

IBDP CAS Residential

Fayoum 2017

As we gathered in the Multi-purpose Hall in school early on the morning of 11th October, you could sense the excitement ahead of our annual IB CAS Residential. After last year's fantastic visit to Aswan, the students were looking forward to four days in Fayoum. Our DP12 students were relaxed and keen to utilise the skills they had developed in Aswan and put them to good use in Fayoum, whereas under the excitement we could tell that some of our new DP11 students were a little nervous about what lay ahead of them on their first major leap into IB life.



After bundling onto the bus, our first stop was at the wonderful Fisheries where we were introduced to the ambitious project. Our guides, Nadine and Amal explained how the land had been laid to waste before the idea for the Fishery was hatched. This allowed students to engage in our indigenous culture and examine how Egyptians are inspiring us to engage with some the key CAS outcomes and look to issues of global concern and consider the ethical implications of our actions and responsibilities. The owner of the farm took this beautiful expanse of land that had been lying idle and created an abundant community resource that acts as life blood and meeting point for a whole community.



Before lunch, we had a chance to explore the farm. We witnessed Ms McTigue preparing and baking Beladi Bread in an open stone oven – the very bread that we would devour accompanied by a



delicious grilled lunch. As we sat together in the sunshine, we admired the delightful surroundings and had a chance to reflect on the great work being done in this community.

With full bellies, we clambered aboard the buses and headed to the quaint Tunis village on the banks of Lake Qarun. After unpacking, we wound our way through the narrow streets lined with fantastic pottery workshops and made our way to the famous Fayoum Pottery School established by Swiss Potters, Evelyne Porret and Michel Pastore in 1960. There we had a behind-the-scenes tour of

the pottery process, including the 1000-degree oven that fires the magnificent creations. Whilst half the group were inside touring, the rest of us were having a go at spinning the mixture as they attempted to create a bowl. The demonstrations made it look easy but as you can see from the pictures, it was far from it.

After a restful night and a filling breakfast, we travelled to the nearby village of Outa. It was here that the students engaged in their service project by carrying out extensive renovations to three local family dwellings. In Mr Underwood's house the pace was fierce as students primed and painted walls and ceilings. Jumana Khafagi (DP11Y) and Carla Soliman (DP11Y) led the way in the large living space whilst the boys, including Abdelaziz Said (DP12Y) and Omar El Fiky (DP11Y), got stuck into the plastering in the new toilet area. Whilst over at Ms McTigue's house, the interior and exterior walls were being beautifully finished by a dedicated team of fine artists. Finally, Ms Creak's house





staff for many years. Our IBDP cohort displayed all the quintessential skills of the IB Learner Profile and those of the MES Cairo Graduate Profile.

Mr E Macaulay – CAS Coordinator

I was excited and intrigued to be involved in the second CAS Residential Trip run by the school. This year we were taken to Fayoum instead of Aswan. We were taught about the rich history and

was having the roof fixed by a dedicated team led by Hashem Afifi (DP12Y) – these students worked through the heat of the morning and early afternoon. Meanwhile the interior was being plastered by a committed team led brilliantly by Farah Gharib's (DP11Y) enthusiasm and drive. We all benefitted from hearing Nouran Megahed's (DP11R) beautiful voice as the sun went down and the exterior fresco was being given its final touches.



significance of Fayoum in the formation of modern-day Egypt. Visiting historical landmarks such as the Wadi El Hitan National Park and Wadi El Rayan enabled me to understand about the geographical and biological impact Egypt had on today's scientific discoveries. Renovating the houses was the activity that stood out the most to me, as we worked hard to give back to the community. The inhabitants of the village accepted and hosted us graciously to

All our IB students showed great commitment and perseverance during the renovations. Their desire to complete the crucial tasks to a high standard for the community that they were serving was extremely pleasing. So too was their ability to involve the community and families in the planning and preparation of artwork that brought colour and vibrancy to the living spaces. The children of the village were included in the process and you could see the joy it gave them to make their mark on their own colourful home.



Weary but satisfied from a day of hard labour, we retired to Tunis village to rest our heads. Before long it was time to rise again and head to the Whale Valley, Wadi El Hitan. In this stunning UNESCO World Heritage site, we learnt about the ancient history of this grand desert and how great effort is taken today to keep the site preserved for the benefit of many annual visitors. After this enlightening visit, it was time to head to the Magic Lakes and to lunch in the desert. There we could explore the fascinating rock formations and dunes that make much of Egypt's beautiful landscape seem otherworldly.

carry out the renovation process. Last year's experience aided me during the undertaking of our tasks in the house. In addition, I took the opportunity to develop skills that are necessary for building and painting jobs, so that I could be as useful as possible throughout the day. The new DP 11 students enjoyed their time and were curious to learn more about the intentions and aims of the renovation. The renovation day allowed the DP 11 and 12 students to get to know each other and build relationships. I feel grateful and privileged to have participated in this activity for two years in a row. I will carry all the memories we have created with me for the entirety of my life. I cannot wait to see what the next line of DP students will bring to the trip as we pass the baton on to the DP 11 students. **Hashem Afifi (DP12Y)**

Sated, we then travelled south, round Lake Qarun and to sandboarding. Time after time the students clambered up the dune before hurtling back down – sometimes on the board, sometimes not. As the afternoon progressed, and the light dimmed, it was Jessica Aziz (DP12Y) that emerged as our sandboarding champion. Her grace and guile guided her down the dune again and again, avoiding the rather treacherous collision like the one that saw Hassan Amer (DP12Y) and Abdelaziz Said (DP12Y) side-lined for a few moments.

As we returned to Tunis, we reflected in the failing light on what had been an extremely enriching visit. There were so many highlights in Fayoum that the experience will stay with students and

