



January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

Dear Parents,

I would like to wish you all a very happy new year and hope that you have had some rest over the winter break. At the end of last term, we enjoyed a series of awards ceremonies and some activities to honour Qatar National Day. We will also have more awards in the next half term, as well as some exciting and informative events.

### PSI Qatar National Day



Although we were disappointed at not being able to hold our planned Qatar National Day event, we were not at all disappointed by the enthusiasm and effort made by every child who attended on Tuesday and Wednesday during the last week of term. Children dressed in a fantastic range of Qatari-themed clothing, with almost all wearing traditional attire, Qatar National Team clothes (mainly football), Qatar military or police gear and a great range of Qatar T-shirts and maroon and white clothes. Thank you to all parents for supporting this; students really enjoyed dressing up for the day. Students across the school stood in their separate areas to sing the national anthem together and took part in creative activities and charades, and many enjoyed traditional food that was kindly sent in from home... in individual portions of course! We were able to watch a small group of boys (led by **Rashid Al Kubaisi 8S**) perform Ardha, the traditional sword dance, by live stream. They did an excellent job and showed a great deal of responsibility during the event and in the practices leading up to it. The





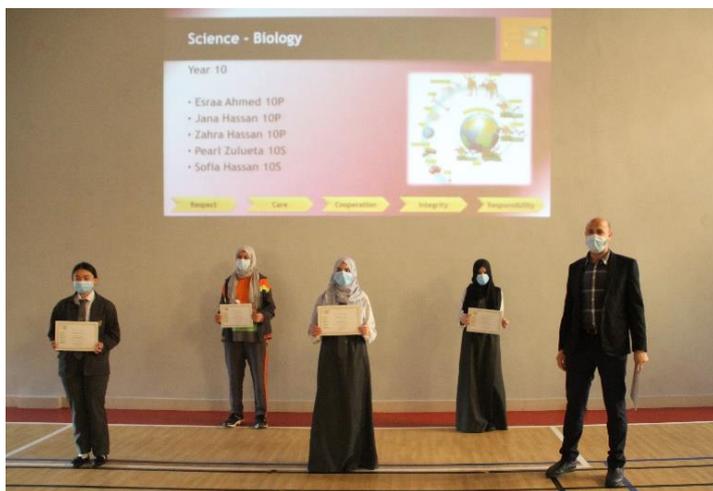
other boys who participated were **Saad Al Sulaiti (9P)**, **Sabah Marzouq (9P)** and **AbdulRahman Marzouq (6S)**. From all of the classrooms, we were also able to watch the Quran reading by **Naema Sidek (9S)**, a poem written and read by **Omar Mohamed Aly (8P)** and a short song by **Bayan Al Wadaani (7G)**. Very well done to these brave students for volunteering to take part in the stream... it was the first time we have tried this. I hope those not attending school were able to enjoy the atmosphere and performances from home. Particular thanks go to **Sahar Dine (9S)** for helping to drive and coordinate activities and to **Lolwa Marzooq, Habiba Bayoumi and Maeda Haider (9S)** for supporting her. Although many people also helped to decorate, special thanks go to Year 12 students **Ali Elfihail, Chelsea Smith and Nandi Mleya** for putting in lots of extra time and supporting younger students. It really was a lovely occasion.



## Awards

During the last week of term, awards ceremonies were held for all student groups. It was a bit of a marathon as we are still not able to congregate in large groups and so had to have multiple events each day over a three-day period. This was the first awards for the ALN Department and indeed, their first time to come to the hall for a presentation. For some, it was the first time to hear talking via a microphone and speaker and see a projected screen, so it made them a little apprehensive at first. Within minutes, each group was thoroughly enjoying it and delighted to receive their certificates. There were also awards for excellent performance across the curriculum for primary students and within each subject in the secondary school. Students receiving awards this time have in one or many ways demonstrated excellent performance and high attainment. The ceremonies were replicated in almost exactly the same way each time, so all students had a similar experience but with less people than we would normally have for such an affair. Despite the smaller groups, there was still a great sense of community and students showed real joy and support for one another as they received their awards. The lists of award winners are shown in the presentation slides, which are available for you to view by following this link:

<https://psisd.sch.qa/index.php/admissions/awards/>



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL  
AWARD WINNERS!**



**Pearling Season International School**

**News and Notices from the Pastoral Coordinator**



### **PSI First Micro-Conference**

Model United Nations (MUN) is an extremely valuable activity that helps students develop further as global citizens, as confident and competent speakers and as young people who reflect seriously on the world around them and about their future involvement in shaping our society. We currently have students preparing for MUN conferences and we also have students preparing to enter the next phase of their life journey after leaving school. To support our learners with this and to strengthen our community relationships, PSI will be holding its first conference. As the name implies however, we are, as with so many other things, having to limit numbers and reduce the scope of our activities to ensure that we are compliant with ministerial directives. This first conference may therefore only be attended by MUN members, Year 12 students and student council members. We aim to have a series of these events and hope that going forward, many more students will be able to participate.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> 2021, we will be pleased to welcome guest speakers:

- Aisha Al Ahmadi – Qatar Foundation Member and Qatar University doctoral student
- Sara Al Khayarin – post graduate student, Doha Institute, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Action
- Wadee Al Arabeed – post graduate student, Doha Institute, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Action
- Alaa Hadid – post graduate student, Doha Institute, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Action

The conference will begin at 10.30am and end at approximately 12.30pm. The schedule will include:

- Introduction – led by host
- Sport and Politics: How Qatar won FIFA 2022 and what they have endured as a result of their strategy to win the hosting of the World Cup – Aisha Al Ahmed
- Qatar's role in mediation in Afghanistan – Sara Al Khayarin
- Skills of a successful mediator – Alaa Hadid
- The role of mediation as a tool for conflict prevention – Wadee Al Arabeed
- Student task – led by the panel
- Questions to the panel – led by host
- Close – PSI Principal and CEO

There will be some time after the conference for students to talk informally with the speakers and to reflect on the event, discuss their preparations for university and for MUN and to further discuss the topics related to global citizenship and internationalism.

Delegates (students who are attending) should attend their first four lessons as normal on that day and are invited (and encouraged) to wear formal attire to school.

Students who are involved in MUN will attend an afterschool activity each Wednesday and should see Ms. Dorothy Boansi on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January to make sure they are signed up and know what to do.





### Extra-Curricular Activities

I regret to inform you that we are currently not permitted to run ECA's and I will advise you as soon as we are given the go ahead. This will not affect support sessions for specific subjects. If your child is to attend a support session, you should have received a request from the relevant Head of Department or from the Head of School. You should also confirm in writing your consent for your child to attend so that registers may be compiled. If you have not confirmed attendance at a support session after school, please ensure your child is collected at 1.05pm.

### Other upcoming events....

We will in most cases continue to modify the plans to facilitate social distancing, whilst still creating a wider school community in which our learners can take part. These are some of the other activities that will take place over the next half term:

- In the first week of term there will be an options evening and parent meetings for the secondary school in coming weeks. Please refer to the information send by the Heads of School regarding these events.
- Primary and Early Years will have 100 Day
- Secondary will have Entrepreneurship Day
- Qualifiers for the Spelling Bee and Poetry Slam will take place
- World Book Day
- Pi Day
- Effort and Progress Awards
- International Day

More information will be provided about each of these events as we go along.

I thank you in advance for your continued support in assisting your child/ren to take part in the different activities to broaden and enrich their school experience.

Mrs. Rebecca Cruickshank,  
Pastoral Coordinator.

#### *Quick links to important policies*

Dress Code: <https://psisd.sch.qa/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Dress-Code-2020-2021.pdf>

Mobile Phones: <https://psisd.sch.qa/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Mobile-Phones-and-The-Use-of-Technology.pdf>

Behaviour: [https://psisd.sch.qa/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Behaviour-Policy\\_08-31-2020.pdf](https://psisd.sch.qa/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Behaviour-Policy_08-31-2020.pdf)

