

Letter from the Principal

“The great aim of education is not knowledge but action”.
Herbert Spencer



Dear Parents,

As you are aware, our IGCSE students are well into their examination schedule. Next week sees the commencement of the summer internal assessments for the remainder of our secondary students. Whilst it is important that all students prepare well for these assessments, it is equally important that we recognise that tests and examinations can be a stressful time for our children. There are a number of ways that parents can help alleviate this stress, in turn enabling students to perform to the best of their ability. One very good source of information and advice on this subject is the U.K. NHS Choices website

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/pages/coping-with-exam-stress.aspx>.

This week, our Primary School students have focused on developing their scientific skills through a themed 'Science Week'. As well as partaking in a wide range of scientific investigations, students had the opportunity to be inspired by members of our parent community who work in scientific fields, including doctors and a university professor. The week culminated with a Science Fair in our sports hall, where Primary students showcased their learning from the week. Thank you to all parents who gave up their time to enhance the learning experiences of our students.

Also this week, our school nurses commenced the Supreme Council of Health's Vision Screening initiative this week, beginning with selected Primary classes. This will conclude next week with the screening of our Year 7 and Year 9 students.

Finally, our Madinat Khalifa students achieved great success by winning Gold in the Qatar Inter-schools Sailing Regatta. Congratulations to our team of four students, from both our Primary and Secondary School, led by Miss Blick (who also won the teacher's race). A full report of this event can be found later in this newsletter.

I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

David Burt

Head of Primary

Primary News

IPC in Year 3 “Adventurers and Explorers”

The year 3 classes have started their IPC topic ‘Adventurers and Explorers’ and did a treasure hunt as their entry point. They had to solve the clues which included a word scramble, a picture jigsaw, a riddle and a naughts and crosses challenge. The clues took them to different places around the school as they collected the information they needed to make a presentation about one of five famous explorers – Neil Armstrong, Edmund Hilary, Ferdinand Magellan, Jaques Cousteau and Roald Amundsen.

Primary Science Week



Year 1 “Investigations”

This week we have been preparing for Science Day on Thursday, and have been busy completing a range of investigations. We made flying lizards to test the impact of friction on speed, made beautiful paper flowers that open up when they are in water and we even made rocket balloons that wizz along a wire when released. We are really looking forward to showing off our science work at the fair on Thursday.



Year 5 and 6 Dr Obbard Visit

Year 5 and 6 were treated to a demonstration on air purification by Dr Jeff Obbard from the Qatar University Environmental Studies Centre. Dr Obbard used a machine to read the number of particles in the air inside the classroom. He then show how an air purifying machine works and retested the air quality. The number of particles dropped by 11 000 000 particles per cubic metre.

Year 6 “Separating Materials”

Year 6 developed their scientific enquiry skills this week by investigating ways of separating materials. They developed questions to study using sweets in water, to see the way the colour dissolved. Their creativity in questioning was impressive. Set the challenge of separating two solids, they had to design a process and select the appropriate equipment, then make improvements to the process when they did not at first succeed.

They showed great resilience in repeating (and repeating) their tests. Finally, they had the memorable experience of being able to see DNA, which they extracted from bananas.

Student quotes:

Fatimah: “Seeing the DNA was amazing! I did not expect what happened to really happen. Luckily it did!”

Mazin: “I did not know what DNA is before today. I’ve seen it now and I was amazed.”

Zaman: “It looks quite like saliva and you have to be patient.”



Secondary News

Creative Writing Competition

Many of the students have been busy creating and crafting their 'Somewhere Unforgettable' entries.

These students have transported us to imagined lands and distant times. They have introduced us to the most interesting people and awesome characters, and we've travelled the world with them. The Global Classroom is pleased to announce the final winners, and two of the Madinat Khalifa students were finalists in the Lower Secondary Category:

Beauty in the Dark – Nukaiya Hatherley, Doha Madinat Khalifa and Autumn in the South – Gilla Mohamed, Doha Madinat Khalifa

Their work can be read online on the Global Classroom, and will be published in the 2015 Creative Writing Anthology.



Nukaiya Hatherley and Gilla Mohamed

IGCSE and IBDP Biology students find out why plants can be fun



By some strange fate, both IGCSE and IBDP Biology students arrived at the PLANT section of their respective syllabi at exactly the same time. Sighs and groans could be heard down the science corridor as Biology students reluctantly lined up to learn all about the process of photosynthesis and



other plant facts. To their surprise, through hands on investigative work and some gently coaxing, our avid biologists have learned to appreciate plants and understand their great importance to all life on Earth. They can even be seen smiling and enjoying their lessons on pigment chromatography and starch testing of leaves.

Debating League - Round 3 has arrived

We hope that you have enjoyed the competition so far.

This is the last chance for teams to prove their debating skills and enthusiasm before the final, which will take place in June. The motion is: Lower Secondary - "Anybody could become leader of their nation."

Upper Secondary - "Voting should be mandatory."

Good luck to our debate teams.

General News

Ramadan

As the start of the holy month of Ramadan approaches (approximately 18 June), we will be amending our school times to accommodate those students who are fasting. (Please see written correspondence from Dr Creissen, dated 5 and 14 May, clarifying this. Students that have opted to leave school early and have handed in written consent from their parents will be required to be picked up from school at 12:00. All other students will remain in school until 13:30. If you have as yet not completed the form that has been sent home please do so and return it to your child's class/form teacher as soon as possible.

School events held during the holy month of Ramadan (productions and graduations) will take place as usual and will finish before 12:00. There will be no ECAs.

Lost Property

We have a lot of lost property filling our bins at the moment. Please could all parents take some time to go through these on Sunday 17 and Monday 18 May, during pick up time at the end of school. The items will be placed under the shading in the open area.

Any items remaining will be donated to a worthy cause.

The Sporting Week

Inter Schools Sailing Regatta Champs 2015

On Tuesday, the Inter Schools Sailing Regatta was hosted by Regatta Sailing Academy on Katara Beach. The sailing conditions were perfect, as the sailors arrived at the beach with a gentle north westerly breeze blowing. The selection process for the Regatta was very tough, as only four sailors could represent each school on the day. Representing Compass were Timme Van Der Wal in the Laser, Simon Christiansen in the Tera and Casper Spruit and Eelke Cath in the Pico. The sailors had just two races to sail the best they could and compete for the top spot. The pressure was on for Compass as we were the reigning champions from 2014. After the first race, we were tied on points with ISLQ, which made for a very tense final race as all was still to play for. However, Timme and Simon secured two bullets in the Laser and Tera Fleet and Casper and Eelke in the Pico achieved a 4th and 2nd place respectively. This meant Timme and Simon won Gold and Casper and Eelke won Bronze. Overall, Compass totalled 10 points putting us in 1st place, just 2 points in front of ISLQ. This is an excellent achievement for our Sailing Team that everyone should be very proud of. Our own teacher Miss Blick also won the teacher event. Well done Team Compass!



Basketball 10 May

This week basketball has been hot on the agenda with teams from years 5, 6, 7 and 9 all playing. Basketball has become a very popular sport at Compass International School over the year and numbers attending the ECA continue to grow each week.

As the teams continue to improve you are able to follow their success via the department twitter @CISD_MK_PE. Mr Martin

Some great basketball, a good win for Compass.



CIS Basketball Team



U14 Basketball at MIS

Dates for your Diary

Monday, 18 May	- Information evening for the London Performing Arts Residential - 6pm. - Year 5 / Year 6 QPSSA Primary Swimming Gala at Al Jazeera Academy - 9.15am.
Thursday, 21 May	Year 5 Brick Class Assembly - 7.30am in the sports hall. Parents welcome.
Sunday 24 May & Monday 25 May	Half Term.



SUMMER CAMPS

Sports & Activities Camps for Kids

RUNNING FROM JULY 5TH FOR 8 WEEKS

COMPASS SCHOOL - MADINAT KHALIFA
COMPASS SCHOOL - GHARAFFA (4YRS – 8YRS ONLY)

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