



Latifa News

Latifa School for Girls

Oct 2011

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All artwork in this
issue is by our
GCSE students.



Artwork by Sherina Murooshid

Welcome to the start of another exciting year at Latifa School, with lots of new goals and challenges for everyone. Key features of our development plan this year are raising standards in Arabic and Islamic Studies and developing students' transferable skills through our Learning to Learn work. You will be hearing much more about these goals as we share this work with you throughout the year. We have also expanded our enrichment programme and we hope your daughter will find something in this to interest and develop her. There are a number of exciting overseas trips on the horizon and we look forward to sharing news of these with you in future issues. With the 40th National Day anniversary fast approaching, look out for news of the special celebrations we have planned for this event. We look forward to seeing you at this and hopefully many other events this year.

Debra Forsyth, Headmistress

2011 Examination Results

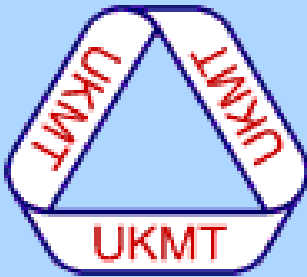
This summer's external examination results were very pleasing with 73% of GCSE results at grades A* to C and 29% at A* or A. Particular congratulations to Maryam Al Mana, Shatha Saleh and Mira Al Marri for the achievement of 13 A* and 6 A grades between them. All the students in Year 11 did well and we are very proud of them.

At AS level we had an 87% pass rate - with 69% of these results at grade A to C and 48% at A or B. Alia Hareb did very well with a clean sweep of 4 A grades. At A level the pass rate was 100% with 67% of results at grades A to C. In addition, 57% of Year 12 students passed their SAT qualification and 63% passed TOEFL. Congratulations to all our successful students and their teachers for all their hard work.

Rosalind Stirzaker, Deputy Head

Learning to Learn, Learning for Life

Staff at Latifa School have been looking at how we can help our students learn the skills they need, not just to do well at school, but also to succeed in life beyond Latifa. We have identified six key skill areas we believe will help our students become effective learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. These six key skill areas are **self-management, effective participation, creative thinking, reflective learning, independent enquiry** and **teamwork**. By adapting our teaching strategies we will explicitly teach these skills in all subjects, alongside our regular curriculum, to make learning more fun and help students get a double benefit from every lesson. We will also be encouraging students to monitor the development of their skills so they can appreciate their progress. Ask your daughter what new skills she has been learning so you can share in her personal development.



UKMT Challenge

Last year, thirty Year 9, 10 and 11 students took part in the U.K Intermediate Maths Challenge. We are pleased to announce that Rafia Ejtebi, Maryam Alhareb and Maryam Al Mana all achieved a Bronze award. The Department is also delighted to announce that a Silver award and Best in School Award was achieved by Shaikha Alsuwaidi. Well done to everyone who took part! **Deborah Forbes, Head of Mathematics**

Artwork by Hessa Sabousi

Welcome to our new member of staff

We have just one new member of staff joining us in the Secondary school this year. We are delighted to welcome **Ms. Eman Jemian** to the Arabic and Islamic Studies department; we hope she will enjoy becoming part of the Latifa School team. Ms. Eman has previously worked in government and private schools in Dubai and has this to say about her first weeks at Latifa School. "I was delighted by my warm welcome and everyone's cheerfulness. My transition to Latifa School was easy, thanks to the support I received so I already feel very comfortable here. The students are polite and pleasant, the staff are friendly and welcoming and the Arabic Department are supportive and co-operative."



The Student Council

Last year the primary and secondary Student Councils worked together to raise money for the Sunrise Children's villages in Cambodia. The whole school took part and we thank you for your generous support in donating money to help these orphans achieve a better life.

Latifa School Student Council



Latifa School House System



This is the fourth year of our House system which was launched to give students the opportunity to make a difference to their school and their environment. Student leaders (Head of House, Deputy Head of House and Year Representatives) are elected at the beginning of every academic year to liaise with their year group and the school as a whole. They make informed decisions on which activities should take place in the House system. Although a healthy competitive element exists between the Latifa Houses, the fundamental aim is that all students take part in activities, work together and are part of a community.

Last year all houses had another very successful year. Different Houses won different events. Black House was very successful on Activities Day and also won the Cup as, at the end of the year, they had the highest score. Red House seemed to be the most punctual and healthy house! The members of Green House were also quite punctual and healthy and also did well in achieving lots of Green Cards and Commendations. White House got the most points from consistently attending activities during the year whilst wearing their House T-shirt. House points are awarded for attendance and punctuality so everyone who is at school every day and arrives on time, contributes to the overall points of their house.

Remember: be in school every day punctually and help your House!

BLACK
1050
points

RED
850 points

WHITE
850 points

GREEN
850 points

2011-2012 House Representatives

RED

Head of House
Maryam Al Mazrooei

Deputy Head of House
Rafeaa Bin Sulaiman

House Reps
Mai Al Falasi
Fatema Al Zaabi
Maitha Al Suwaidi
Hessa Mazrooei

BLACK

Head of House
Jowaher Baker

Deputy Head of House
Moza Al Mazrouei

House Reps
Hamda Al Shajji
Salama Al Mehairbi
Shaikha Belsuwaida
Latifa Al Hababi

Raising Money for UNICEF

In May Year 9 students embarked on a cross-curricular learning experience. First they researched the UN and found out what UNICEF does. Then they decided to raise money to help under privileged children by organising a bake sale using Learning to Learn strategies. The students didn't just bring in cakes to sell, instead they created a spreadsheet to see how much it would cost to bake the cakes and how much each cake would need to be sold for to make a profit. The girls worked in teams and planned an advertising campaign. Finally they made the cakes in school and sold them. They raised Dhs 6,500 to help children in need. Enterprise in action at Latifa School. It was great to see students utilising their History, ICT, Business and Food Technology skills to demonstrate their entrepreneurial spirit, and help others.



2011-2012 House Representatives

WHITE

Head of House
Rawdha Bin Khedia

Deputy Head of House
Latifa Al Hajiri

House Reps
Shaikha Suwaidi
Shamma Resas
Roudha Al Buamim
Madya Al Mazrooei

GREEN

Head of House
Maryam Al Mulla

Deputy Head of House
Afra Al Shaiba

House Reps
Shaikha Al Ahbabi
Latifa Al Falasi
Roudha Rafia
Ayesha Bin Sulaiman



**Artwork by
Jowaher Baker**



Music and Drama News

The Music Department welcomes all students back to school and we look forward to an exciting year of music and entertainment. This first semester is particularly busy as we prepare for two of the most important events in our school calendar.

In November we have our annual Prize Giving Ceremony in which the orchestra will play, the Year 12 choir will sing and Year 9 will present a song they have composed themselves. We will be busy working on all of these things through the enrichment programme, in class and in instrumental lessons.

In March, our long anticipated school production of *Alice in Wonderland* will be presented. Preparations for this started at the end of our last fantastic show and it has taken two years to reach its launch. Auditions have taken place, parts have been allocated and now the rehearsals can begin! Students will be wearing special *Alice* t-shirts to rehearsals as they become part of this exciting venture; making new friends, learning new skills and, above all, having great fun as they do so. We look forward to presenting the show to family and friends on 14th and 15th March 2012. See you there!

Christine Petherick, Head of Music



Latifa Diary

Events coming up at Latifa School:

17th October	Year 12/13 Careers Fair
24th October	Year 7 Parents' Evening
3rd November	Prize Giving Ceremony
4th - 12th November	Eid Al Adha holiday
8th - 13th November	Year 12 Art trip to Barcelona
21st November	Year 9 Parents' Evening
28th November	Year 8 Parents' Evening
30th November	National Day Celebrations

***Latifa News is edited by Rosalind Stirzaker
and translated by Majd Barjoud***