



The Gharaffa Buzz

December Qatar National Day
2015 Edition

Highlights:

Qatar National
Day Celebrations

Be Ambitious
Week

Alan Gibbons

Milepost News

Digital Journey



Qatar National Day...

On Monday 14th December we celebrated our very own Qatar National Day at Compass International School, Gharaffa.

It started off with a traditional Arabic breakfast. We had food, fun and a fantastic assembly organised by our Arabic Department. We were entertained by singers, learned about the cities and occupations of Qatar and were entertained with the traditional razeef performed by the boys. Our campus was an array of maroon and white, transforming it into a true Qatar celebration. We were all very proud to be part of this wonderful celebration which you can see on this page.





Be Ambitious Challenges

Across our two campuses we have spent the week focusing on our new philosophy – Be Ambitious!

Children in all year groups have been involved in activities to deepen their understanding of what this means for them and for us as a school.

In short, Be Ambitious is the new philosophy being introduced across the Nord Anglia Education family of schools.

- ✚ It is a philosophy that guides everything we do.
- ✚ It is a philosophy that encourages every one of you to:
 - aim high,
 - take control,
 - create the futures you want to live.

We are working to create a school where everyone shares the belief that there is no limit to what we can achieve if we work hard together and individually.

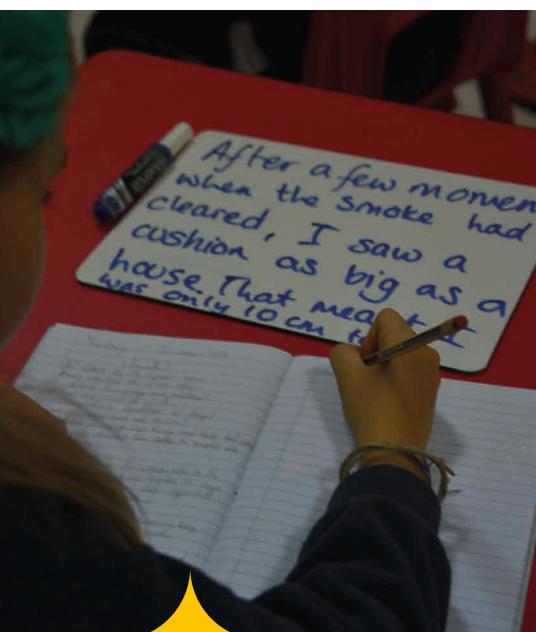
Student Councilors from Y1-6 challenged their classes to explain the philosophy to others by whatever means they like – we have had posters, video montages, puppet shows and music videos to name just a few. These will be being used to publicise our message inside our school and across the Nord Anglia family over the next few weeks – keep an eye out for these!



The School Council summarised our vision better than any adult could – the discussions focused on what we at CISD Rayyan and Gharaffa want as our school community – we want people that:

- **Aim high, never settle for second best.**
- **Look for new things to learn.**
- **Always work hard to get better at things they already know.**
- **Believe in everyone and help them to be the best that they can be.**
- **Make a community that works together to make things better.**

Thank you to all the parents who supported us this week with our Be Ambitious Home School Challenges too – the children have been awesome!





Alan Gibbons - Author Visit

Our visiting author, Alan Gibbons, has helped the children put our new 'Be Ambitious' philosophy into stories on various themes that show ambition. He also helped many of the children to view writing as a challenge that they can conquer with inspiring guided writing sessions.

"He was hilarious!" Shihab 2GB

**Joanna Gilbert English
Coordinator**

“

Alan was very funny but also inspiring. He gave me lots of ideas for my story.

”

Kayla Bowness Y4GA

The Next Steps on Our Digital Journey

At Compass International School, we are taking the next step on an incredible, revolutionary, digital journey to improve the use of technology within our school to help enhance and redefine learning.

By working with teachers and children across both campuses, the learning opportunities that have been created so far this year have been beyond expectations. Children are showcasing their learning in ways that was never thought possible!

Year 4 Myths

Children in Year 4 at Gharaffa had their amazing stories displayed on a website-

<https://sites.google.com/site/cis-dy4m/home>

People of the Past;

Children in Year 2 have been bringing people of the past to life!

Using Morfo – Children had great fun making Florence Nightingale speak about her day;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTFsWj7cYBM>

Year 2 also used Puppet Pals to create videos using people from the past.

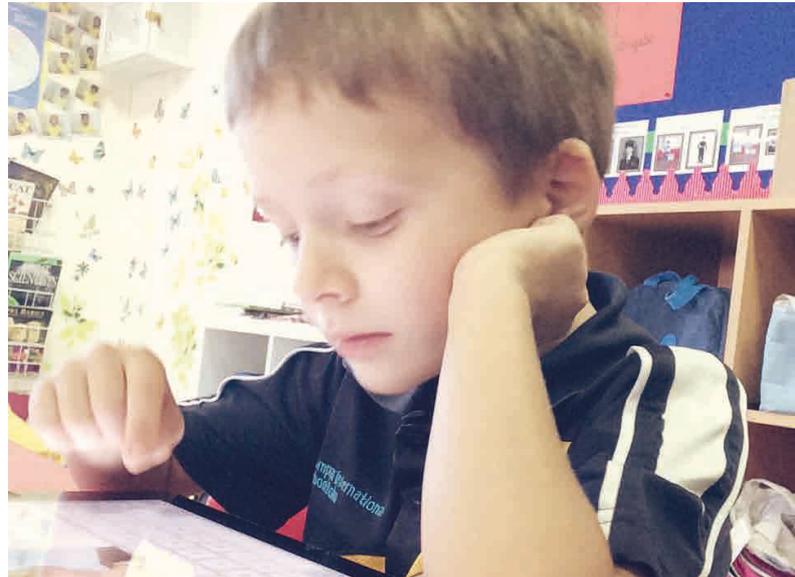
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=za6WXhALgJY>

Becoming Astronauts!

Children in Year 1 have been inspired while making their rockets and have used Apps like Superimpose to become astronauts.

These are just some examples of the revolutionary learning taking place this year and there is much more to come. From parent workshops to our very first DIGITAL DAY we invite you all to join us on the next step of our incredible digital journey.

Raz Akhtar ICT Learning co-ordinator





Music Celebration ...



The children have shown great talent in this year's music assembly.

Since the beginning of the school year they have been busy learning how to read notes and how to apply them to playing musical instruments.

The children showed a particular interest in drumming, which is an essential instrument in the music class. They have also been learning basic rhythms, which go along with stories and singing. We saw great examples of this in the assembly.

Those who are learning individual instruments also showcased their talents in our assembly through playing the flute, guitar, drum kit and piano.

The whole assembly was prepared in an atmosphere of creativity and love for music.





A Day at the Beach...

Early Years children had a great time at the beach last week.

We made sandcastles, added water so they didn't fall down, and played with the ball on the sand. We are pleased to say that we did not encounter any sharks on our trip. We all enjoyed eating our snacks on the cushions under the trees and were then ready to burn off some more energy on the climbing-frame. Many of the children had never been on a bus before, and all of them listened carefully to instructions and stayed with the class during our visit. For some of them the most exciting part of the trip was the ride to the beach!

The EY2 children have enjoyed learning about pirates this term, and

they also had a fantastic time at the beach. We dug in the sand, in the hope of finding some buried treasure. We had fun feeling the lovely warm sand between our toes. We played exciting games in the sand, and we watched the waves as they rolled and splashed onto the sand. After a fun-filled morning, we visited the park and had more adventures pretending we were pirates. The children had a great time and were a credit to our school. We hope to visit the beach sometime soon for some more fun and excitement.

A wonderful way to end our "Sand and Water", and "Pirate" units. A big thank you to all the parents who helped us out on our visits.



People of the Past

The children of Year Two began this new term with an exciting topic, People of the Past!

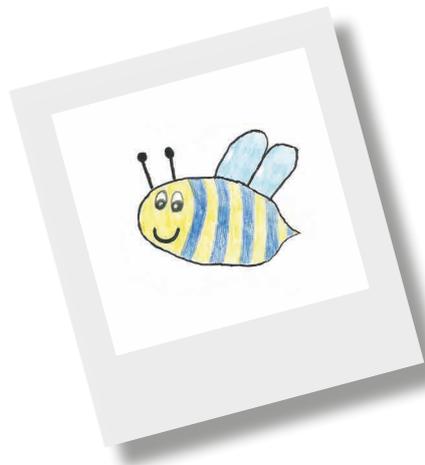
During our Entry Point, the children researched all kinds of famous people of the past including scientists, explorers, musicians and artists. The children came dressed as these significant people and we had a 'famous people' catwalk show with all of the Year 2 classes. Everyone had the opportunity to interview each of the famous guests to find out all about their lives.

Throughout the rest of the topic, the children had the opportunity to develop their history detective skills as they went on history treasure hunts to find out about famous musicians, artists and nurses. They brought history to life when they interviewed Florence Nightingale using the Morfo app on the iPads. Finally, as an Exit Point, the children created amazing time capsules to fill with information and pictures about themselves now, for their future selves to dig up and look at later on in life.



Spot the Mascot Competition...

Well done to Mubarak and Eid last month's winners!



Where is Buzzy hiding in this month's newsletter? Look carefully to find him and then email buzzy.gh@nais.qa with his location. There will be a prize for the first family to spot him and they will be featured in the next edition!

Archaeologists - Go Potty at Compass!

This month, Year 4 GA were visited by a group of archaeologists from University College London's Qatar campus here in Doha.

The children in Year 4 have been learning all about Temples, Tombs and Treasure for the unit on IPC so this was a good practical opportunity to learn about how objects from the past can teach us about ancient civilisations.

The children learned what an archaeologist does and how important their work is. Following this, the children became archaeologists for the morning and helped to put some broken artefacts together. We were given pieces of broken pottery that we had to rebuild. The task highlighted just how important the job of an archaeologist is and also how tricky it can be.

Once the children rebuilt the pots they used their iPads to record what they had done and drew a picture of their finished work.

Our class were invited to visit the UCL laboratories to see how the real archaeologists work.

The visit provided inspiration for the children and as a result of this, some have decided to be archaeologists in the future.

Francis Higgins - Y4GA

I loved the UCL visit. We needed to put an ancient pot back together. Okke and I made three pots, one of them was very hard because it had no pattern but we were able to make it. The other two pots were easy because they did have patterns. The archaeologists taught me a lot about their job. I never knew they needed a plan called a grid where they dig. I thought they just dug somewhere. I hope they visit another time soon.

Stijn Back Y4GA

When UCL visited I thought I knew everything an archaeologist did but I was wrong because they explained that if they found a piece of pottery they could easily find out what age it was from. I also thought putting pottery together was easy but apparently it's very difficult. For example, myself and Kayla had a big bag with tonnes of little pieces of pottery in it and believe me it was not easy putting those pottery pieces together!

Aaron Spencer Y4GA



“ Believe me it was not easy putting those pottery pieces together! ”
Aaron Spencer Y4GA



Opening of the Morgan Sports Hall

Earlier this month Compass International School celebrated the lives of Mr Eamonn Morgan and his girlfriend Charlotte Sant in a Memorial Assembly.

Mr Doyle, who was a very close friend of Mr Morgan arranged the assembly. Here is what he had to say- 'The Eamonn Morgan Memorial Assembly was one of my proudest moments at Compass. I was particularly pleased that we were able to not only remember Eamonn and reflect on his short but wonderful life, but also to celebrate his life in an upbeat and fun way. The comments from both staff and pupils served to illustrate how he impacted the lives of all that he met in a positive way. This was even true with Richard Keys, who, after just one short meeting with Eamonn, found himself teary eyed at our magnificent assembly celebrating a truly magnificent person. Thank you to all who played their part in this.'

One of the greatest parts of the assembly was where the children had to shave off the teacher's moustaches that they had been

growing for Movember to raise money for the Eamonn Morgan trust.

'Shaving off the teachers moustaches was scary but so much fun!'- **Dhruv Year 5**

'The assembly was funny!'- **Tudor Year 5**

'Jess cut me! Maybe she was getting revenge!'- **Mr Hannon**

'Mr Morgan would have loved to have been at the assembly because it was so much fun. He was the best teacher!'- **Jess Year 5**

'I wanted to shave off Mr Pegrum's moustache because he is my dance teacher! It was really funny!'- **Julietta Year 4**

'I am very proud that my poster is up on the wall for Mr Morgan!'- **Rajas Year 3**

'We made funny shapes on Mr Lyons' moustache! Mr Doyle had to shave it off! It was fun.'- **Makena Year 6**



... and finally

Dear Parents

Well, here we are at the end of a very exciting and challenging Term 1. We welcomed a lot of new students to our campuses at Rayyan and Gharaffa this year and they have added their unique individual contribution to our school.

The year has ended with a vibrant and colourful set of National Day Celebrations which were led by the wonderful teachers in our Arabic department. Thank you all! I certainly feel proud and privileged to have been part of these celebrations again this year.

Living in Qatar has certainly been an exciting and interesting experience and as I come to the end of another year it started me thinking about just how fortunate we are here. I know everyone grumbles about the traffic and the continuous building but it really is very easy to get into the habit of just looking inwards and thinking about how our lives are impacted by such trivial matters.

At Rayyan and Gharaffa this term we have been spending a lot of time thinking about how we can be ambitious, how we can set goals and work towards them to achieve personal success. We have some wonderful videos and animations that I hope you have seen that have recorded our thoughts and dreams. Many of our children had decided that their ambitions lay in serving other people and their communities. Many of them want to be doctors or surgeons, policemen or teachers. They have a real sense of wanting to help make a better world and I find that quite admirable.

Seeing things from another person's perspective isn't always easy but I had the chance recently to join a group of individuals who are embarking on a truly ambitious project which they hope will in time change their whole country for the better and improve the lives of children and young people.

I travelled to Kilifi County just outside Mombasa in Kenya to see the work of the charity Many Hopes. Many Hopes or Mudzini Kweto in Swahili works to support homeless and abandoned street children.

Taking these children off the streets and giving them a safe and loving home is just the first step. The home was built to make sure the girls feel like what they are: members of a family, not orphans in an institution. Each floor of the main house has four bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, house-mother and family of mixed-age children. This is their home and their family until they choose to leave and make their own lives.

Now Many Hopes is building its first school. Not an ordinary school for poor kids that you can probably see



Graham Horton - Principal

in your mind's eye, brick walls, tin roof, loads of children in each class, no glass in the windows, but a truly inspiring high quality school that will have places for children from all communities, a school where the children can learn to see each other as human beings of great worth and potential. The aim of the school is to grow a generation of young Kenyans who believe in equality and justice for all and who will in the future be the leaders of their communities and indeed of their country.

Now, that is ambitious!

For more information about Many Hopes visit www.manyhopes.org

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Graham

Graham Horton - Principal

Key Dates for the Diary

Sunday 3rd January:

School reopens

Monday 11th January:

Marahaba coffee 7.30am

Sunday 17th January:

Whole school writing focus
ECAs begin

Thursday 21st January:

International Day

Thursday 29th January:

End of half Term



COMPASS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
DOHA, RAYYAN & GHARAFFA
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL