



**DSMT**  
SUPPORTING EDUCATION  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

# NEWSLETTER

DSMT gratefully acknowledges the support of Kroll, our sponsors since 2005.



## 10th Anniversary for DSMT

A very warm thank-you to all our supporters.

2015 is DSMT's 10th anniversary year. To mark this occasion we have had a concerted fund-raising drive to secure the future of our two scholarship programmes with Dar El Tifl School, East Jerusalem for the next five years. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our supporters we have exceeded our target and raised over £70,000, ensuring that DSMT School and Higher Education Scholarships will continue to improve the life chances of disadvantaged young women for several years to come.

### 2015 drinks reception

Around 200 supporters attended this fund-raising event in the Terrace Pavilion at the Houses of Parliament on a sunny evening in June. We were most grateful to Stephen Hammond MP for making this possible.

Sadly, Palestinian invitees Miss Marhira Dajani, President of the Trustees of the Dar El Tifl School and Miss Hala Liddewieh, the 2015 DSMT HE graduate were not granted visas to attend the event. Board member Jo Walker read out a moving letter from Hala acknowledging the difference her DSMT scholarship had made to her life. The evening was a great success financially and there was a shared sense of gratification at the achievements of the last ten years and satisfaction that these will continue into the future.



Tommy Helsby of Kroll (right) spoke warmly of Dominic and DSMT's work and reiterated Kroll's commitment to it. Pictured here with supporters from Nest Investment Ltd.

#### Companies put their trust in the work of DSMT

As well as sponsorship from Kroll DSMT has received several very generous donations from companies this year, which is immensely encouraging to the board of this largely volunteer-run charity.

Shell UK who have supported our dinners and sponsored speakers over the years donated £15,000. ABC International Bank donated £10,000, their 5th successive donation. First time supporters Nest Investment Ltd donated \$15,000. Thanks to supporter Ian Bourne, Argus Media selected DSMT as one of its employee-nominated charities this year, and donated £2,000. With these contributions behind us DSMT can plan with confidence to award a significant number of scholarships in the future to increase the educational, social and economic prospects of the young beneficiaries.

View more photos of the reception at [www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk](http://www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk)

# HOW YOU ARE HELPING DSMT PROVIDE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

## DSMT SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Three more two-year school scholarships were awarded in summer 2015. All girls come from families struggling with ill-health, unemployment, poverty and pressures of the occupation, including threats to their homes.



Left to right: Wala, Haneen and Taima

Wala is 'an outstanding student' ...

“My wish is to graduate from my school and to study biology in a good university, and to travel to many places in the world and for Palestine to be free ... Thank you for supporting us.”

Haneen loves drawing and would like to be a fashion designer...

“Since I was a child I love to draw ... and my dream is to show my talent to the world ... I would say to all the people who are helping me, thank you very much and I love you all.”

Taima is another outstanding student ...

“My hobbies are studying, swimming, watching movies and going out with friends ... I love maths and other science lessons ... I hope I can complete my studies and become a surgery doctor and help the world be a better place ... Thank you to DSMT to help me and my friends and I hope to meet you soon.”



Maram, Roa and Tala have successfully progressed to their final school year and will take the tawjihi examinations in May 2016. They wrote to update us this summer:

“This year I was studying very well and doing all my best to get high marks ... I have a lot of interests and some of them are drawing, writing and photography. I want to thank the DMST because of the scholarship that they gave me to complete my last two years at school.” ROA

“I would like to thank you for your scholarship award for this year, it helps me a lot ... I have also joined physics club ... we built electronic circuits such as radio circuit...” TALA

“Thank you for your support and the opportunity which you give me. I am really grateful. Thank you.” MARAM

Aseel, Bara'a and Hanan left school this summer, bringing to twenty-one the number of 'DSMT girls' who have successfully completed their schooling to date.

A particularly able cohort, they all gained over 90% in the school leaving exams. Aseel and Baar'a have enrolled for medicine and Hanan plans to study physics next year.

### BARA'A

“I am writing to thank DSMT for everything that you gave me to let me finish my education in Dar El Tifel Al Arabi school and for encouraging me to improve myself ...”



### HANAN

“Thank you again for all the support, whether emotional or financial support. I really appreciate it. I hope that this isn't the last letter we exchange. Looking forward to seeing you soon. Who knows maybe I'll come to the DSMT office one day.”



### ASEEL

“Thank you for your generosity which has allowed me to achieve my goals during the last two years when my family was facing a real financial problem.”



## DSMT HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS



Photo left to right: Israa, Dana and Leen

DSMT is currently supporting seven girls through higher education. All are doing well, some exceptionally so. Now in its sixth year, this programme is open to former Dar El Tifel pupils, whether or not they have had a DSMT school scholarship. Normally one scholarship per year is awarded, but this summer the standard of applications was particularly good. The selection panel awarded a full scholarship to Israa to study Architecture at An Najah and partial scholarships (half the value) to Dana (Law at Birzeit University) and Leen (Occupational Therapy at Bethlehem).

“Thank you for accepting me for a DSMT Higher Education Scholarship. It was my pleasure to apply for this and accepting me means that I am good enough for it ... I am a hard-working student where life requires so but this did not stop me from enjoying my life and practicing my hobbies and do what I love ... arts, crafts and photography, ... moreover I have a great passion in languages” ISRAA

All the previous years' HE award holders have progressed to the next year of their courses. Aya (Computing) is due to graduate in 2016; Haya (Audiology and Speech Therapy) and Rinad (Law) in 2017 and Rand (Geography) in 2018. The scholarships reduce their financial anxiety and enable them to take a full part in university life. They are also building up portfolios of voluntary work experience, which hopefully will increase their chances of employment on graduation.



“It has been great first year for me at Birzeit University, it was full of success as a fresh student. I finished the first semester with average 81.6 and the second semester with average 82.8 ... University life is absolutely amazing, I can see lots of different folks with different thoughts in one place which is the university.” RAND



“I want to extend my sincere thanks to the DSMT for their kind support ... I am proud to say that I got the Honor grade this year with an average of 91 and a Certificate of Appreciation...” RINAD

## RECENT NEWS OF SOME FORMER DSMT SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

Samah, one of the first trio of school scholarship girls in 2007, completed her medical degree in Jordan this summer. Wisam (2008-10) is in the USA where she has qualified as a nurse. Despite many family problems, Bodour (2010-12) is now in her 4th year of medicine at An Najah University. Raneen (2009-11) completed a business course at a college in Jerusalem. She is now married and expecting her first child. Shatha (2009-11) graduated this summer in medical laboratory studies and is seeking work.

If you think your organisation might be able to offer some type of 'distance work experience' for a DSMT girl please get in touch with Angela at: [secretary@dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk)

## DSMT HE GRADUATES

2011 HE scholarship winner Hala graduated in English and Business from Birzeit University this summer:



Whilst a student she built up an impressive CV through her voluntary work and in September she was appointed Customer Care Officer for Fedex Jerusalem. You can see a video interview with Hala on our website where she speaks about the support she received as an undergraduate from DSMT and the Dar El Tif School who administer the HE programme on our behalf.



Supporters who have been following the fortunes of Tamara, the first DSMT graduate (Engineering at Al Quds University, 2012) who spoke at the 2013 dinner, will be interested to learn she is now studying for a Masters in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Surrey! Whilst working as an engineer in Dubai she successfully applied for a prestigious FCO Chevening Scholarship to study in the UK.

“I am privileged to be a part of DSMT and CHEVENING Scholarships, not only the opportunity to get excellent education but also I advance in many ways: gain new international experiences, develop my way of life, enhance my opportunities in my field and to help my country in the future.”

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR YOUNG WOMEN

### The Jericho VTC

Since 2007, DSMT has contributed over £125,000 to vocational programmes for disadvantaged young women at the YMCA Vocational Training Centre in Jericho, in partnership with Ycare International. Our decision to focus on scholarship programmes means we are now saying goodbye to this partnership. YCI hope to absorb the costs within their other vocational work in the OPTs. We wish all the very best to the immensely hardworking director Ismail Hamdan and his dedicated staff, and to all the determined young women like Fatimah, who want to improve their lives.

Fatimah joined the VTC after she failed to complete her high school exams because of family problems. Beforehand she was incredibly shy and lacked self-confidence. After finishing her training in administration she decided to set up her own business and now she and her mother have opened a hair and beauty studio where they are both able to earn a good living. They are proud of their achievement, which was made possible by the VTC. "Thank you to DSMT." **SEPTEMBER 2015**

### Entrepreneurship training in refugee camps

In 2014 DSMT made a one-off contribution to a project run by Christian Aid through local partners for marginalised young Palestinian women in refugee camps in the OPTs and Lebanon, to help them generate an income to support themselves and their families.

After sixteen year-old Maha Hamdan's father suffered multiple heart attacks and could no longer work, she had to leave school. "When I enrolled in this course, my personality started to change; I became more self-confident and able to bear responsibility." Then the owner of the wedding photography studio where she did her workplace training offered her a job on \$400 a month. "By my salary I started to secure my family's needs and my father's medicines and this makes me proud since I now have a valuable position in the society."

## THANK YOU.....

DSMT Administrator Fiona Seymour and her friends on the Isle of Wight organised a second very successful Barn Dance in February in support of DSMT, at the same time raising awareness of the needs of young Palestinians.

Supporter Reyahn King told her friend Jo Hindley about us and Jo decided to share the proceeds of her fund-raising concert for Palestine between MAP and DSMT.

Last November, board member Susan Cooksley organised a concert at the Grosvenor Chapel by Belsize Baroque, the chamber orchestra she plays in. Profit from ticket sales along with a retiring collection were donated to DSMT.

*The concert at Grosvenor Chapel*



## Ways to donate

### ONLINE

[www.VirginMoneyGiving.com](http://www.VirginMoneyGiving.com)  
Search for 'DSMT'



### SHOP & FUND RAISE

with Easyfundraising at no extra cost to you.



### CHEQUE

Send a cheque, made payable to 'The Dominic Simpson Memorial Trust', to: **DSMT Administrator, 9 Popham Road, Shanklin PO37 6RF**

### BANK TRANSFER

Contact us for bank details.

## CONTACT US

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