

أكاديمية قطر  
للعلوم والتكنولوجيا  
QATAR ACADEMY FOR  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

عضو في مؤسسة قطر  
Member of Qatar Foundation



# NEWSQAST

26 March 2020

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## Director's Message

Dear Parents,

Virtual School (VS) is underway and by all accounts, our students are learning! We have had 100% attendance with students reporting high levels of engagement. This is wonderful and testament to our collective effort to insure improved student learning during our VS time. We have all had to make significant changes in our daily lives and professional practices. Change takes time. It will be weeks before our new rhythm will fall into place. Thus it is no small matter that we have all continued to progress and continue to learn. Well done QAST and our extended QAST family!

Looking ahead, according to reports from schools in China, Vietnam and Korea, where the school shutdowns have been underway for up to 9 weeks, despite best efforts, engagement was recorded to have dropped off after week three. To counter this, we will be looking for weekly challenges or activities that will keep our students focused and involved.

The Texas A & M (TAMUQ) IDEA Challenges model of learning provides an interesting way to provoke engagement. Currently, the TAMUQ IDEA program has moved to an after school activity to free up our CRISP time on Tuesdays.

### Parent input from the Director's survey questions:

Surveys to parents and students have been sent and we will feedback in due course.

### Grade 10 Course selection:

We will be sending the course descriptions and course selection form to all Grade 10 students next week. This will help you and your G10 officially determine next year's selections.

Parents, thank you so very much for your effort to support our QAST learners and teachers. Onward and upward.

**Dr. Greg Moncada, Director QAST**



Ruba Hinnawi spoke to us about her experience so far of moving to remote learning

*"My boys are experiencing new communication techniques that helped to break out the normal school pattern. It is*

*challenging to separate school from family life specially that both are in the same environment and time... but I think as long as we try to maintain a healthy routine and have an agenda things will be hopefully under control."*



Now that we have switched to online learning, we would like to invite our parents and students to share their home-learning activities and stories with us.

Please send us your: \* drawings \* science experiments \* cakes baked \* challenges attempted \* sports-skills \* creative writing \* student blogs \* music \* classroom work \* etc.

**Don't be limited by our suggestions:-)**

Send your pictures, videos and stories to Mrs Kath via email: [klewis@qf.org.qa](mailto:klewis@qf.org.qa)

**Your  
SCHOOL  
needs  
YOU!**

# Principal's Message

QAST Parents,

Welcome to Distance Education. We are navigating this time with confidence and flexibility. We are here to support and listen. Thank you for your patience and prayers.

We have held daily virtual meetings with students for each subject and I am proud to say that we have had 100% attendance! The QAST students are resilient and ambitious.

As we reflect on week one we are understanding that flexibility is key to success. Our teachers are hosting virtual meetings with students and this has been relatively successful. As we move forward there may be fewer virtual meetings and more students working at their own pace on learning assigned by the teacher.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Dr. Greg and Mrs. Lisa have sent surveys for you to feedback.

**Mr Samuel Abrams**  
Principal, QAST

# Counselor's Message

Dearest Students and Parents

I hope that this message finds you well and that you are taking good care of yourself and your loved ones.

This is a warm follow up regarding the virtual University Fair that Cialfo (our college and career readiness platform) hosted over the past few days. This was open to Grades 9 and 10 students and during Advisory class this week, I took them to the link where they had the opportunity to register and watch recorded sessions hosted by various universities at their own leisure. Here is the link to the recorded university fair webinars: <https://explore.cialfo.co/webinar>. There are lots to choose from.

Watching these recorded webinars is an excellent opportunity for you to sit, discuss, and create long college lists in Cialfo.

Sincerely  
Mrs. Lisa

Time	University	Topic	
10am - 10:45am UTC+8 (Singapore Time)	<b>Pierce College</b> United States	Study at Pierce College in Washington State	<a href="#">Watch recording</a>
10am - 10:45am UTC+8 (Singapore Time)	<b>Drexel University</b> United States	Drexel University and the Value of Experiential Education	<a href="#">Watch recording</a>
10am - 10:45am UTC+8 (Singapore Time)	<b>Muhlenberg College</b> United States	College Interviews	<a href="#">Watch recording</a>
10am - 10:45am UTC+8 (Singapore Time)	<b>University of Nebraska-Lincoln</b> United States	Webinar for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln	<a href="#">Watch recording</a>
10am - 10:45am UTC+8 (Singapore Time)	<b>Otis College of Art and Design</b> United States	Developing an Art Portfolio to Apply to Art and Design Programs	<a href="#">Watch recording</a>
11am - 11:45am	<b>Rhodes College</b>	Mythbusting the College Search and Liberal Arts, plus Rhodes College	<a href="#">Watch recording</a>

## Ideas of what to do at home with your family during this time:

During social distancing and isolation it is very important that we care for ourselves and our loved ones. Kindly see the memo along with this week's NewsQAST that is full of ideas and resources for what to do at home with your family during this time.

Keep safe  
Mrs. Lisa

The image shows three overlapping cards with various home activity ideas. The top card is titled 'Ideas of what to do at home with your family' and lists activities like 'Education' (450 Ivy League courses), 'Broadway shows and theater' (The Mimi), 'Fitness' (Peloton), and 'Good eats equal good times' (Breakfast for dinner, Have thematic dinners, etc.). The middle card is titled 'Ideas of what to do at home with your family' and lists 'Family fun' (Build a pillow fort, Read a book together, etc.) and 'Family chores' (Organize your garage, Sort the closet, etc.). The bottom card is titled 'Ideas of what to do at home with your family' and lists 'Family fun' (Write letters of appreciation, Home spa day, etc.) and 'Family chores' (Organize your garage, Sort the closet, etc.).

# QASTing back - Please find some highlights from before the school closures.

## February Birthdays at QAST

We celebrated February Birthdays after school, and the students enjoyed donuts, and John and Mahi received birthday cards signed by students and staff of QAST.



## STEM Activity Event

We had a very successful STEM activity event with the dining hall buzzing with our 'Micro-Transport' CRISP activity and lots of fun STEM games from Dr. Greg. QAST students made exemplary judges for our visitors who ranged from age 9 to 16. We were very proud of their support and professionalism. For more images of the event, see our [website gallery](#).



## أنا أقرأ بالعربية:

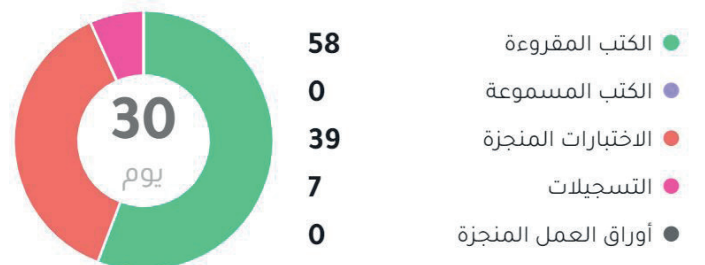
بمعاونة مركز التعليم والتعلم ومكتبة قطر الوطنية العضوين في مؤسسة قطر صار لدينا أول موقع مجاني للقراءة باللغة العربية، وقد تم اعتماده بالمدرسة لكل الصفوف، وقد قمنا بالفعل بتفعيله في المدرسة وفي التعلم عن بعد والجدير بالذكر أنّ الطلبة صاروا يتنافسون في قراءة الكتب وإجابة الاختبارات والتسجيلات الصوتية بفضل متابعتكم وتشجيعكم لهم أولياء الأمور الكرام. كل التحية والتقدير لمن حققوا المراكز الأولى والعاقبة للمجتهدين، وحظ أسعد لطلابنا الأعزاء. أ. زايد قاسم

## Ireadarabic.com: Arabic Reading App

With the assistance of the Teaching and Learning Center, Qatar National Library and the members of Qatar Foundation - the first free site for reading in Arabic has been launched and is now being used in schools for distance learning. Thank you to our valued parents and students for embracing the app at home.

Mr. Zayed Qassem

26 طالب

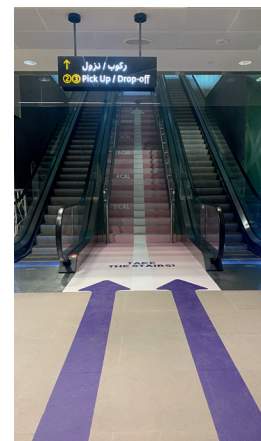
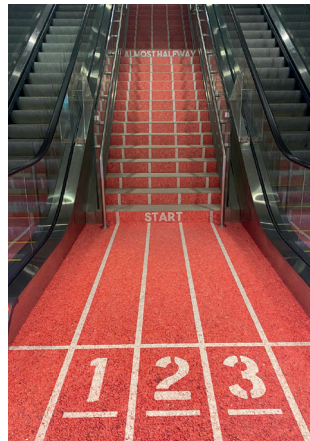


# QASTing back - Please find some highlights from before the school closures.

## Behaviour 4 Development

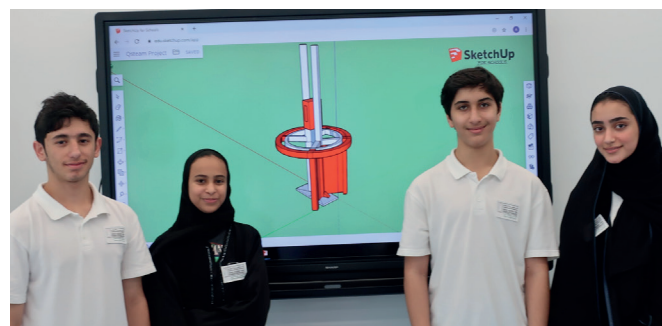
Behaviour 4 Development and QAST teachers have been teaching a pioneering behavioral science and nudge course at QAST, where Grade 9 and 10 students have run nudge experiments on a given challenge; to get our immediate community to use the stairs at West Car Park, instead of the escalators.

Their work included developing the ideas and designs that were translated into these floor stickers. The 'nudge' program teaches students about 'Choice Architecture' and how to influence behavioural modifications in the real world. To our current understanding, this level of behavioral science has never been taught at secondary level and is quite unique.



## Q-STEAM Competition Success

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education adopted a national STEAM competition to challenge the students to create solutions to problems that face Qatar. Students from 46 schools were challenged to design a hygienic handheld device that caters for passengers of different age groups to ensure the health and safety of passengers of the Doha metro.



Our students brainstormed multiple ideas before they came to one solution. The proposed solution is a handheld center with adjustable heights controlled by a hydraulic piston. An antibacterial biodegradable wipes in its center to allow each passenger to wipe clean the hand held device before holding onto it and an automated antibacterial mist sanitizer.



Students created a 3D model to show their solution while they contacted local companies regarding the antibacterial, biodegradable wipes. Using their thorough knowledge of Google sketch up with their 3D printing skills, the students proposed the design below. QAST students were one of the 5 winning teams for this Q-STEAM competition, well done!  
Ms Elena, Physics Teacher

**Clubs** After School Clubs have been replaced for the time being by the TAMUQ IDEA app maker challenge. Please contact us if you need more details.

## QAST Online



[www.instagram.com/qast\\_qf/](https://www.instagram.com/qast_qf/)



[www.facebook.com/QASTQF/](https://www.facebook.com/QASTQF/)



[www.QAST.qa](http://www.QAST.qa)

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