

# IBDP, BRITISH AND AMERICAN SECTION SENIOR MENTORS MAKE A GREAT START!

said it last year, and I will say it again this year, the selection process was once more a mammoth task due to the quality of the applicants; and I do know that there were some very disappointed students once again.

However, the ones who were selected have made an absolutely fantastic start. Ms Clingan and myself had discussed including the 'GROW' coaching training which we had both done with Ms Jodrell as part of our own CPD sessions and we both felt that it's inclusion in the induction programme for our incoming mentors would be a great benefit to them. An extremely useful tool which would act as a base for our mentors to build upon and would really set them on the right path to be effective mentors to their students.



Despite the demands of having to get Key Stage One ready, she was very keen to support and share her expertise and dedicated a large block of time in order to make this a hugely successful induction. One of our alumni, Nader Raafat (Class of 2015), also volunteered to come in and share his experiences with the incoming mentors, and as usual he went above and beyond the call of duty. However, his fifteen minutes did turn into about fifty, so my own contribution had to be cut short by a considerable amount!

I feel that the induction this year was a great success, and the students certainly seemed to enjoy it – and I am certain that the enjoyment factor was increased by Ms Jodrell's supply of goodies on each table!

So far we've had some very positive feedback from the Home Room Teachers who have been allocated their mentors throughout Year and Grade Seven and Eight. Teachers are duly impressed with the maturity of their allocated mentors and their willingness to step up and take responsibility for aspects of homeroom. Words like 'fantastic', 'wonderful' and 'brilliant' abound in the feedback I have received and the teachers are truly grateful for all of the assistance provided by their mentors.

As I am writing this article, some of our mentors have been supporting Ms Downey's TOTAL visit to Islamic Cairo with Year Seven and she has already said the mentors have been 'great'. A quick chat with some of the mentors who attended confirmed how much they enjoyed it themselves. Therefore, they

have provided excellent support and been building those support networks with our younger students and at the same time enjoying themselves. This is despite the fact that they know they will have to catch up with any missed schoolwork in their own time.

The programme will change over the course of this year, in order to address the needs of some of our younger students and this will be yet another challenge I am confident that the mentors will rise to.

Here's to another great year of mentoring at MES Cairo.

**Ms M Ingham – HRCF Coordinator**

