



**NCBIS**

**New Cairo British International School**

Since 1978



**First in Cairo with  
Full Accreditation**

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3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I trust that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday break, and that batteries are re-charged for the year ahead.

We have had something of a staggered start to the year, due to the delay in opening the Primary and Dutch building. I am sure that once you see the renovations that have taken place, you will agree that the wait was worth it.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new teachers that have joined us this year. In particular, Mr. Thomas Van der Wielen, the new Head of Dutch Stream. Our staff numbers have grown quite considerably this year due to the strong growth in student numbers that we have been experiencing.

#### Renovation work conducted over the Summer break

The first thing you will notice as you enter the school grounds is the fact that the primary building is so much larger than it was the last academic year. This is because we have built an additional floor on top of the building to create extra classrooms. We have also widened the building so that there is significantly more space in each classroom.

The primary building now has a dedicated library and digital media centre. This should prove to be a tremendous resource for our inquiry based learning initiatives in the primary and Dutch schools. We also have a home economics room which will soon have cooking facilities in it.

In the secondary school we also now have a dedicated library area solely for use by secondary students to assist with the development of their research and inquiry skills. A Sixth Form study centre has also been incorporated into the library space, whilst the Sixth Form common room has also undergone renovations in an effort to make it a more student friendly environment.

Our information technology resources have also received a major boost with many of our older computers being replaced, and additional computers being placed strategically around the school to assist student learning. All classrooms throughout the school now have an interactive whiteboard, making it possible for teachers to exploit the wealth of learning resources available on the worldwide web.

## **Examination Results in the Secondary School 2008 - 2009**

We were extremely pleased to learn this year's results exceeded our expectations in both GCSE and A level examinations. The vast majority of students achieved substantially better results than their counterparts in Britain.

The fact that our results have consistently been so good are due to relentless efforts of all involved in continually trying to find ways of further improving the already high standards of attainment by our pupils.

In GCSE, our students achieved the following:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>%age of marks</b>
A*/A	44.2
A*-B	78.6
A* - C	93.0

A few students who scored particularly well were Karim Fawzy, Sydney Loum and Charlotte Proctor who achieved 9 A\* or A grades. Noteworthy performances also came from both Joy Nassif and Marina Wakid who achieved 8 A\*/A grades and 1 B.

At A/S level, we were pleasantly surprised to see that several students substantially exceeded their predicted grades. The results were as follows:

### **AS RESULTS SUMMARY**

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>%</b>
A	32.6
A-B	55.4
A-C	75.0
A-D	87.0
A-E	97.8
U	2.2

It's worth noting that some students will re-sit modules during this academic year and these results will be further improved.

Alex Jorgensen is one of the very small number of candidates who studied 5 A/S courses. The demands of such a heavy schedule are exceptional. We were very pleased, and perhaps not too surprised, to discover that Alex achieved 5 A grades, including an A in Further Maths, a new course introduced at NCBIS last academic year.

### **A2 RESULTS SUMMARY**

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>%</b>
A	25.5
A-B	52.9
A-C	76.5
A-D	88.2
A-E	98.0
U	2.0

We were very encouraged to learn that almost without exception, our A2 students managed to gain acceptance to their first choice of university. Included in this fortunate group, is Lotte Rietveld who is the first NCBIS pupil to gain admission to Cambridge University. Although NCBIS alumni have gained acceptance to Oxbridge, Lotte is the first pupil to be admitted that completed her Sixth Form education at NCBIS. Lotte achieved 4 A grades. Furthermore, her marks were not merely A's. She managed to achieve nearly full marks in all examinations.

Last year's Head Boy and Head Girl, Jon Brown and Saya Sharma both achieved all A grades in their courses.

We anxiously await feedback from Durham University who compares each of our pupil's grades to other pupils who are in a similar ability range. Afterwards, we receive individual reports that identify exactly how much 'value added' our pupils achieved. This process helps to ensure we know that everyone of our pupils has recognised their individual potential, whatever level that may be.

I would like to thank and congratulate all students, parents and staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring success. We can all reflect on the pupils' accomplishments and be proud of everything that they have achieved.

*- Dave Pontich (Head of Secondary)*

#### Primary & Dutch Schools first day

The primary and Dutch schools will open for the start of their academic year this coming Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00am. All new students should go to the primary office or Dutch office when you arrive at school. You will then be shown to your new classrooms.

### **Key Dates to keep in mind**

I would like to make mention of a few key dates that I hope you will be able to attend.

#### Primary school Meet the Teacher - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

On **Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup>** the British Primary Stream will be hosting a meet the teacher evening for our parent community. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are invited to meet in the auditorium at 4pm for a brief presentation by the Head of Primary. They will then go off to classrooms to meet the teachers from 4:15pm. Parents of children in Year 3-6 are invited to join the Head of Primary in the auditorium at 5pm before venturing out to meet the teachers between 5:15 and 6pm. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at this evening.

#### Secondary school Meet the Teacher - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

On **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**, the Secondary School will hold its inaugural Meet the Tutors Evening for pupils in Years 7, 10 & 12. All parents of pupil in these year groups are requested to attend the event, which will be held from 4:30-5:30.

#### Secondary School Information Evening

On **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**, we will also be hosting the **Secondary School Information Evening** from 4:00-5:30. All parents in the Secondary School are asked to attend this evening, which provides an overview of the school's aims for the coming academic year and practicalities about school procedures.

New families Iftar Barbeque (BBQ)- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

It has been our tradition to invite all our new families to attend a New Families BBQ. This is an opportunity for people to meet one another and to mix with the staff in a more informal setting.

The BBQ will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm on the school field. We have attempted to time this event so that families that are observing Ramadan can break their fast alongside the school community.

Yours sincerely

Martin Van Rijswijk  
Principal