

MESSTRIERS

Year 7 Curriculum Camp



Dr. Adley's centre for sustainable development sets the benchmark in environmental awareness in Egypt. From zero waste at meal times to passive solar energy use in the rooms, this camp showed what every one of us can do on a personal level to help the environment. Year Seven scientists made their contributions by building solar cookers from old pizza boxes and learning practical techniques to care for domesticated animals. They also tested the local soil and water sources for evidence of pollution and searched the desert for fossils to trace Egypt's past. The Ancient Egyptians and their gods were remembered from a time when humans interacted with their

natural surroundings in a more harmonious manner, teaching us about the mistakes modern societies have made and the tasks we must face, in order to save our planet.

Mr. Steve Perry

For a man from the northern shores of Ireland the idea of a week in the desert can be frightening. However, when that week is spent in the company of fantastic students and excellent staff all worries of heat and biting bugs are cast aside. The Year Sevens were, without a doubt, the most enthusiastic, interested and fun group of students I have ever had the honour of spending time with. They soaked up experiences like sponges and were eager for more all the time. Fortunately, the team of staff on the trip had prepared so thoroughly that the insatiable appetites for learning of our charges were provided for. Designing activities for the week was a pleasure as we all knew the gusto with which Year Seven would approach them. For me, the highlight of the week had to be the performance in the 'big circle' on the Thursday night. In the short time we had the students took on roles, memorized lines and recreated the pyramids, the Cairo Tower and the Nile; much to the awe and wonder of the Beni Suef staff. Personally, I had a superb stay and would happily do it all again. Thank you to the other staff, who were so flexible and easy to work with. Thank you to the IB students who have shown me the benefits of taking the IB Diploma in terms of personal growth and development. But a special big thank you to Ahmed Gharib* for the physical challenge he set me and all the Year Sevens who took me to the desert; you have reminded me of why I love teaching!

Mr. Jonathan Todd

The most magical time for me was getting up early and walking down to the River Nile with the fresh air and cool breeze, before the sun rose for the day. I loved touching the Nile and calling out to the local fishermen as they caught their breakfast. At night I loved walking out into the darkness of the desert and sitting amidst the silence and darkness. I liked to pretend I was transported back in time to the Pharaohs and, as they did all those years ago, look at the stars and clear my mind.

Mr. Pete Sims

The Beni Suef experience was one that I will treasure. It was fantastic to see young people working so well in an environment that was out of their comfort zone, i.e., no TV and no air-conditioning. It was interesting to see new friendships formed and old ones strengthened. There were many activities that gave the students (and staff) the opportunity to learn and discover things they had never thought about or tried before. I particularly enjoyed being by the bank of the Nile as the sun rose each morning. It was a sight I shall never forget.

Mr. Niall Thacker

Personally, what made the trip for me was the team work; all the Year Sevens worked so well together and gained so much from the activities. The IB students were amazing and showed great leadership skills and were able to work independently. Finally, of course, the staff! Each member of staff brought something unique to this trip and when it all came together it made for a very memorable four days.

Mr. Ian Gross

Going to Beni Suef back in November for the first time was a great experience that we will never forget! We didn't know what to expect from having to accommodate thirty one Year Seven students! What we enjoyed most was the power of being able to tell them off, send them to bed and then tell them off more for not being quiet! On a more serious note, we really enjoyed getting to know the kids. We were reminded of how we were at their age. We were amazed at how intelligent some of them are! It's a great feeling having experienced different perspectives, we learned what it's like to be a teacher and how frustrating it is to control children, at times. It was great giving the teachers a little time to relax, while preparing excellent sessions. What was also very rewarding to be given the responsibility and trust. I hope that when these youngsters grow up they will appreciate how great it was to be a kid!

Habiba Makhoulouf, on behalf of the IB students.



