorers was a perfect fusion of fun and education for the children and it gave them the chance to learn and develop through hands on play, enabling them to unlock their imagination and really explore the world around them.







News from Year 2

Learning in Focus



As we come to the end of this term, it is with great pride that we can look back at the many achievements of the children in Year 2. It has been a few months filled with many events and activities, and it was inspiring to watch the children work so hard to meet every expectation and challenge that has come their way.

The many values that have been on display thus far have particularly come to the fore as we end this term--resilience when tackling a particularly tricky problem whether it is in class or a problem between friends; courage in coping with changes and new beginnings for some; appreciation and happiness for each other and all the opportunities they are given within the school – which all strengthen and build their character and their ability to make the most of every aspect of school life.



During the past months the children have explored a plethora of topics across all subjects, tying everything to our themes of Myself and My Family, as well as The Great Fire of London. They delved into the world of traditional tales and looked closely at a number of familiar stories, identifying their features and comparing those to non-fiction texts that they studied later in the term. They were introduced to poetry and were able to create their own simple poems, including basics of figurative language to enhance their writing skills.

They have learned to stretch their sentences using adjectives and adverbs, and they have practiced adding alliteration and similes to their pieces of writing and poetry. The children also learned to use imperative verbs constructively to give instructions on how to do different things, and were able to end this unit by creating products they were immensely proud of!

In Numeracy, the children excitedly tackled addition and subtraction problems and concepts before moving on to more intricate ones including multiplication and division. They did amazingly well with the more challenging units of Time and Fractions, and were able to tell the time effectively using analogue and digital clocks, as well as determine the value of different fractions.



In Science, we started with the unit covering animal and human life cycles and basic survival needs. The children learned how animals and humans are similar in many ways, and could identify the basic needs needed for survival for all living things. Later in the second half term, we moved on to Plants, where again the children explored the needs of survival for plants, the function of each part of the plant, as well as its life cycle.



It was a busy few months indeed, and a great start to their new learning journey, where the children were given the opportunity to show their understanding and scaffold their learning through a number of exciting and interesting indoor and outdoor activities in several lessons.

We ended the first half term on a good note with our fun Science Crafts trip, where the children enjoyed the beautiful weather, fun activities, and learned about the life cycle of butterflies to support their learning of our science topic.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all teachers and staff members for their hard work to provide the best education for all the children.

We would also like to thank all parents and carers for their support, as we understand that a great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without your co-operation and backing.

Finally, we would like to wish all children a relaxing Christmas holiday, and looking forward to more thrilling adventures in the coming term! Merry Christmas to all!

News from Year 3

Learning in Focus



As our first term comes to an end, we would like to acknowledge and celebrate our achievements thus far. We have covered a lot of material and participated in many fun and exciting activities. Our children have developed and strengthened in a number of aspects. They are more independent, observant, expressive and are able to verbalize their thoughts and knowledge to their teachers and peers. They are comfortable with the school and the classroom rules. They are practicing positive socialization making friends and building lasting relationships. We look forward to seeing your children continue progressing throughout the year.

In Numeracy, we covered topics such as: place values, addition, subtraction, multiplication division, measurements, fractions and properties of shapes. We learnt how to partition numbers to 100 and how to order numbers to 1000.

Next, we practiced how to subtract and add 1, 2 and 3-digit numbers. Then students developed their multiplication skills. They learned to count forwards and backwards in multiples of three and four. They demonstrated their abilities in the garden as they hopped from one lily pad to the other in multiplies of four. Students enjoyed the activity and as they hopped all around. We also learnt about the different kinds of 3d shapes. As an activity in class, students were able to create their own 3d shapes using straws and blue tack. Students all worked collaboratively to achieve the same goal.



In Science, we covered topics such as: rocks, soils, fossils, animals and humans. We investigated the different properties of soil and the different layers. Then students created a soil profile using the resources provided to them. They worked in groups and were able to display the different layers of soil. We also learned about fossils and how they are formed. Students were able to sort and label the steps for the process of fossilization. Next, children created their own fossils by using plasticene and plaster of Paris. They left an imprint with one of their own toys. Students also started learning all about skeletons and muscles. Students learnt how they work and why they are important. Later, we moved to identifying the different groups of animals like mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Students participated in an activity where they worked in groups to sort the animals into one of the different groups. At the end of the unit the kids were asked to create a window chart per group to show a life cycle of their choice.

In Literacy, we explored the different traditional tales. We looked at the similarities and differences. Students built on their story writing skills incorporating setting and character descriptions. They were introduced to the main features of writing, the correct use of punctuation, writing in paragraphs and using adjectives and connectives in their writing pieces. Then we learned about past and present tenses. They were able to find their missing link to form a complete chain.





Students participated in this event outside their classrooms. They were given a word in the present tense and they had to find the past tense form of it.

Then we covered recount writing and students had an opportunity to write about themselves and share it with the class. Next, we learnt about play-scripts. Students we were able to identify features of play-scripts. Students in groups eventually wrote their own play-scripts in class.

Next, we covered instructional writing. During learning about instructions, we made our own sandwiches using different materials and the correct steps.

Finally, we wrote instructions on how to make a sandwich using sequential words and imperative verbs.

In PSHE, we started of the term talking about new beginnings, with the students setting targets for themselves for the first term. This involved critical thinking from the students and it allowed them to take responsibility to see if they are able to achieve their targets. Students learned a lot about themselves. They were able set personal goals and amend any mistakes they make. Next, students started learning and implements the 4 BSE Great to be Green behaviour expectations across different areas of the school. Students where taught to use these four expectations firstly in the playground followed by canteen, halls and restrooms.

In Humanities, we started the year by covering the timeline and getting a better understanding of it. Then we went from the Stone Age through the Bronze Age and until the Iron Age. Students got a chance to see how life has changed throughout the years and how people used to survive. Next, we started learning about the different continents and oceans of the world and we then transferred this onto a blank world map, with the students naming them all in the right position. We then moved onto learning about the different hemispheres and climate zones within the world. The students used an atlas to locate these on the world map and then put this information onto a worksheet.

Year 3 also went on our first school trip to Fagnoon. Students participated in a variety of activities which including glass painting and fabric painting. Students displayed creativity and great sense of self independence as they completed tasks on their own.

News from Year 4

Learning in Focus

A TRIP TO SCIENCE CRAFTS CLUB



Year 4 went on their first trip this year to "Science Crafts Club"; where children got the chance to have an outdoor break from school routine, they also had fun without missing the educational value. After going through an introduction to electricit and its importance, students got introduced to electrical circuits and their main components. They enjoyed making a simple buzzer circuit which they took home and enjoyed playing with.



4B'S IN-CLASS GREEK ACTIVITY

Year 4B have enjoyed a fun unforgettable experience by creating their own designs, arts and crafts for their very own GREEK GALLERY. Working on different stations, having the chance to enjoy different activities and taking pride in what they have done helped them to learn about the Ancient Greeks in a creative way. The stations included; Designing and painting shields using paint and paper plates, making swords out of paper and aluminum foil, olive leaves crowns out of A4 green paper and glue, decorating Greek vases using glittery foam sheets as Mosaic art, and drawing their own patterns on their Greek vases using markers. Not only that, they also have cared for the cleaners and have cleared all the mess without even being asked to.

SENIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING PSHE OVER IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL



Year 4 have enjoyed looking up to senior school students by stopping bullying in our beloved school, setting a good example, raising awareness, and exchanging different experiences. The session has helped younger learners to feel safe, seek help and support, speak up, share their bullying situations and learning how to deal with different scenarios. They have also liked the idea of the senior school support groups and blue bracelets to stop bullying and stand up for themselves and their friends.





MEASURING WITH SCALES!

One of our most enjoyable moments this term was using real life scales to measure mass in numeracy. We estimated the mass of many items around the class/school. We then measured the items and found out their real weights. For example, we got to know how much our school bag weighs, whether empty or full! It was a fun hands-on experience, getting to know what grams and kilograms 'feel' like!

4F COLLECT LITTER FROM THE PLAYGROUND



4F's children came up with an inspired initiative to make our school greener and better. They put on their gloves and went around the garden during their break time, picking up trash from the ground. Some of them even wore signs which said "we are cleaning out school and you can too!"; thus raising awareness and inspiring other students to do the same. They also started their own cleaning campaign in which they got students from other classes to sign up to help clean the garden during break time as well.



MAKING OUR OWN CIRCUITS & TESTING BULBS' BRIGHTNESS!

During our sciene lessons this term, year 4 children learned about circuits and their different parts. Children had fun conducting different experiments using electric circuits. One of these experiments was to investigate changing the brightness of the bulb and identifying the factors affecting it. They learned about the different sources of electricity, including renewable and non-renewable sources and how to overcome the problems associated with non-renewable sources. They enjoyed forming their own electric circuits using the bulb, batteries and wires. To test conductors and insulators, they used rubbers, marbles, coins, scissors, sharpeners and rulers. This hands-on activity created a positive learning environment and enhanced the children's investigation skills.

TAKING OUR FANTASY STORIES OUTSIDE IN THE GARDEN ..



When students have the opportunity to make connections in their learning and when teachers encourage real-life experiences of concepts, real learning can take place.
Not all writing activities happen inside a classroom at the BSE. 4A took their fantasy story writing outside. Children enjoyed writing their own fantasy stories in the sunny weather, and they got the chance to share them with their peers. We learned that playing with language helps us discover how language works, and that everyone has a unique style to share. Children used their knowledge of punctuation and grammar to write their own stories.

News from Year 5

A character building trip to WellSpring

This term, year 5 embarked on a journey of character building at the WellSpring camp site. They were challenged with activities that were not only new to them, but stimulated their collaborative, problem solving, and decision making skills. They stayed at overnight camps and experienced some of the camps special activities, such as zip lining, high ropes courses and many more. The children came back to school with some wonderful stories and discoveries to share, their experience was certainly a memorable one. Our year 5 pupils made new friends, had fun and learnt real life values on their trip, working together towards a common goal.



5A Go Green

5A students took the lead on a fantastic initiative to keep their school clean and green. They decided to dedicate their time during their break times to collect litter off the school playground and separate the litter into recycling bins. They managed to collect enough litter to fit two large bin bags and were thrilled that their collaborative eco-friendly initiative inspired children across the junior school. We are very proud of our eco-warriors!







Year 5 – Exploring Climate Change

Our year 5 pupils engaged in a stimulating activity to learn more about the cause and effects of climate change. To understand the effects of the Earth's atmosphere, the children took readings of various temperatures around the school. They kept one thermometer inside a sealed plastic sandwich bag, while the other was kept uncovered. They left their thermometers placed in both the sunlight and shade for five, ten and fifteen minutes. They engaged in whole class discussions sharing their hypothesis on what they thought would happen to the temperature. The results were surprising!





Year 5 – Science in Action: Separating Mixtures

Year 5 children investigated the various methods of separating mixtures. They investigated materials that could be separated using filtration, sieving, evaporation and magnetism. After the children developed their hypothesis they concluded their results and recorded their observations. The children enjoyed this activity as they learnt about the significance of the scientific method in the study of Science and how scientific discoveries and theories have come to light along the years.





Anti-Bullying Week

During year five's PSHE lessons, some of our senior pupils volunteered to take part in an anti-bullying initiative led by the school counsellor. The senior team visited our year fives to deliver advice and personal stories on how to prevent bullying. Our year fives shared their stories, and together with the senior pupils, they came up with multiple ways on how to prevent bullying and raise awareness against various forms of bullying. The theme of this week was to speak up and lend a helping hand when needed. Our year fives, were thrilled to have collective discussions and share ideas with the senior pupils.

5A's Flipped Classroom

They say, a great way to learn is to become the teacher. The children of 5A engaged in various flipped classroom activities, where they were, not only the learners, but the teachers too. The children were thrilled to express their individual understandings and learning through teaching. The flipped classroom activities inspired the children to understand that people learn in diverse ways and that understanding is key to obtaining knowledge. It was a delight to see our pupils take charge of their learning and utilising their prior knowledge in delivering their understanding of the subject to their peers







Shapes are all around us

What better way to learn about 3D shapes then to create them? 5B enjoyed creating 3D shapes and learning about their properties using straws and play-dough. The children created their shapes separately before constructing their own buildings. It was a fantastic way to highlight the children's creative skills through Numeracy, making real life connections to their learning in the process.

Learning in Focus

News from Year 6

Zulu Scouts Adventure

They have been waiting for this for quite some time...an exciting journey, thrilling adventures, life skills to master, team building activities and most importantly- making new friends and wonderful memories that will stay forever with our Year 6 students.

From building their own tents, cooking and learning the basics of the 7 essential knots to desert hiking and marching for miles, children embraced their experience and made the best of it. Some thoughts that children have shared with us made us equally smile "I have mastered the survival skills" (Yahia) or wonder "The trip was led in Arabic, a language that I don't speak and barely understood anything but I had the best time" (Kareem).

The trip has been a learning experience that reminded children of important values – responsibility, respect, team work, resilience and independence.







During Literacy, Year 6 students experience life as a war hero, empathizing with their character and writing an imaginative diary entry from the trenches.









Year 6 - Active learning in Science

It's always a fun mess when making their own slime! In Science, children have experimented with various materials and textures, mixing, measuring and discussing their observations.









During the Numeracy lesson, Year 6 students have planned, designed and tried out their own board games. They had fun working together, using their logical thinking, numeracy skills and creativity.

Learning in Focus

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Learning in Focus

Curriculum News

We are delivering National Curriculum PE lesson for the entire student body. From basic coordination and simple activities in Pre-Foundation, to full court volleyball in Year 12. This is the first year since opening our state of the art on-site swimming pool that students in every phase will have the opportunity to swim during their PE lessons. We have already seen some fantastic work from our KS1 and 2 students and look forward to working with the rest of the school over the coming terms.

Streamed PE in KS3

This year we are trialling streamed PE for years 7-9 giving more opportunity for all students to extend themselves and advance in this subject. Already we are seeing some fantastic progress, with students having content delivered to them in a far more inclusive and targeted way. We are hoping to refine this system further, in order to ensure that students learn at a pace that suits their needs and allows them to gain the skills of teamwork, leadership and organisation that will surely benefit them in later life.

New staff

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff this year.

- **Mr. Gordon Holder** joins us from BISM and specialises in rugby and basketball. He also has a wealth of classroom experience having taught in both South Africa and the UK. He is currently Head Coach of Boys' Basketball.

- **Mr. Mohamed Bayoumi**, who is the Egyptian Football Director of the Liverpool Academy and also has a Masters in Athletic Training and is currently completing his PHD in football training. He is Head Coach of Girls' Football.

- Supporting the department are Coaches **Ahmed Nader** and **Mostafa Abdelkawy** who joining us as swimming and teaching assistants. They will be working closely with us in the foundation stage and during all swimming lessons to make sure all our students make great progress.

External results & fixtures

- Hassan and Mona came 1st and 3rd respectively at the CISSA u19 table tennis championships in September. Wonderful performances from both.
- The u19 boys' volleyball team swept aside the best schools in Egypt to finish 1st at the recent CISSA volleyball championships. An incredible performance, with captivating teamwork and dogged perseverance.
- Swim BSE finished 3rd overall from 10 schools in the Cairo Swim League and are in a great position to accelerate over the remaining rounds. We hope to get our first podium finish at the end of the year.
- BSE's u11 boys' footballers were Silver Finalists at the BISC 12 team invitational tournament and faced (and triumphed over) some of the best footballing schools on their way to the silver final.
- The u19 girls' volleyball team are currently first in the Cairo West Sports League.
- The u19 boys' finished 2nd at the CISSA Basketball Championships in November.
- The u11 girls' basketball team won their development tournament against 5 other schools at AIS West in early December.
- Our older football players are looking forward to travelling for their competitions this year (to El Gouna and Verona) and training is already underway for these age groups.







Home-school communication

The PE department is in constant communication with parents and therefore you are advised to check your email regularly. We often send out information and updates relevant to your child and we look to keep you informed of your child's behaviour progress and achievements through this channel.

Outstanding Achievements

We are delighted to share that two of our BSEians in Year 6:

- Hana Karim Elsherie
- Laila Hicham Arafa

Along with their team won the Bronze medal in Egypt's Cup for Synchronized Swiming "Kass Misr " held on Friday, 11th October, in Alexandria.
We are larticularly impressed with how these girls have managed to excel and achieve this performance without missing any school days, congratulations!
We join their families in wishing that they will always be dedicated and successful representatives of their school, team and country.



Does your child have any achievement outside of school we should all be celebrating? If the answer is yes, please send us and email to the following address so we can join you in recognizing the accomplishments of our young people.

letusknow@bse.edu.eg

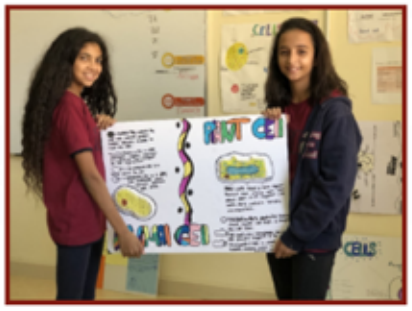
Senior School News

Learning in Focus

Science in Focus
Year 7 Science

Year 7 have enjoyed learning about different cells. They worked in teams to come up with great projects. Some of them thought out of the box, where they created an edible animal cell. We enjoyed eating it with the rest of their classmates.
They demonstrated great subject knowledge and details with their descriptions.
Well done Year 7.





Year 9 students have been learning about forces in their physics classes. Students learned about Hooke's Law. They did a practical activity in physics lab to investigate Hooke's law and work out the relation between the force applied and the spring extension. Students demonstrated their investigative skills, record their measurements and plot their results in a graph.

Making Sense of Maths

The KS3 Mathematics department has made a fantastic start to the 2019-2020 academic year, with the resounding success of the students, with 82% of BESians achieving a Grade C (the highest mark available) in their Pre-IGCSE Maths Examinations. The team are now focused on getting the next group of Year 9s ready for the new challenge.
In Year 7 and 8, they have been learning about different topics this year through a range of different learning activities in order to build their confidence and refine their numeracy and problem solving skills



Year 7 and 8 students worked in the first half term with numbers, geometry and simple algebra.
They have enjoyed learning about integers, primes, factors, multiples, perimeter and area of shapes as well as solving equations and construct algebraic formula from word problems and shapes. In the remaining half term students have been learning about fractions, percentages, ratio and algebra.

Pearson- international writing competition.

We are very delighted to announce our entry in the Pearson International writing competition. All of the children in primary have been entered in the 'My Twist on a Tale competition'. This competition will see fairy tales and stories reimagined as our children put a modern day twist on tales of old and create their own book of fantasies. Whether it is Cinderella meeting her not-so-evil stepmother, magical smartphones or classroom kingdoms, the key point is the children get creative and put a personal twist on the tales by reflecting their own personality, location, heritage, interests and experiences.
Through entering this competition we are empowering the children to explore the different dimensions of literacy, improve outcomes and inspire a life-long love of reading and writing. Winners will see their works published as a collection of short stories for all to read, we hope everyone who takes part enjoys finding their voice, expressing themselves freely and having fun along the way!

Literacy planet – word mania competition

We are ecstatic to introduce LiteracyPlanet-Word Mania competition. Word Mania is a literacy competition for schools, and a fun and effective way for students of all ages to improve their literacy skills.
The competition is based on an interactive digital word building game and is a race against the clock to build as many words as possible from a randomly generated letter board of just 15 letters in 3 minutes! It is a challenge that involves creativity and many different literacy skills including phonemes, morphemes, spelling, word recognition, vocabulary and word knowledge.

COBIS Mangahigh Maths Challenge

We are pleased to update you on our entry into the COBIS / Mangahigh Math Challenge which took place from Monday 18 - Friday 29 November.
The Mangahigh Maths Challenge is a free, online competition for 5-16-year-ol designed to engage students with maths through a games-based learnin approach. Lessons are automatically assigned to students based on their age, s it's very simple to get started! Access to Mangahigh began on Monday 4th November, which allowed students time to practice using the platform before the competition.

MANGAHIGH & COBIS Maths Challenge 2019

Students could access the activities at home or in school, and could also be accessed on any device with an internet connection, so via a laptop, tablet or smartphone. This was a great opportunity to see the impact digital games-based learning can have on our children's performance. All students who individually earned more than 200 points, will be sent a gold medal from COBIS. We look forward to announcing and celebrating the medal winners when they arrive next term.

Bringing Literacy to Life

The BSE enter the global literacy competition by Pearson Education



"Let children have tales of the imagination, scenes laid in other lands and other times; heroic adventures, hairbreadth escapes, delicious fairy tales, even where it is all impossible, and they know it, and yet they believe." - Charlotte Mason

The BSE is very excited to be crossing the boundaries of imagination and participating in the worldwide literary extravaganza that is, My Twist on a Tale.

In collaboration with Pearson publishers, My Twist on a Tale is an international story-writing competition open to 4-16 year olds and encourages children to rip-up the rule book and put a 21st Century twist on fairy-tales and folklore. All of the children in Juniors and Seniors have prepared an entry for the competition.

The concept will see fairy tales and stories reimagined as our children put a modern day twist on tales of old and create their own book of fantasies. Whether it is Cinderella meeting her not-so-evil stepmother, magical smartphones or classroom kingdoms, the key point is the children get creative and put a personal twist on the tales by reflecting their own personality, location, heritage, interests and experiences.

Through entering this competition we are empowering the children to explore the different dimensions of literacy, improve outcomes and inspire a life-long love of reading and writing. Winners will see their works published as a collection of short stories for all to read, we hope everyone who takes part enjoys finding their voice, expressing themselves freely and having fun along the way!

While all children who enter the competition have a chance of winning and being published in a short-story anthology, we as a school will also reward the effort of our students with a published anthology of our own, alongside the children's own illustrations of their stories, in collaboration with the Art department.

Fully-aligned with the National Curriculum for England's requirements for narrative and imaginative writing, the competition is a fun, engaging and empowering incentive to push children towards reaching their literary potential and maybe uncovering a new J.K Rowling in the process. We invite all parents and friends of the BSE to join us on this journey to the boundaries of imagination and beyond.

Pupil Voice: Introducing The BSE Student Council



We are very pleased to announce that our BSE student council nominations were successfully completed at the start of term.

All children that participated in the nomination process showed great leadership skills and loyalty to their school. Students that were elected by their peers from the junior school and the senior school will represent their classes.

Our student council aims to develop independent learners, to empower children by raising their confidence, and to equip children with the qualities and skills needed for success in a diverse world.

Children should feel free to express their views on issues which concern them. The Student Council will meet regularly to discuss ideas, decide on the most effective ways to change and improve the school and talk to the people who can help make it happen.

The BSE School Council will be working on the following two objectives:

1. To influence school policies and the running of the school.
2. To contribute to the wider community.

So far, the student council have been effective in organising a Halloween Fest on the 24th of October. Some of the money collected from this event will be donated to charity and the rest will be used for their school community. The students suggested using the money for:

1. The planting of some tress
2. Some furniture for outside seating
3. A contribution towards a new basketball ring

By giving the students a greater sense of responsibility in their own education and by allowing them to express themselves and be heard, we believe, will have a positive impact on their school environment and ethos.

Pupil Well-Being: Going beyond anti-bullying week

Learning in Focus

Pupil Well-Being

Going beyond anti-bullying week

Bullying is a global issue facing schools virtually all around the world, as a result, anti-bullying campaigns are commonly run in a vast amount of schools for students. At BSE, the anti-bullying campaign concept was run in an innovative manner that was tailor-made by the school counselor, Sherif Othman, in order to suit the needs of student population at the BSE.

While most anti-bullying campaigns are done to raise awareness, here at BSE we took it to another level by not only raising awareness, but also empowering people to appropriately defend themselves from bullying attacks as well as have a support system for the kids.
One of the keys to the success of the campaign was that it was executed entirely by students. Volunteers from Key Stage 4 attended a training session to be informed about bullying and the details of the campaign plan. With a team of over 70 enthusiastic students strong, Key Stage 4 students were grouped to enter classes of the younger students of junior school during their PSHE lessons.





The campaign consisted mostly interactive activities suitable for the age groups they were targeting. Sketches are performed by the seniors to have the younger students engaged and have them see first-hand the different types of bullying and how we can counter it. They also formed support groups at the end in which senior students were grouped with a small number of junior students to encourage students to speak up in a safe space about bullying that may be occurring to them.

This helped report and resolve several bullying incidents already and will continue to do so throughout the academic year. A "buddy system" is created in which the junior students can always resort to the senior students in case of reporting any other bullying incidents or following up on a case they already reported before for support.
Although this campaign has been targeting the younger students, the ones implementing the campaign from Key Stage 4 are also benefiting from it as they learn to coordinate, delegate tasks, problem solve, unleash creativity, and some of them have reported being bullied themselves and intervention has taken place immediately. The quest to eradicate bullying is not over. We

understand that it is a process that requires hard work and patience. We look to target the remainder of the year groups until it is deeply ingrained in the culture of the school.

Fostering a love of life-long learning:



Staff at The BSE have been given 50 different secret missions. The aim of each mission is to challenge teachers to think differently about the way they deliver an activity and the way our pupils learn. The initiative has been a huge success with increased levels of engagement from our pupils. All teachers provided feedback on their missions and nominated two others to try them out. The secret missions span a whole range of learning activities. Some examples are listed below:

- Collaborative Writing as part of a learning activity
- Use dressing up throughout a lesson
- Hold a silent debate
- Transform desks into whiteboards
- Table top debate
- Use social media as a hook for learning
- Role play throughout a lesson
- Use Scrabble tiles as part of a learning activity
- Use balloons as part of a learning activity
- Design a mystery
- Design a living graph
- Use a progress pyramid as part of a learning activity

The power of 'Yet!'

During the 'using scrabble tiles' activity pupils struggled with the quantity of jumbled up letters. It was great to read that they did not give up. They eventually were able to unpick key words for the lesson and discuss the meanings. Well done 2C.



Some testimonials:

It was a success. Then children were more engaged and enthusiastic about writing as they had someone to write to and not just the normal sentences in copybooks for the teacher. I will respond to their letters – Mr.Crooked will reply to say thank you and maybe he will ask for some more advise on a different topic. Mission: Collaborative Writing

Pupils were surprised to see and wear the uniforms. They have acted out and empathised with a war hero, being actively engaged throughout the lesson. The class behaviour was outstanding. Some of my pupils told me that they had to show even greater respect to each other since they put on the army uniform. I was nicely surprised to hear this... It was a lesson with a twist that had many cross-curricular links to Humanities and PSHE. Mission: Use dressing up throughout a lesson.

This activity was successful for several reasons (Some of these reasons were shared by the pupils after they finished the activity). All children were engaged. The activity triggered pupil creativity, as they all got the chance to share their ideas. Children realised that they can work quietly without distracting each other. It taught children to work collaboratively. It was a fun activity and gave the children the space to move quietly from one station to another. Mission: Hold a silent debate

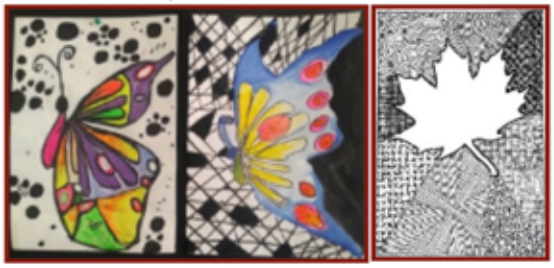
Capturing the Missions:



Learning in Focus

Art learning: Mission

This term we have seen or pupils create some wonderful art work. We thought you would like to see a snapshot below.
The first art project was about leaves and butterflies, it focused on developing lines and patterns through different techniques using different materials.The students were asked to decorate the back ground with different lines and patterns using different materials such as markers, oil pastels, and watercolors and the children produced some amazing results!



Teacher Secret Mission KS3

We started this academic year with an assessment for learning exercise where students were asked to write and draw examples of the types of Art they personally like or are interested in learning about. This has informed me of the course of study that would best suit each student or group.
I have identified several skills that need to be reinforced, revised or taught from the beginning and we will be working on these skills as we progress throughout this year.
Starting off with scale grids, this has cross-curricular links with humanities, where maps and references are being covered.
Scale gridding, is a method of accurately enlarging or shrinking an image to fit a specific shape or size. It is an important transferable skill that will be useful in Mathematics, Geography and Science.
We have also been learning how to draw accurate circles, freehand, by identifying and using compass points on our body to large circles easily.
We have been looking at the structure of Trees and developing our own methods of creating branches and foliage to make bespoke trees that suit our purposes and revising basic human figures.
Our focus for a poster was called Have Your Say. I have received many and varied ideas from Animal Cruelty, Emotional Abuse and Environmental Issues. Revising our sketching technique to make the first design.
Several groups and individuals have embarked on projects to produce murals and public Art around the school. I look forward to showing you some photographs of this work in progress at the end of this term.
--
Jules Johnson
Art Teacher

Another project focussed on a cactus and how they can be drawn in different sizes and positions. Pupils then had great fun exploring how to colour them and finishing them off by highlighting parts with thin black ink by. The pupils enjoyed this project and were very satisfied with the results

Some pupils have explored how to draw a peacock with oil pastel colours using the blending technique and shading using water colors. Beautiful work!



Some pupils have learned how to draw cats and decorate them with colourful patterns in the background. Delightful!

Year 3 & 4 Music Challenges

The end of the winter term is always one of the most exciting times of the year for the Music department as each class puts all their effort into creating a wonderful stage experience and to show off their performance skills to the masses. The students of year 3&4 have been working endlessly to create two fantastic shows. The children of Year 3 have learning a variety of songs for their performance of Alibaba and The Forty Thieves using a mix of classic songs and recent chart toppers to bring the show to life. Year 4 have been preparing their adaptation





of The Lion King. Year 4 Students have been practicing the critically acclaimed soundtrack written by Elton John and Tim Rice, which features a range of timeless classics. We cannot wait to show you what these talented children have been preparing for you, and look forward to
seeing you soon at the upcoming performances. See you soon!

BSGLEE

BSE's very own talented choirs, the 'BSGLee' and 'BSGLeek' make their return this term. Rehearsals have been under way all term to prepare the choirs for their annual performance at the Winter Festival, which was outstanding! Practicing a wide and varied repertoire of our favorite Christmas songs, the students of BSGlee and BSGLeek really showed off their pipes and performed wonderfully for all the parents and children who attended and enjoyed the festive activities at BSE's Winter Festival this year. Our students have been working diligently to present a wonderful concert that is sure to put you in the holiday mood.

We hope you enjoyed it!

Learning in Focus

French in Focus

Junior School:



Why is learning another language important?

Speaking a foreign language can lead the way to great experiences in your work, education, and travel. As an official language of 29 countries across the globe, French is one of the top choices for language learners, and its many unique benefits could make it the right choice for you

Why should we learn French as a foreign language?

Speaking a foreign language can lead the way to great experiences in your work, education, and travel. As an official language of 29 countries across the globe, French is one of the top choices for language learners, and its many unique benefits could make it the right choice for you.





How do I teach my child French? Here are some ways you can do that:





1. Start with the alphabet and numbers. ...
2. Introduce simple vocabulary and make it fun!
3. Use music. ...
4. Two words: MOVIE NIGHT! ...
5. Comics are a good idea! ...
6. Watch French cartoons. ...
7. Try out some games from good online sites. ...
8. Use different types of learning materials that the kids would enjoy.

As it's shown in the images above, Y3 & KS2 pupils are natural language acquirers who can easily pick up a language without much conscious effort, unlike teenagers and adults.
They are enjoying their learning process and learn their topics through role plays, projects and fun activities.



Senior school

Active learning and teaching methods aim to empower our young people to develop their potential as individuals. They also enhance pupils' 4 communication skills: Listening, reading, speaking and writing.
As the pictures show, SS students are focused, eager and on task. They are thoroughly and thoughtfully engaged with each other or the teacher creating their projects and enjoying their lessons. Vive la francais!









Learning in Focus

The ALDD in Focus

The Assessments and Learning Development Department

The Assessments and Learning Development Department (ALDD) aims to promote inclusive practices within the BSE community; thus enabling the diverse range of learners to successfully access the curriculum and participate in school life. The ALDD acts in a consultative and collaborative capacity in addressing the learning needs of all pupils. Initially, at the enrolment stage, the educational needs of individual pupils are identified and support processes for accessing learning are implemented where appropriate. The learning support team works closely with class teachers and employs strategies within available resources to support pupils in reaching their full potential and access the mainstream curriculum.

A pupil is eligible for learning support if he/she:

1. has an identified learning difficulties and/or
2. has difficulties in English language skills which hinder access to the curriculum

This term ALDD held baseline assessments for the whole school at the beginning of this academic year in order to identify the learning needs, natural ability and potential of each pupil.
As is our priority that "Every child matters" - All members of our department take into account that every child is a whole being and is not only about academics but his/her wellbeing is of equal importance. As our school is growing and the parents are more on board and have higher expectations and requirements, this year and for the first time we have two counselors working collaboratively with our pupils, parents and staff members.
Welcome on board - We are happy to welcome two new members to our department; Nourhan Ayman, school counselor and Sarah Emil, learning support teacher

News from the Seniors (Years 10 to 12)

Start of Autumn term

We started this term on the 3rd September, 2 weeks earlier than last year, with a lot of positivity. This start was not long after the IGCSE results were published and The BSE were delighted to be celebrating another year of excellent results, in which the rate of A* and A grades were achieved by at least 60% of pupils in most of the subjects.
Additionally, we launched the new timetable application for Years 11 and 12. His enabled students to choose their subjects online and create their own timetables. This year, we plan to bring the options process forward in line with most other schools, so we are able to secure the best senior teaching staff available.

Events and Trips

The highlight community event organised by the BSE was the Winter Festival. Our Seniors (Year 12) had their own booth so they could raise money for their prom. We have been pleased to seem them developing their business and enterprise skills this term through a range of activities and events such as a Bake Sale and a Movie Night.

We had a very successful trip to Sharm, were our year 10 student enjoyed themselves and developed their skills of team work, communication and problem solving.

For the first time, the school Participated in Mangahigh Competition 'A Worldwide Maths Competition organised by COBIS'.
Happy to announce that our final ranking according to Mangahigh was the 34th position out of 128 schools is a promising start given that it was our first year and only 248 students out of 1130 students (22%) participated actively from our school. Several students had achieved medals, will be sent to school by COBIS at the very soon.

Taking a different approach, volunteers prepared interactive presentations and role-plays, which took place during KS2's PSHE times. Volunteers also took part in the support groups with the kids, listening to their experiences and offering advice. The kids loved how fun the experience was and look forward to future campaigns.

Anti-Bullying Initiative

For the past few weeks, students in KS4 & 5 pupils have been participating in an anti-bullying campaign initiated by Mr. Sherif, the School counsellor.

Targeting KS2, Sohair Elgeziry, a Senior Student, has gathered and coordinated over 70 volunteers with the help of team captains, including: Lauren Bisland, Aya Hussein, Youssef Tamer, Lojayn Ismael and Salma Abdelrehim.



Parents Meeting

We were pleased to invite our Year 10 parents, in September, to discuss the change in the grading system for the IGCSE subjects. We also, discussed, how students should study and prepare for their exams and offered some advice on the websites pupils can use for studying and revision.
The Parent Consultation Day was a very successful event, largely because of all the parents who attended. The constructive discussions taking place during the meetings were insightful to both the teachers and many of the parents. Sharing targets and next steps put many of our students on the right track to keep making progress in their learning.

Learning in Focus

Coming Key Dates

- Before the end of the Winter Break, precisely on the 7th January year 11 and 12 students are starting their Advanced level Exams. These will continue for two weeks.

- During these two weeks, we will also start the MOE exams for year 10 and year 11.

- Mock Exams: these serve chiefly as a practice for future exams and for students to measure their strengths and weaknesses.

The Mock Exams will take place during the last week of March precisely on the 22nd of March and lasting for a week or more. A timetable will be communicated to everyone before exams.

- Holidays: During the mid-term holiday and Easter break, revision classes will be running in all subjects as time is precious towards the end of year exams.

- End of year Exams: March, Art & Design final Exam. April, ICT practical Exams and Speaking Exam for Languages, TBD. May/June session will start on the 4th May, 2020. This is the moment of truth, where the effort of parents, teachers and most of all students will pay off.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year and enjoy a relaxing holiday.

Looking forward to welcoming all our students on Wednesday the 12th January as always.

Yours faithfully

Magdy Tadros
British Qualification Academic Director



Learning in Focus