Stay Home, Keep the distance!

The British School of Egypt

Crossing the boundaries of excellence…

Summer Newsletter May 2020

Message from the Executive Principal

High Quality Distance Learning

As we journey through the most unusual summer term of all my years in education, I hope you are all coping as well as possible in these challenging times. We are aware that the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation makes for an anxious time for many members of our community, especially those who have pre-existing health conditions, family members in high-risk groups, or friends and family in other affected countries.

It does not look like it will be safe to open the school site for you all in the near future, so we are continuing to ensure you are offered an excellent level of Distance Learning provision and all the help you need to keep learning and making progress during this period of school closure. Pupils at The BSE will continue to receive a first-rate education, albeit in a new way.

We have decided not to set any work for the Eid vacation because we feel it is important for families and staff to be given an opportunity to focus on their families and celebrate Eid.



Should you wish to complete work over the break I'd like to recommend a new platform created by the Department of Education in the UK, Oak National Academy. You can follow the link below to access lessons, 180 new interactive lessons are uploaded each week:

https://www.thenational.academy/

There are also lots of great ideas for activities being produced by the BBC and various other organisations.

Maintaining a Routine

The most important thing during isolation is to make sure you have a routine and follow it as much as you possibly can. It is easy to find the day drifting by without getting much done and for each day to seem much like another. In addition to our comprehensive distance learning plan, I would encourage you to include the following in your day–to-day activities:

- complete at least one physical activity during the day
- set some time aside for reading for pleasure each day
- if working on a computer remember to take regular breaks away from the screen
- keep regular bed time, getting up time and meal times as you would if still at school

In addition, this is a great time to learn new skills or perfect an old one and to try something creative. You could try playing a musical instrument, drawing, painting or photography, dancing, creative writing, cooking, making something – wherever your imagination or interests takes you!

Precautions

The BSE has introduced a number of safeguarding measures to protect you and our staff in line with Government guidance:

- All staff members who are able to work from home are doing so. They will not come on to the school site unless it is essential.
- Staff presence on the site is at the minimum level necessary to provide essential services and keep core operations running. Social distancing is being observed in and around the school.

If your enquiries can't be answered over the phone and you must visit us, here's what you can expect:

- Your temperature will be taken upon entering the school. Those with a fever will not be able to enter
- 2 meter social distancing will be in place
- A maximum of four adults may enter reception at one time
- Hand sanitiser provided must be used on entering the school
- Gloves and masks provided must be worn
- If you are classed as vulnerable or feel unwell, please do not come.

If you would prefer not to visit, which is highly recommended, our Front Office team is continuing to offer assistance and support over the phone. All our other offices are also operating as usual, and can be contacted via telephone.

Working hours for the week starting Sunday, 31st May 2020 are 9am - 2pm.
Kindly note all offices will be closed for the Eid vacation from Sunday, 24th May to Thursday, 28th May.
These actions are regularly reviewed and updated by the school's senior leadership team.

The Government are also regularly updating their guidance on the COVID pandemic as the situation unfolds. Please follow the instructions from the Government on self-isolation, social distancing and when to call the National COVID response line (105).

By doing so, you are not only protecting your own health and that of people you live with, but you are also playing your part in reducing the impact of the virus on vulnerable people, on the health services and on the economy.

Learning in Focus

Message from the Executive Principal

Be kind to your mind

My final thoughts are on the mind, as this week is Mental Health Awareness Week, and the theme is Kindness.

This crisis is challenging for us all, please remember to be kind to yourself and others. Why not try out some of the 7 Day Kindness Challenges during



Above all, stay safe, be kind to each other and get in touch if you have any concerns.
I hope you all have a wonderful feast and Eid celebration.
I hope to see you all soon.

Warmest regards,
Mrs. Yasmin Tabram
Executive Principal

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Pupils and The BSE Community.

Over the last six weeks since the Easter edition of the newsletter was published, I have been immensely proud of the whole BSE community for the fortitude, effort and resilience shown during these new and unprecedented times for everyone.

The challenge for all schools has been very similar, how do we provide the high quality provision that our parents and pupils deserve, whilst appreciating the circumstances and constraints that everyone faces daily? I know from my discussions with school leaders here in Egypt, in the UK and around the world that those challenges have been met in many different ways – always with their own circumstances and pupils as the focus. What I am certain of however is that the way The BSE has managed and adapted during this time is as good as any other school and considerably better than many.

What The BSE has proven is that the ability to adapt, the ability to be flexible and most importantly having good staff has led to being able to maintain a high quality provision throughout the last ten weeks.

This resilience and fortitude of the BSE community has also been highlighted by the positive responses received from the wellBSEing initiative we launched in April and has now been extended into May. It has been very rewarding to know that the wider BSE community has taken to the challenges and tasks listed in the monthly plan and most importantly have used them to provide their own family groups a shared goal and daily targets all focussed on their own health and wellbeing. Please keep sending your feedback – it is greatly appreciated.

Our teachers at The BSE have been working tirelessly during the time that the school site has been closed. The online learning challenge that the school has faced has been handled extremely well. Heads of Department, Teachers and Teaching Assistants have very quickly shown creativity, passion and a willingness to work above and beyond the 'normal' because they want their pupils to succeed.

Throughout each of our Key Stages from EYFS to Yr12 there have been:

- More than 850 online live lessons each week throughout the school
- An additional 200 lessons uploaded to Google Classroom (extra to the live content) each week
- Over 500 pupils logged in for live lessons every day throughout each week
- More than 4000 screen hours logged during each week by pupils and teachers

These figures are impressive and reflect how the community has supported The BSE throughout the period of time when the school site has been closed. There is no doubt that this community is hugely valued in the ongoing support, education and growth of the pupils at The BSE.

The high quality provision that The BSE has provided has mean that when the timing is right and the health and safety of the staff and pupils can be guaranteed the transition back to school will be much easier.

In addition to their daily responsibilities as teachers, managers and school leaders the staff at The BSE have also undertaken their own creative challenge. They were set the challenge of competing in a staff photographic competition as a way of not only showcasing their own creative talents but also as a way of looking after their own wellbeing and finding some time to be creative away from their school roles and responsibilities.

I received over fifty entries from staff alone and the next few pages highlight just a few of the best entries and the subsequent winners of the competition. The winners and future winners will be displayed at The BSE when the school reopens.

If you as parents and the wider community would like there to be a similar competition in the future for you to enter please let me know by email at tim.hoban@bse.edu.eg and if the consensus is that you'd like to participate in a community photographic competition then I will liaise with our community editors at The BSE and the Parents association to make it happen.

Thank you for your continued support of The BSE

Tim Hoban
Principal
The British School of Egypt

Learning in Focus

THE BSE APRIL 2020

STAFF PHOTO COMPETITION

Learning in Focus

The response to the staff photographic competition was quite overwhelming. I received over 50 photo entries during April. Following shortlisting and the judges blind voting the top three are below along with two entries that the judges identified as worthy of commendation.

Congratulations to Jules Johnson who submitted several outstanding entries all taken with the theme of colour combining extremely well with the tranquility and mindfulness that the environment in which her pictures were taken very obviously provides.

Overall Winner April - Jules Johnson



Each of the top three winners will have their photograph printed, framed and displayed permanently at The BSE and each will receive their prizes on our return to the school site when we can jointly celebrate and appreciate their achievements as a whole staff group.

3rd Overall - Maha ElSamra



2nd Overall - Nick Dyer



Learning in Focus

Highly Commended Entries by the Judges

Sunset by Maha El-Samra



Pyramids by Abir Osama



News from EYFS

A Message from the Head of Early Years

It has been an exhilarating experience with distance learning these last few months and a challenge for everyone. I am so very proud of the children who have weathered the storm and worked so hard to complete and hand in their assignments and who have shared their progress and fun with us throughout.

All the Early Years staff have worked extremely hard to try and find fun and educational activities for the children to do at home, so as to develop their learning in a fun and hands on way.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a colossal virtual high-five to the parents of Early Years children. I know, at times, you have struggled with various aspects of distance learning and we appreciate all your feedback so as to improvise and move forward in a positive manner but mainly I thank you for your dedication and support of what we are trying to do for your children.

Please have a look at some of the amazing assignments the children have completed this half term and enjoy their beautiful smiles while learning and having fun!

We were able to help with cooking and cleaning up. We did some amazing pieces of art and even tried out different experiments!





We had so much fun this term learning different and new things. In phonics we learnt to form the graphemes using different materials and in literacy we read lots of stories and drew our favourite characters.



We made a super effort this term learning lots of new things while staying home safe. During maths, we learnt to count to a given number and we can even write all the numbers up to 10. We learnt new phonemes and we had great fun being artists during EAD.



Learning in Focus

STAY SAFE & HAPPY EID TO YOU ALL!

News from JS

Message from the Head of Junior School

The last time I wrote a piece for the newsletter, I hoped very much that the next newsletter would be about what we were achieving back in school, however, it wasn't to be. However, just because we are not on site does not mean that the learning, engagement and fun has decreased in any way. In this edition we are delighted to showcase some of the wonderful work our dedicated pupils have produced. As you would expect, The BSE has not let school closure get in the way of learning, laughter and creativity.
Best wishes,

Mr. Giles Stride

Distance Learning in Year One

In Year One, our pupils have made the most of the lockdown by creating a piece of family art work, and writing a letter to their teachers about how they are feeling and what they have been doing during the period of isolation. This has been a wonderful opportunity to reflect on their experiences and spend some time bonding with their families. Year One, have also made their weekly science lessons very interactive by giving the children simple experiments to do at home. One of our favourites was how to make 'Oobleck' and how to create a lava lamp.



What is Oobleck I hear you ask! It is a non-newtonian fluid, which means it acts like a liquid when being poured, but like a solid when a force is acting on it. You can grab it and then it will ooze out of your hands. Make enough Oobleck and you can even walk on it! Oobleck gets its name from the famous Dr. Seuss and our pupils had great fun exploring this at home.
Alex in 1B had a wonderful time creating his Oobleck at home! Great work Alex!



We are so proud of Dalia, from year 1, look at the 3-d shapes that she found in her kitchen and recreated.

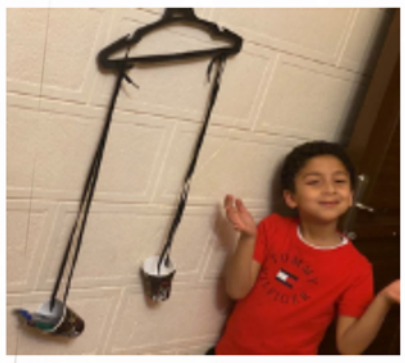


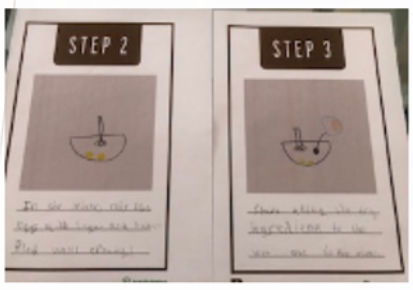
Tia, in Year 1, showcasing her 3D artwork in celebration of Ramadan! Such a beautiful job Tia, well done!



We wonder if everyone lent "a hand" in making this piece of family art work!







Distance Learning in Year Two

Almost two months have elapsed in lockdown and our amazing students are continuing to impress us with their hard work, commitment and creativity. They are continuing to excel and thrive while working on diverse activities and lessons tailored by their teachers.

Their persistence and growing independence is exciting and heart-warming to watch unfold.

The children have been working hard in Numeracy learning all about the different types of measurements. They learned how to weigh the mass of objects, how to create their own homemade scales, the difference between capacity and volume, and the predicted temperature of the centre of the sun! Check out Marwan in 2D using objects he found around his home to create his own scales.

This just goes to show that The BSE maths lessons are not just about doing sums! They open the world around you and inspire you to "have a go"!

In Science, we learned a lot about saving the environment. The children were very excited to share their background knowledge and conduct experiments at home to gain more insight on how to save on water and electricity. They particularly enjoyed learning about the rainforests, and did their own researches on their favourite endangered animals.

Literacy was interesting and fun the past weeks, as the children learned all about explanation and procedure text genres. They followed instructions to draw portraits, and they cooked and baked with their family members and created recipe booklets with the correct structure and language features. They also learned all about the process of making yummy chocolate and created detailed flowcharts with pictures and captions!

In Topic, the children learned all about the earth's continents, climate zones and oceans. They dug up interesting facts about each continent and researched their chosen ocean and discovered the amazing underwater life and treasures. It has been quite an impressive time where we focused on developing the children's research skills across all subjects, as well as their creativity and passion towards learning. We are truly happy about the Year 2's effort and outstanding level of work. Great Job!

Learning in Focus

News from JS

Learning in Focus

Distance Learning in Year Three







To give you a glimpse of distance learning in Year 3, they have been studying time using both digital and analogue clocks. Sahal was determined to show what he had learned, and we were so impressed to see the very neat and accurate analogue clock he made on his own at home. The kinaesthetic aspect of mathematics is at the very heart of the way that different aspects of numeracy are taught at The BSE – we strive to bring maths to life!

In Science, students participated in interesting experiments like making a bouncy egg.

The children had the opportunity to put an egg into vinegar with food dye for three days until there was a change. The delicate egg turned into a bouncy egg. Malak had a great time creating her bouncy egg. She had an even better time bouncy the egg until it exploded.

In Humanities, we covered topics on water. We started by understanding the differences between weather and climate. Ali had a wonderful time create his own weather clouds. Then we went over the water cycle and student had a chance to see where water comes from. Next, we identified the parts of a river and discussed their features. Finally, students created their own model of a river by using recyclable material.

Distance Learning in Year Four

The creativity and opportunities for hands on learning has been flowing throughout the Junior School. The Year 4 Team are working tremendously hard to maintain a high quality and engaging distance learning provision. A recent science project involved the Bottle, Air and Balloon Experiment!



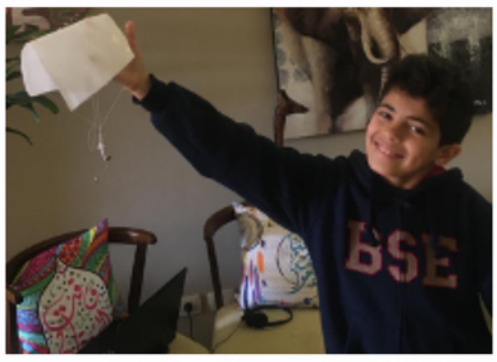
Can you blow up a balloon inside a bottle? It's harder than you think! In this experiment, our pupils family members tried as hard as they could to blow up the balloons with no success! But once the science trick was revealed, they had no trouble at all inflating the balloon, as well as performing a couple of other cool demonstrations!



This experiment, conducted by pupils in year 4, was designed to be a fun way to explore and explain how air pressure works, and that gas also has a weight to it, like all other states of matter. Children know that air is the word we often use for all the gases that make up the Earth's atmosphere. They know that it is essential for all life forms. Sometimes we forget it's there because we cannot see it. Doing this experiment has helped them to discover that while some things may look empty, they can still be filled with air, and that a gas has a weight to it, just like any liquid or solid.

All that they needed for the investigation was an empty plastic water bottle, scissors, and a balloon. Simple, effective and also lots of fun; this means it's more likely that this new knowledge about gases will be remembered by our pupils in the future, this another key benefit to hands on learning at The BSE!

Distance Learning in Year Five



Our wonderful Year 5 team have been working tirelessly to bring learning to life from a distance, let's take a look at what a great job they have been doing!

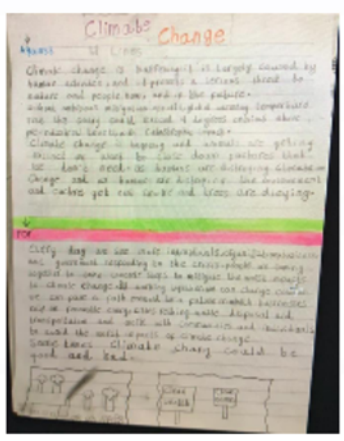
What better way to investigate Air Resistance than to observe the motion of a parachute dropping to the ground? Ziad's self-designed parachute helped him observe how weight and height effect Air Resistance. He tried dropping his parachute from different heights, not once, but three times, keeping his investigation fair.

Ziad recorded his results and was fascinated by what he had discovered. Great job experimenting Ziad!



Why is it that non-fiction texts win the hearts and minds of children and adults around the world? They are real, they are relatable and they are certainly fascinating! Year 5's reading goal is to discover various language features of Biography and Autobiography texts.

With many inspirational public figures out there, Year 5 have taken it upon themselves to research some of their own favourites and write their own biographies of their lives. Since our Year 5 pupils are inspirational themselves they have written their own autobiographies of themselves to share with the world. Youssef enjoyed reading a biography as he searched for various language features to gain inspiration in his own writing. We can't wait to read about your life Youssef, well done!





As Year 5 continue to learn about the features of persuasion, they created a poster, including various persuasive devices, encouraging and persuading the general public to stay safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Maya has taken her persuasive message to the next level, by researching on some of the most important measures needed to stay protected from the virus and passing it on to the world. Thank you Maya and fantastic work!

News from JS

Distance Learning in Year Six

Distance Learning in Year 6, has been an adventurous and creative journey, full of exciting hands-on activities, projects and research. From the Old Kingdom of Benin and Eweka's legend to stories with a flashback, we have it all covered.





Science and research projects are our favourite; Electricity and Edison, mini-greenhouses and "lungs in a jar" to mention just a few. Year 6 has also demonstrated some very good coordinating skills...even if just on a four-quadrant grid. Mariam's wonderful example of lungs in a jar – superb effort



Yahia has demonstrated a real passion for science, just look at the success of his mini-greenhouse project! Fabulous work Yahia – well done!

Brain Teasers from Mr. Giles

Worried you'll get bored over the break? If so, please have a go at some of the brain teasers below, if you think you have the answer please email me at giles.stride@bse.edu.eg

1. A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed in town for three days and rode back out on Friday. How is this possible?
2. What gets more wet while it dries?
3. You can find it in Mercury, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, but not in Venus or Neptune. What is it?
4. It likes food, but water kills it. What is it?
5. Two boxers are in a match scheduled for 12 rounds. One of the boxers gets knocked out after only six rounds, yet no man throws a punch. How is this possible?

Not enough to keep you going?!
Please follow the link below to access an article with a collection of the best products and resources to keep your children educated, entertained and exercised without having to leave the house!

https://www.wired.co.uk/article/how-to-home-school-and-exercise-you-kids

Please don't forget, whatever the current situation throws at us, The BSE will always be here to keep the learning flowing. The BSE doesn't see the problem, it sees the solution!

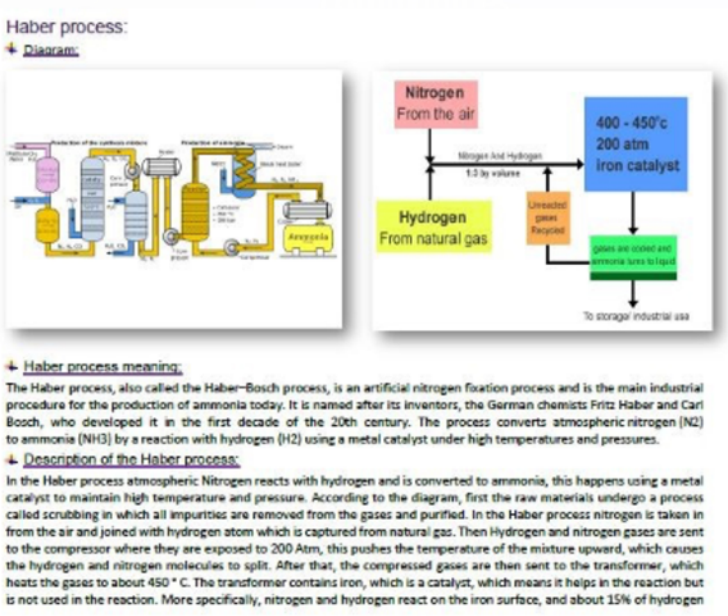
Best wishes,
Mr. Giles Stride
Head of Junior School

News from KS3

Science Projects:

A variety of projects have been completed in Science and teachers are happy with the response of pupils and their finished articles. Well done to all. Topics have ranged from the Haber Process to Dinosaurs, from light and colour to the West African Black Rhino.







Learning in Focus

News from KS3

Art

This Collage is by **Omar Nagaty in 7A.** Omar has been working hard in class and on-line this year. He's made a topical portrait collage that is both well researched and presented. This image was inspired by cubism and portrait. It links to the work we studied in term two Well done Omar.





Youssef Hassan 7F has created this collage portrait with the Cubist style as his inspiration. He's carefully selected and arranged the materials to show the image of the human face. The Abstraction makes the image more interesting to all ages of viewer. Youssef's Artwork inspires the observer to think about the moods and thoughts of the Artist and the subjects in the photo sample.
Well done Youssef.

English

Well done to both Haya Amr and Malak Samir who produced excellent examples of a BSE Magazines. Malak covered some key issues of transportation, the importance of reading and our health. Amr spent time focused on discussing the power video has over reading and the dominance cars have in the transport industry. The skills displayed when showing different points of view, persuasive writing and sentence construction were of a high level.





French Projects

The aim of these projects was to develop the breadth and depth of pupils' competence in speaking based on a sound foundation of core grammar and vocabulary. It enabled pupils to understand and communicate personal and factual information that goes beyond their immediate needs and interests.

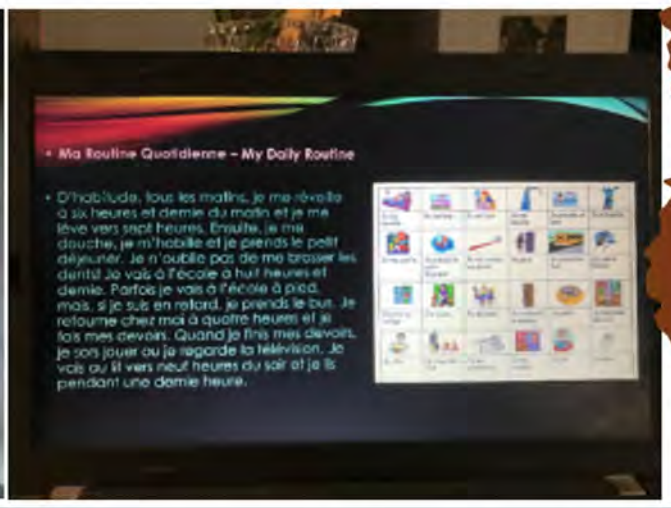
Y7 pupils were asked to prepare a short speech/ video about their hobbies and weekend activities, while Y8 pupils were asked to prepare a short speech/ video about their daily routine.

Pupils were clever enough as some of them have prepared a PowerPoint presentation including their audio in it! Well done to all.

Images here show stills from Norhan Moataz's excellent video on her daily routine and a slide from Mariam Said's PowerPoint. A special mention is also made to Nour El-Deen Mahmoud who produced an outstanding video showing his daily routine.







Learning in Focus

News from KS4 and KS5

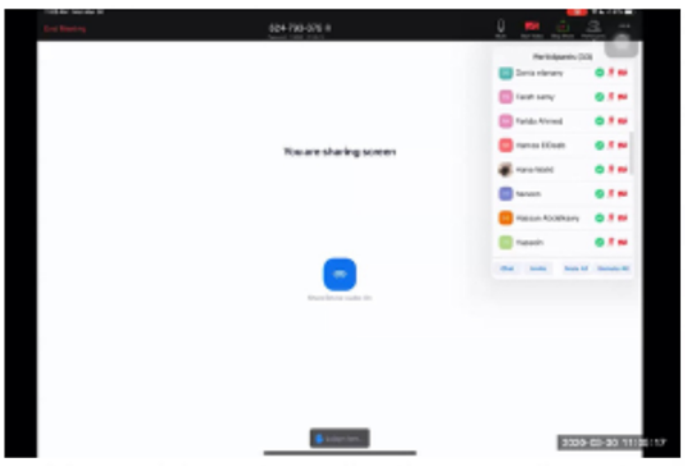
Online Classes in the BSE

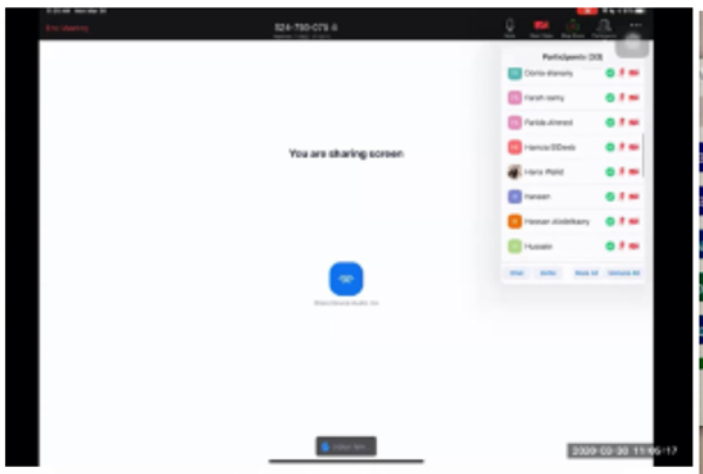
During the past two months, ever since the large rainstorm that resulted in the closure of schools, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, students have been attending all of their classes online.
The classes have been successful since teachers have finished the syllabus of each subject, and have completed many past papers with the students, even executing online exams to thoroughly test and assess each student's academic level.

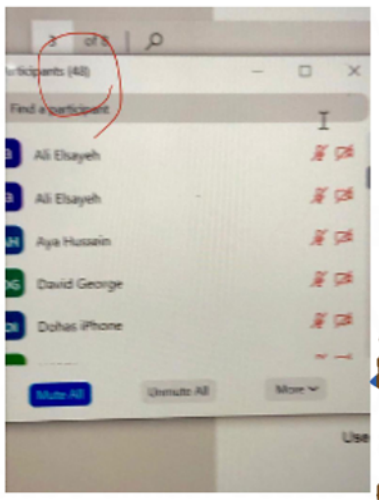
In the past two weeks, introductory classes were held online for all students for year 10 going to 11 and year 11 going to 12, during the classes, teachers have explained the basics of their subject and how it works.

Teachers will also be explaining the components and aspects of the subject's final exam; what it will look like, how many papers, and what the curve is like.
The main objective of the introductory classes is to help students choose their subjects for the coming year as to prevent confusion when choosing.
We the BSE wish you all Eid Mubarak and Hope you and your family stay safe.

Magdy Tadros
British Qualification Academic Director







News from the ALDD

Distance Learning - Well-being Sessions

The well-being of our pupils at the BSE is always our top priority, this is why our ALDD team are working really hard to continue to offer learning support and counselling services to our pupils and families from a distance. They have been conducting a variety of online well-being sessions, offered to all students, from all year groups. The classes are informative, where various topics are discussed regarding mental health. Our pupils have shown great interest in the topics and get actively involved in discussions during the sessions. So far, the classes have been very collaborative where we have seen not only great engagement from our pupils at The BSE, but in some cases our valued parents are also participating in the lessons and deepening their own understanding and range of strategies to support their children. The feedback has been very positive from both parents and pupils. Our aim for our BSEian's to learn new and interesting skills from our lessons that will help them to take better care of their mental health. We are looking forward to welcoming many more pupils and their parents to our well-being sessions throughout the year. If you're interested in taking part please let u know at wecare@bse.edu.eg

ALDD Recommendations

The following links will take you to some useful websites that offer interesting advice on how to support your child through the covid-19 pandemic. This is a stressful situation to be in and we are all doing it for the first time, we hope you find the following sites helpful.

Psychology today – Helping your teen to succeed with remote learning

Metro Parent - Top tips for making online learning a better experience for your child and being a positive force in their education.

UNICEF – Share 5 helpful tips to help keep children learning during the covid-19 pandemic

Marin Magazine – Teachers offer their best tips for online learning for all different age-groups.



Learning in Focus