



SHERBORNE QATAR

Newsletter
September/October 2011



Dear Readers,

Welcome to our first 'News Letter', a new term at Sherborne Qatar and the beginning of our third academic year. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

The summer break probably feels like a dim and distant memory but I do hope you enjoyed your holiday and found time to relax and spend time with your family.

We have had a good start to the term welcoming many new pupils and an excellent team of new teachers.

What a brilliant BBQ evening we all enjoyed on Thursday! It was good to see so many parents, teachers and pupils having fun together.

I look forward to what promises to be a great term! Let's make the most of every opportunity! Before we know where we are it will be Eid and Christmas.

Principal.
Peter Barton

YEAR 6 Flood Gates



In the first two weeks of the school year, Year 6 studied a famous painting called "The Stonemason's Yard" from The National Gallery by the Venetian painter, Canaletto. This painting, which featured a landscape of Venice, inspired our writing, Science and Humanities. Amongst other things, we discussed the flooding problems currently facing Venice and watched "Extreme Engineering: The Flood Gates of Venice." This led to our flood gates experiments as well as debates over the cost of the MOSE project and whether or not it is worthwhile.

Mr. Maxson

In year 6, we have been learning about Venice recently and how Venice is suffering from floods. Mr. Maxson and Mr. Nicholson assigned us a task to build a model of Venice and flood gates. When we brought our projects into class, our teachers would pour water into our Venice model to test the flood gates. We had to try and control the water to prevent flooding of Venice. Each of our models had to be built inside a plastic tub and had to include a moving part.

Some projects worked perfectly and some did not. I noticed that the projects that did not work needed a seal on their flood gates because often water would leak through a gap. Some projects had a very smart plan and were extremely impressive. Alberto's was good because it amazed everyone with the electricity he used. Bethany also had a good project with Lego, play dough, and a balloon lift system. We all enjoyed testing our flood gates!

By Nadine Zarroug 6M

Jeans for Genes

On Thursday 6th October, we held our second Jeans for Genes day. This annual event raises money for children and their families in the UK who are affected by Genetic disorders. We held a non-uniform day and the 9Q girls organized a bake sale for Juniors and Seniors. The total amount raised that day stands at **QR 7,053.50**. Thank you to all who donated bake sale items and who wore their jeans that day.



The Library Corner



After only a few weeks a rather large and dusty empty room in the Senior block has been transformed into the new Sherborne Qatar Library. It is lighter and much bigger than the previous library which means that we will have room for even more books than before. All the children have now had a chance to come and look around, I think they would all agree that it is a great place to come to learn from and enjoy reading the books.

Jane Taylor, Librarian.



From the Art Department

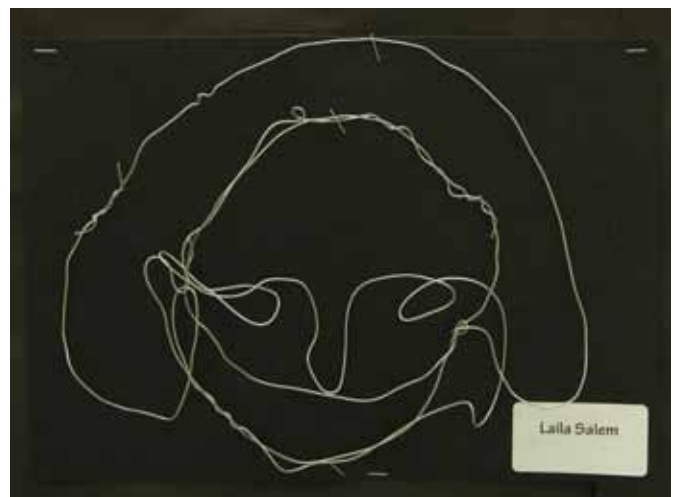
Year 4, Water Colour Paintings - work in progress

Year 4 looked at the artist Howard Hodgkin and were inspired by the local architecture. Students were asked to select only bright colours and to find simple shapes and patterns found in the local buildings they looked at.



Year 5 Self-Portraits

Year 5 have been creating self portraits from wire. Look for them on display in the school — can you tell who is who?



YEAR 2 Is It Science?

2H has been very busy in Science these past weeks eating chocolate, licking ice lollies and making water balloons... (well, we think it's for Science!).

Children have been experimenting with materials and more recently looking at the effects of heating and cooling of different materials. Children have really enjoyed watching the process of solids turning to liquids and liquids turning into solids.

Homayra Billah





The Reception children have settled into their new classes and have been busy with lots of fun activities, also making new friends.



People You Should Know: Michael Weston

What is your role at Sherborne Qatar?

My role at Sherborne Qatar is that of Vice-Principal, supporting Mr Barton and Mr Prowse in particular in their work. I am concentrating on developing the new senior school and also reviewing several aspects of school life with a number of members of staff, so that when the School seeks accreditation to

various important groups (IAPS, COBIS and eventually HMC) and when we have inspections (IAPS or ISI) we will be in a strong position. I am also here to meet and get to know as many people as possible, parents and pupils; staff and supporters. It is an exciting time to be at the school with so much change and growth.

Where were you previously?

For the past 25 years I have been working at Sherborne in Dorset, England. I started there as a teacher of French, German and Spanish. I was then given responsibility for the French department until I became a Housemaster. For the past eight years I have been the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and played a key role in developing the strategies and policies that enabled the school to become an 'Outstanding School' in its major Ofsted boarding inspection. Some people cannot understand why I stayed such a long time in one place.

The answer is simple: Sherborne is a great school, and Sherborne Qatar is well on its way to becoming a great school too.

What is the most surprising thing you have learned since being in Qatar?

At school, it is that so much has been achieved in such a short space of time, which impressive as much as surprising. In Doha, it is that some of the taxi drivers speed up instead of slowing down when approaching a roundabout; and that they can drive at high speed and write text messages at the same time! I am still surprised that I do not have to get up early on Friday mornings.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

Would they be surprised to know that I have tasted nearly 300 different French cheeses and have not finished yet? Would they be surprised to know that Gwyneth Paltrow kissed me on both cheeks when we had dinner? Would they be surprised to know that 'Mr Bean's Holiday' is one of my favourite films? Would they be surprised to know that a couple of colleagues and I have become football fans and watch a Qatar Stars League match every week? Would they be surprised to know that I am having a great time out here?

What is your favorite colour?

According to my wife, I am going through a blue period, to judge from my wardrobe; but red is not far away in some other areas. However, all things need to be in moderation and I like a splash of different colours in everything.