

# INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IBDP) SECTION SCHOLARSHIP WINNER 2015-2016 NOUR BAHAA (DP12R)



**Nour** has been a student at MES Cairo since the tender age of three when she was enrolled into the MES Cairo Nursery class.

Nour has always shone academically as she is an extremely committed student who believes that hard work and focus is the key to achieving good grades. Her IGCSE results were outstanding, where she achieved six A\* grades and two A grades. She deservedly earned the Cambridge Outstanding Learner Award for coming top in Cairo in IGCSE Economics and also won an award for achieving second place across eight IGCSE subjects throughout the whole of Egypt!

In her role as a student Mentor for younger students this year, Nour encourages them to always give of their best, believing that: *'without real effort, nothing is truly gained'*. A fantastic role model for the younger students, she has won several Awards at the Secondary Awards ceremonies over the years. Most recently in DP11 she won the Excellence Award for DP Mathematics and the Sustained Effort award for Business Management. She started out her Senior DP12 year winning the greatest award there can be when she gained the grand accolade of Modern English School Cairo Scholar.

Her rich contribution to the school community and to society as a whole were certainly taken into account when the Senior Leadership Team were considering the criteria for the Scholarship Award. Nour was instrumental in initiating the MES Cairo Outreach ASA and is currently the project's student leader. The Outreach group visits the children in a selected orphanage to teach them literacy and numeracy and the children are regularly invited into school to practise their sporting and artistic skills, twice a week after school.

Other service activities that Nour has engaged in include teaching Primary students how to make desserts in a Primary ASA last year and helping out with the Young Engineers ASA when they were making DT products to sell for charity. Earlier in her Secondary years, Nour was a member of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and was promoted to be a current a member of the National Honor Society (NHS). As part of this membership, Nour successfully organised and led a social event for the Middle School ISAC tournament last year.

An excellent example to all young women in Egypt, Nour delivered a TED talk last year to Y/G/DP Eleven and Twelve students entitled: *'Why women in Egypt should participate in more sports'*. Nour started fencing at the age of nine and ever since she has been training for three hours, four times per week. She has competed in many local and national competitions and earned several



FS2 Yellow



Y1 Yellow



Y2 Yellow



Y3 Yellow



Y4 Yellow



Y5 Yellow



Y6 Yellow



Y7 Yellow



Y8 Yellow



Y9 Red



Y10 Red



DP11 Red

medals, including a Gold and two Silvers in the Under-15 Egyptian Cup, a Bronze medal in the Senior Egyptian Cup and a Silver medal in the Under-17 Egyptian Cup. In 2014, Nour represented Egypt at the Junior Arab Championships in Jordan and earned two Gold medals in the individual team foil events. Always willing to share her skills and expertise, Nour also finds the time to coach the beginners at Maadi Club. When asked why she gives up her time to do this she replied, *'Skills and knowledge are no good unless they are shared and I believe it is my social duty to use my fencing skills to contribute to my society and to serve others who are interested in fencing, a sport which I am very passionate about'*.

Nour's interest in Sports is multi-faceted as she likes to challenge herself in new activities whenever possible. She has been swimming competitively for the Maadi club since the age of three and has been a member of our school team in the past. Again, wanting to share her skills with other learners, she dedicated after school hours to coach the children from the Outreach orphanage in swimming last academic year. In DP11 Nour was a key member of the track and field school team and ran a half marathon after participating in weekly runs with Cairo Runners.

In order to further prepare for her university degree, Nour interned for Dcode Economic & Financial Consulting last summer to find out more about how economics is applied in real life. She is currently applying to study PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at various top ten universities in the UK.

Her career ambition is not surprising; she aims to build a career helping others by working in the field of human development. A great ambassador for her country, she also hopes to represent Egypt in more international fencing competitions, and is determined to one day represent Egypt at the Olympics.

It is wonderful that Nour manages to succeed in such a wide variety of endeavours, and you may wonder how she manages to do all of this whilst meeting academic deadlines and preparing for her IBDP assessments and examinations. Nour's response to the question: 'How do you manage it all?' was clear. *'I chose to study on the IBDP because I truly believe in its mission and I have a tremendous amount of respect for the programme, which ensures that students participate in Creative, Active and Service events in order to succeed. I see my activities as part of who I am as a whole learner and not as something 'extra' to be done half-heartedly. The importance the IBDP places on CAS is a key to what defines my whole being as a student and as a young internationally-minded Egyptian woman who is keen to make a positive difference to my country and to the world.'*

Congratulations to Nour on all of her impressive achievements. We are proud that she is representing the IBDP section as our Scholar this year.

**Ms S Sheehan – Assistant Head, IBDP Coordinator**

