

BIS TIMES

ABU DHABI

TERM 2 2020/2021

BISAD'S GOT TALENT

**MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE
CHAMPIONS**

INTERNATIONAL DAY 2021

THE CITY

A BIS ABU DHABI NOVEL

***DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARD***



THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

SECOND ISSUE

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

I am delighted to share with you our latest issue of the BIS Abu Dhabi Times, packed with the latest news and events from the school.

The school continues to operate within the strongest safety requirements to minimise the impact of COVID. It is still wonderful to see however, how much the school can operate “as normal” even with the impact of social distancing and other measures.

As ever, the students of BIS Abu Dhabi have done us proud. This is in terms of their achievements, their commitment to their studies and their participation in everything that is on offer. The highlights of the term are included within these pages and clearly underline the achievements of the students and the staff. There is also international recognition of the school's achievements which we are proud to share.

The International School Awards are held each year in order to recognise the achievements of the leading international schools in the world. Awards are presented across a number of categories and schools are judged for their provision and the students' successes. The 2021 Awards were held in January, and we were delighted to once again receive an award, this time for “Student Pathways to Continued and Higher Education”. You can read more about this in the article inside.

This award follows on from also winning the previous year for “Community Initiative” for an architecture project designed for Primary students and which linked them with architecture students from Abu Dhabi University. It is very pleasing to be acknowledged by the international education community for activities for students from different parts of the school. As an acknowledgement of the amazing work of our staff and the achievements of the students, it is extra special to observe that BIS Abu Dhabi is the only school in the world to win the

International School Awards two years running.

Elsewhere within this magazine you will also be able to read about numerous other student achievements, awards and some of the events they participated in. The students have some magnificent accomplishments, and we are very proud to share them with you.

From Theme Learning Days to Mathematical Olympiads and from Duke of Edinburgh's Award to International Day we can see students participating and thriving. The school has been commended for its response to the pandemic and for the offer for students, both with regard to face-to-face learning and online learning. However, all credit must go to the students. It is not always easy for young people to adapt when their routines change, yet the BIS Abu Dhabi students surprise us again and again with their willingness to change with new situations and to make the best of each new opportunity.

I would also like to offer the greatest praise I can to the staff who work with the students each day, and to the parents who support from home. This year has been extremely challenging for parents who have had to manage their own demands of work and home life, in addition to supporting students remotely. The success of the students is a direct reflection of the commitment of their parents and their close partnership with the teachers.

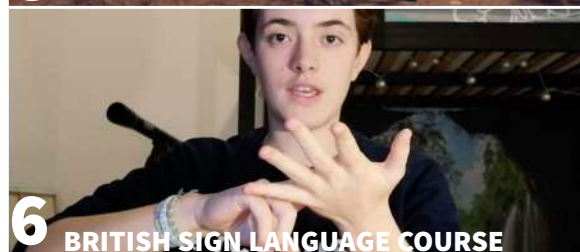
The students, staff and parents are now enjoying the spring break and I trust everyone is relaxing and enjoying time in the UAE. We will also be entering the Holy Month of Ramadan soon and wish all those participating a blessed and peaceful time.

Patrick Horne

Principal



WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AT *BIS ABU DHABI*



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2020 and 2021 Award Winners!

In January BIS Abu Dhabi won its second award in a row at the annual International Schools Awards. This year the school won the “Student Pathways to Continued & Higher Education” Award after winning the “Community Initiative” Award in 2020. BIS Abu Dhabi is the first school in the world to win an award two years consecutively, which is an achievement to be very proud of.

The prestigious annual International School Awards, which are hosted by ISC Research, recognise exceptional teaching and learning efforts from the best international

schools around the world. This year, schools were recognised for their ‘over and above’ response to the challenges created by the pandemic.

To win another award with such fierce competition shows how teachers at BIS Abu Dhabi go above and beyond to make sure students have the best future possible.

Winner of the Award for Student Pathways
The British International School
Abu Dhabi



BIS Abu Dhabi won the “Student Pathways to Continued & Higher Education” 2020 Award for the bespoke pre-university programme implemented after campus closures last year.

Following the cancellation of the summer IB examinations in March, BIS Abu Dhabi felt a strong moral obligation to help better prepare university-bound students with additional formal learning. As such, staff at the school created tailored university courses for Year 13 students (on European literature, culture studies, medicine, biochemistry, neuroscience, and psychology) to help prepare them for their first few weeks at university.

Chris Lowe, Head of Secondary at The British International School Abu Dhabi, said, “I am thrilled that we were able to maintain learning for our Year 13 students, as we did not want them to leave our care without being as well prepared for university life as they could possibly be. Using an online learning platform, students opted into one of six learning channels which related to the course that they would be following at university. A seventh ‘channel’ was run by tutors and counsellors to give pastoral advice about the challenges ahead.”

These awards further enhance The British International School Abu Dhabi’s reputation as one of the leading international schools in the world.

Secondary Headteacher's Commendation Award

Congratulations to this wonderful group of students who became some of the first recipients of the Secondary Headteacher's Commendation Award in the new year. This award is given to students whom teachers feel have gone 'over and above' what might be expected in their learning.



Almaha (Y8)

Mr. Lewis from the Science Team was especially impressed with Almaha's amazing video presentation of "Top Reach Theme Park" which explained forces and friction in such wonderful detail. Well done to her on being both an excellent content creator and an excellent scientist, she delivered an outstanding piece of work.

Furthermore, it is in fact Almaha's third Commendation of the school year – she is the first student to reach three! We look forward to seeing more of this in the future!

Zak (Y13)

Zak has amazed Mr. Gildroy with the amount of effort, background reading and research he has completed for his IB Extended Essay (EE) on Quantum Computers.

Mr. Gildroy wrote: "I am blown away with the amount of effort, background reading and research that he has completed.... He has not only completed significant background reading but has also arranged to have some of his own code run on an IBM quantum computer (QISKIT).... I have had to constantly keep reading new material to just keep up with Zak during this EE! I have high hopes for Zak as his passion for computing and technology is obvious – he is definitely one to watch in the future."



Gabriela (Y13)

Gabriela was nominated by Mrs. Collinson and Mrs. Bervaes and they have been especially impressed with her efforts relating to the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) aspects of her IB Diploma.

Mrs. Bervaes wrote; "During these very special circumstances I saw this wonderful young lady overcoming all obstacles in her way, one after the other, like the experiments for her Biology IA, juggling with 2-3 different devices during remote learning, learning ballet, learning to cook, running ... just to mention a few. She definitely became my role model."

Gabriela certainly deserves a great deal of credit for her effort and we hope that she will continue to strive for the highest standards in the coming period.

Developing Sign Language Skills

BIS Abu Dhabi amazing students have been learning a new skill over the last term, British Sign Language (BSL) with Miss Goldsbrough during their Monday lunchtimes!

It has been fantastic to see so many of wonderful students embracing something new, developing their skills and having fun at the same time!

Around 50 Secondary students participate in the live sessions each Monday during lunchtime, and even more tune in to the recorded sessions. So far, they are all able to sign the alphabet, their names, the 7 United Arab Emirates, emotions & feelings, colours, days of the week, months, sign the 'Happy Birthday' song, and more!

The school is so proud of how quickly the students have picked up this skill, and how eager they are to learn. Watching them communicating in this way has been truly inspiring.



Outstanding Mathematical Success

Just before the half-term break, a select number of promising mathematicians from Years 9 - 11 entered the UK Mathematical Trust Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. This highly-regarded Trust challenges students' problem-solving abilities, working outside of traditional curriculum topics.

The performance of BIS Abu Dhabi students' was outstanding! Of the Year 9 students who entered, 6 achieved a Bronze award, 4 Silver, and 1 Gold award. A truly impressive performance, given that our students were solving mathematical problems alongside students up to two years their senior. In Year 10 and 11, 39 students achieved an award; 23 Bronze, 11 Silver and 5 Gold.

With their superb scores Younes and Junha from Year 10 and Seongwon from Year 11 performed so well that they qualified for the Hamilton and Maclaurin Olympiads held in March. These were a 2-hour competition consisting of six problems requiring full written solutions. Only 600 of the top student mathematicians in the world are invited to participate and BIS Abu Dhabi had three students involved, this is an incredible achievement for our BIS AD students and teachers. We very much look forward to receiving the results.



Well done to all who participated.

Featured on the Cover

Visual Arts students illustrating their way into your home and workplace!

Year 13 Virtual Arts student Safa recently submitted one of her illustrations into a prestigious international competition. The Catalogue Cover Competition was run by 'Specialist – Arts Craft & Design', one of the most popular Arts material suppliers for industry professionals and schools, operating in the UAE and UK. This annual competition challenged students to create an artwork for their catalogue cover for the following year.

BIS Abu Dhabi is thrilled and immensely proud to announce that Safa was selected as one of the winners in this global competition! Her spectacular illustration of Abu Dhabi's iconic Al Bahr Towers was selected as the Catalogue Cover winner for the UAE, and will be featured on all catalogues distributed in the region for 2021. Not only will Safa's artwork be featured on the cover of next year's catalogue, but she also won herself and the school 1200AED worth of vouchers... well done Safa!



YEAR 5 CHINA DAY

In February, Year 5 dedicated the day to learning about the traditions of the Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year is one of the biggest celebrations in China and fell on Friday, 12th February this year.

Our Year 5 teachers created activities around the Chinese New Year for the students to complete including cooking fried rice, making Chinese lanterns, and building a Chinese dragon. Check out some of their creations below!



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

“Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome.” - American tennis player Arthur Ashe.

The above quote accurately sums up the journey that students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's (D of E) International Award have taken over in the past 18 months.

Following the success of the programme in previous years, the BIS Abu Dhabi D of E programme has grown to now having most of the Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students participating.

The D of E journey begins with students recording their progress in 3 different activity areas; Physical Recreation, Skills and Voluntary Service. Students actively engage in these activities by logging 1 hour per activity, per week. This can be recognised as a large balancing act when also dealing with CCA's, studies and other family commitments! Alongside this, students receive training in preparation for their adventurous journeys to locations such as Khatim Desert and Fossil Rock.

The emergence of COVID-19 had a big influence on the progress of students completing the Award, making their D of E journey even more challenging. From adventurous journeys being cancelled, virtual learning being enforced, to groups not being allowed to meet, it certainly impacted the progress of the Award. However, the new reality triggered students to become creative in their approach to completing the Award. Entirely new activities were carried out, ultimately developing students even further.

The D of E team have been extremely impressed with the maturity and creativity in students that completed the Award. Three students share their D of E stories with us. Even though they completed their Award in different ways and at different times of the year, a common element was that they were well organised and paid extreme care and dedication to the 'doing' of the Award, to gain maximum self-improvement whilst completing it. A clear message to those wishing to complete the Award in the future: being organised is a key success factor in gaining the D of E International Award.





Maryam (Y10)

Why did you want to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award?

To me the Duke of Edinburgh Award seemed like the perfect package. During the award I got to maintain my physical fitness, learn important skills as an individual and as a team and give back to the community and the environment.

How can you see the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award helping you in the future?

While completing the Award, I learned many things as an individual and as a member of a team. I learnt the importance of teamwork, trust, leadership, resourcefulness and commitment. Developing these qualities at an early age will definitely benefit me in the future regardless of what career path I choose.

Louis (Y10)

What was your largest challenge when completing the award and how did you overcome it?

This was definitely when the Coronavirus brought us all into lockdown. Before lockdown I was attending swimming training for an hour every week for my Skill and was helping teach French to a class of Year 4 students for my service. Finding ways to continue was really difficult but eventually I overcame this challenge. To continue with my Service, I offered to help teach French to students via an online call. Also, to continue with my Skill, I created a personal workout to maintain the progress I made whilst training. Both these ideas allowed me to eventually complete the award.

What advice would you give to anyone wishing to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award?

Do it! You have absolutely nothing to lose and so much to gain! The Duke of Edinburgh Award is widely recognised around the world and something that you will be able to put on your CV. When the time comes to apply to a university, this award will be something that could possibly be the difference between yourself and another candidate. Another piece of advice I would give someone is to plan ahead what you want to complete for your Skill, Service and Physical Recreation and who your assessors will be for each. This allows you to start the award as soon as possible and less stressful and easier to begin. Lastly, I made so many more friends whilst taking part in DofE and discovered new activities that I love and it's very likely the same will happen to you.



Tamsin (Y11)

What were your greatest memories of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award?

My greatest memories of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award were definitely those from our Adventurous Journey. I most enjoyed navigating in the desert to find the checkpoints and work out how long and far we had to go. At the end of the day my group all came together to help out with cooking pasta for dinner, which was definitely rewarding. Even though some aspects were challenging and tiring like walking in the sun, it was overall an enjoyable experience getting to know the members of my group through the preparation, planning and during our time spent walking together.

How can you see the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award helping you in the future?

It has taught me skills that you cannot learn in the classroom as well as shown me how skills learnt in school can be applied elsewhere. I have become better at time management; from organising when I would practice my Skill, Sport or do my Service, which will help me when I do CAS in IB, to the logging of the activities. When I apply for universities in the near future, all these skills and activities will help to show universities what type of person I am.



International Day 2021



On Thursday, 4th February, the BIS Abu Dhabi community had an amazing Virtual International Day. Everyone had a wonderful day celebrating the diversity of the BIS Abu Dhabi school community and its large number of different nationalities (over 90 in fact!).

Students, parents and teachers wore the colours of their national flag or their country's traditional dress and changed their background on TEAMS to their national colours or colourful collages while they were in lessons.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of activities with a UN Global Goals focus. They learned all about the importance of the Global Goals and took part in lessons such as learning different languages (including sign language), identifying famous landmarks

from across the world, wellbeing activities from different countries and many student quizzes. Even PE, music and language lessons took on an international theme!

There were many opportunities for families to be involved during the day with our International themed 'Ways to Wellbeing' activities. Families shared videos showing their traditional dances, cooking lessons and information about their countries and cultures from around the world.

The fun culminated in the BIS Abu Dhabi International Day Family Quiz, where more than 100 families competed to become the BIS Abu Dhabi Champions. Well done to our winning teams and everyone that participated.





The City - A BIS Abu Dhabi Staff and Student Novel

During the Covid-19 lockdown in May 2020, the BIS Abu Dhabi English Department launched a project to write their very own BIS Abu Dhabi novel.

The premise was simple - each member of the novel writing team, including students and teachers, was given one chapter to write. There was no brief, no plot line to follow, no set character list to include – all they had was a title 'The City'. Therefore, the writing team could take their turn, chapter-by-chapter, and develop the story in whichever direction they wanted.

This term they were delighted to present the final product - The City, it really is an enjoyable read. Well done to all of the students and staff that got involved, a fantastic idea, everyone is looking forward to the sequel! Read the full novel by using the QR code below, you are sure to enjoy it!



The City

New York. The city that never sleeps. It was also a city that Heidi loved. She was raised in a small, unassuming town in Mid-West America but spent her University days in New York studying accountancy. She loved everything about the city; the people, the food, the sights and sounds all around her. New York was also the place where she met her best friend, Shamsa Ali, a friend who mysteriously chose to keep her distance as they grew older and who hadn't been in contact with Heidi for years.

Now, Heidi is a successful accountant at a large firm in London, England. That is however, until someone leaves a briefcase outside her London apartment. A briefcase with a note inside that forces Heidi back to her beloved city of New York. Once there she finds herself in the middle of a desperate race to save the city. Old friends reappear and new enemies emerge as she learns of an imminent plan that will change the face of New York forever. Will she be able to do enough to save the city she loves?



Times Tables Rockstars battle

Year 3 found their inner Rockstar when they had a Crazy Hair Day this term.

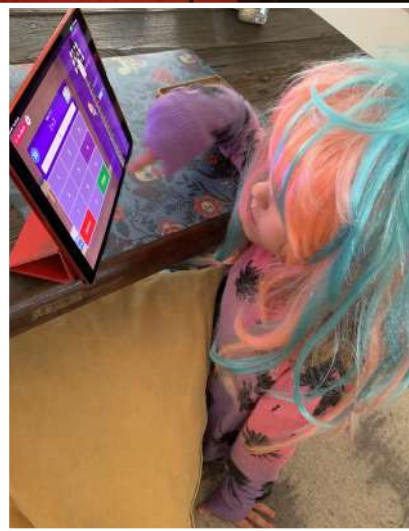
The students are always busy learning their times tables, and love using the Times Table Rockstars app.

Throughout the day, they crafted the perfect hairstyle, and had the 'drop everything and battle' where they

stopped what they were doing, logged into Times Table Rockstar and battled with the other classes.

It got quite competitive as they launched into 5 battles throughout the day, answering over 15,000 multiplication questions!

Well done Year 3!

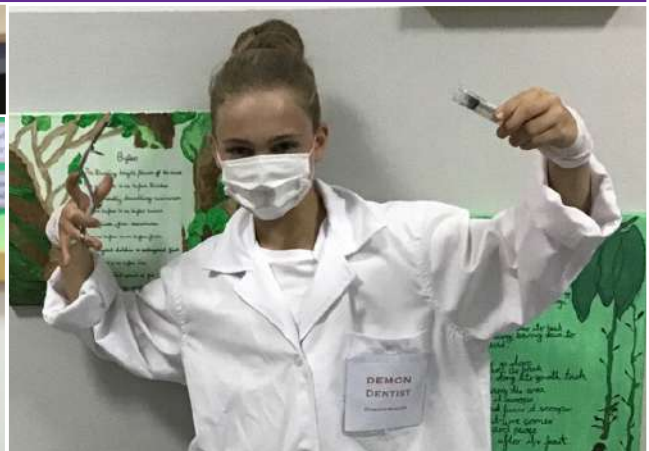
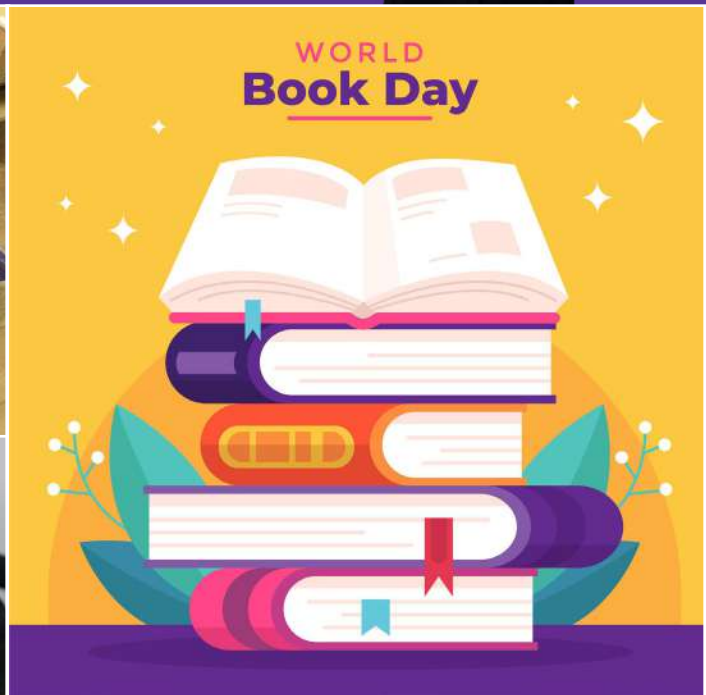


WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day was celebrated on the first Thursday of March. To mark the occasion, students came dressed up in book-themed costumes, as a character from their favorite book, a famous author or even a costume reflecting their favourite story book genre.

Many had bought in a book from home based on their fantastic fancy dress costumes which they were enthusiastic to get out whenever they heard the bell for 'Drop Everything and Read', while others read books on our elibrary portals, Tumble Books or Bug Club.

World Book Day was yet another successful day at BIS Abu Dhabi. Not only was it a day to indulge a love of books, it was filled with fun and creativity. Students were inspired to read something different or explore a new author. In a time where traveling is difficult, they explored the incredible world found within stories.





BISAD's Got Talent



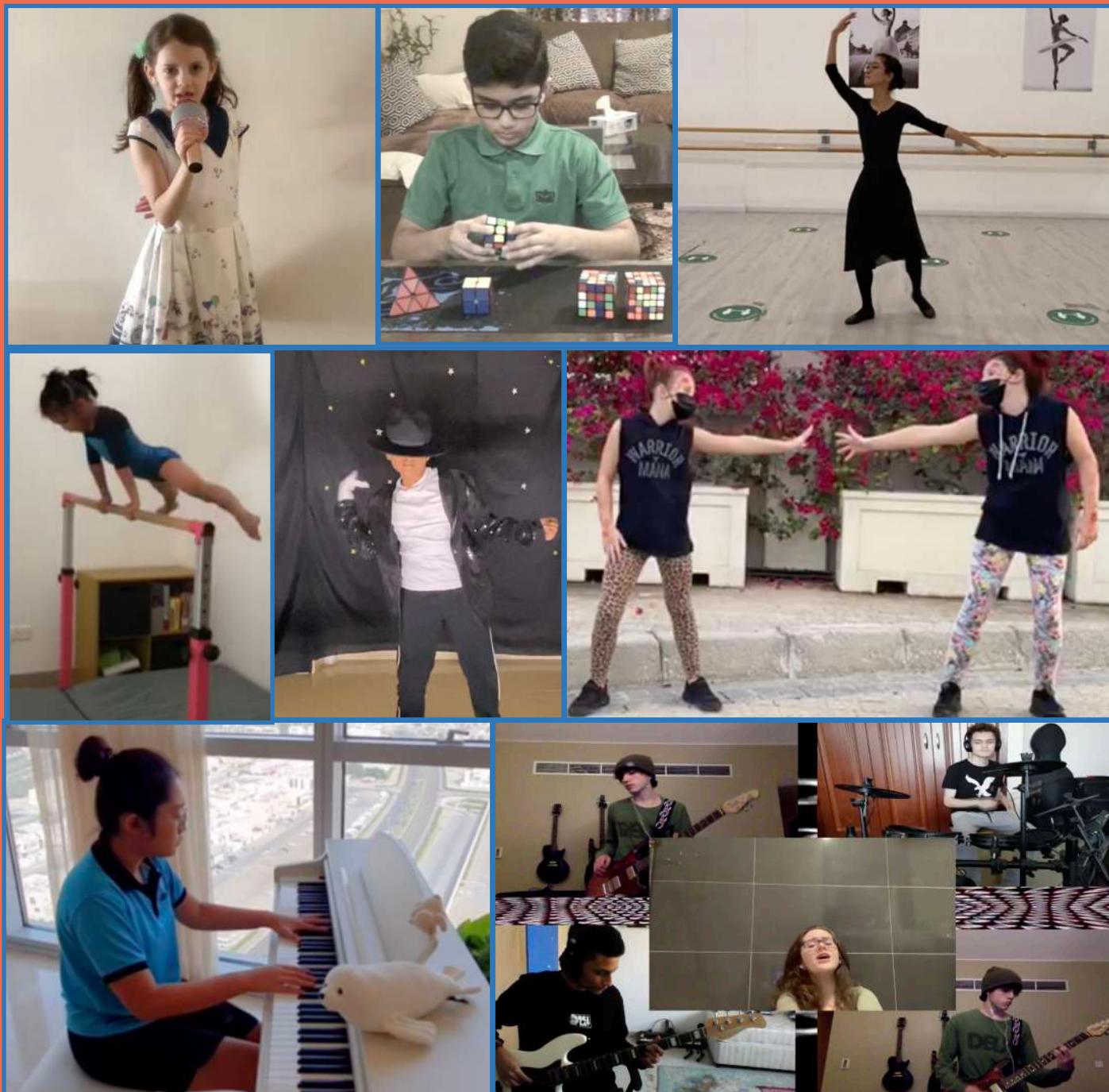
After weeks of auditions, hundred of entries and with parents and teachers showing off their talents as well, the BISAD's Got Talent Final was held on the last day of term! The finalists took to the stage to see which House had the best talent.

18 finalists were selected across both the Primary and Secondary school, ready to show off their skills and be crowned BISAD's Got Talent Winner 2021. From gymnastic to dance, and from singing to art, BISAD's Got Talent has it all!

The live show was shared across the school, and with familie at home, via a stream on Facebook.

And the BIS Got Talent Winners of 2021 are Jinny from Year 6 in Primary with 213 votes and Raya, Dale, Joe and Hassan from The Unintelligibles Band in Secondary with 120 votes, congratulations to you all!

Thank you to all of the students and their families for the time and effort they put in to this wonderful show. BIS Abu Dhabi really does have talent!



Monthly STEAM Challenges

BIS Abu Dhabi students are taking part in a monthly STEAM challenge via the Nord Anglia Education 'Global Campus'.

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths, but it equates to more than just a series of subjects. Whether in the classroom or through extra-curricular activities, STEAM is the key to learning about the impact we have on the world around us, and how exciting the possibilities are.

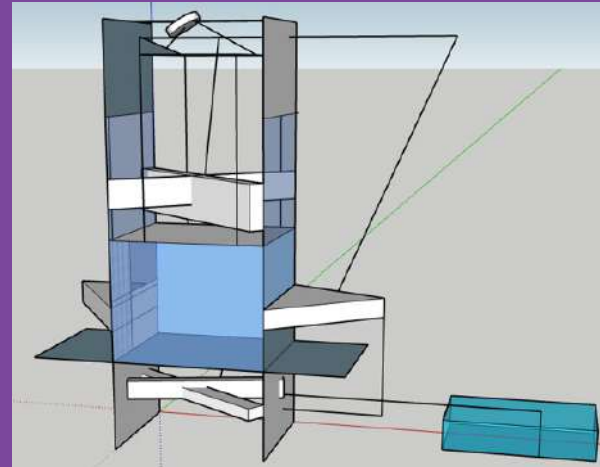
February's STEAM challenge was called 'Elevator Engineer'. Students were set a task to design and build a prototype for a school's elevator. They had to ensure it was well balanced, be able to transport heavy loads up several floors, and needed to be as energy efficient as possible. BIS Abu Dhabi had a fantastic design entry from

Haamed in Year 9, who designed an elevator that is powered by magnets, water and artificial technology.

In March, the 'Hacking Challenge,' asked students in Primary to make a superhero vehicle using waste materials from home. In Secondary, the "Trashion designer" challenge asked students to use 'trash' as a resource, and create a wearable item (such as clothing, a piece of jewelry, a hat or a bag).

Anyssia in Year 8 sent in this wonderful hat, created out of aluminium cupcake trays, which could easily win the Best Hat Award at a horse racing event!

Students are already looking forward to the new challenges in April!



Shining as a leading School in the UAE for The Arts

BIS Abu Dhabi is delighted to be recognised as a leading school in the UAE for Visual Art, Music and Performing Arts programmes, by SchoolsCompared.com.

Students at BIS Abu Dhabi experience Visual Art, Music, Dance and Drama regularly as they form an important part of the curriculum from the age of 3 all the way through to Year 13 in Secondary School. The school's ethos is that these subjects play a crucial role in enabling the students to develop into intelligent, confident and well-rounded global citizens.

The Nord Anglia collaboration with The Juilliard School in New York, not only gives BIS Abu Dhabi students first-class learning experiences, it also provides high-level professional training and personal development opportunities for its teachers.



Fairy Tale Day

Year 1 certainly know how to celebrate the end of a busy term and have celebrated it in style with their Fairytale Ball. During the term they learned about traditional tales, kings, queens and castles so what better than to celebrate by dressing up for a royal day in the BIS Abu Dhabi Castle. The students had a parade to show off their outfits, enjoyed a banquet for lunch and did some fantastic ballroom dancing.



BIS Abu Dhabi Community Running Club



Having experienced different living and working circumstances throughout this global pandemic, one thing it has made us all realise is the importance of spending time away from our screens and the benefits of regular exercise. As access to facilities and opportunities has been limited, many of us have turned to walking or running as a form of regular exercise.

The BIS Abu Dhabi Community Running Club started this term but there is still time to sign up. The running club is for all ages, abilities and for all members of the BIS Abu Dhabi community. For more information and to sign up scan the QR code above.

BIS Abu Dhabi Running Club



BIS Abu Dhabi Graduate

Hanan El Sherif

What made BIS Abu Dhabi special for you?

I was a student at BIS Abu Dhabi for eight years when I graduated in 2018. What made it special for me were my teachers. Some knew me from the day I started until I graduated; they always believed in me and supported me. I will be forever grateful to all of them.

Also, I have made friends that I am still in touch with to this day and look forward to reuniting with them. Seeing how the school has changed throughout the years is amazing; it always felt like a community. There were many social activities, trips and extra-curricular activities to get us involved and interact with others.

Which school club, activity, trip or project inspired you the most?

The trip and the project that inspired me the most was the Tanzania Expedition. Talking about this brings back so many fun memories, from designing hand-made greeting cards to fundraising money for the expedition, building a goat shed from scratch, installing a solar panel, setting the foundation of a classroom and making benches for children to sit on in school. Being part of this expedition is one of my favourite accomplishments, and I think many would agree.

Other than surprising myself and doing many things I have never done before, I realised that I love volunteering and that helping in the smallest of ways is better than doing nothing; seeing the smile on people's face, and their appreciation was the greatest of all. I will never forget Tanzania Expedition and hope to one day be a part of a similar project.

What is the most important lesson you learned at BIS Abu Dhabi?

The most important lesson I learned at BIS Abu Dhabi is perseverance. Always continue working hard to achieve what you want and never give up. Being taught by teachers who've been there since the very start, their support and encouragement helped me bypass all challenges through IGCSE, IB and applying to university. I will forever be grateful to all of them.

What ambitions did BIS Abu Dhabi inspire in you?

That's a difficult question to answer! There were many; at some point, I wanted to study medicine, international

relations, and psychology. But here I am doing business.

Which university and degree did you choose, and why?

I am currently studying Business Management at the University of Birmingham. I never thought that I would be studying Business Management at university but, life can be full of surprises. I chose this course because it'll build a great foundation for my future; I have numerous opportunities and career paths.

I chose the University of Birmingham because it is the oldest Business School in the UK, and the course had modules of interest. I also thought this opportunity will give me a hands-on experience of the real world.

How did the IB Diploma help your experience at university?

Honestly, IB was tough and challenging. But, in the end, it was worth it. It helped me to be more prepared for university in writing essays, referencing, and reading academic literature. Also, it helped me improve my time management by balancing deadlines and catching up with my studies.

If I were at any other school studying IB, I would not have made it to the end. All my teachers were caring and supportive but at the same time strict with the deadlines. They helped and supported all of us whenever we needed it.

What has been your proudest moment since graduating?

One of my proudest moments since graduating was getting the University of Birmingham Chancellor's Award Scholarship. I was very proud because I realised at that moment that hard work eventually pays off.

Other proud moments were my active roles in the university. I worked in ambassador roles, including Student Ambassador and Social Media Ambassador. Also, I was a representative of Business Management for a year.

What are you doing now?

I am currently finishing my second year of university and interning as a Business Development Representative at a Digital Analytics and Business Intelligence company in Dubai.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
AWARDS
HOSTED BY ISC RESEARCH

Proud to be the only school in the world
to win an award two years running.

#Community Initiative Award

#Student Pathways to Continued and
Higher Education Award

#ISAWards2020

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