



DSMT group photo with alumnae, school scholarship students and President of DTA Board

**FINAL EDITION**

**DSMT**  
SUPPORTING EDUCATION  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

# NEWSLETTER

DOMINIC SIMPSON MEMORIAL TRUST

WINTER 2020/21

DSMT gratefully acknowledges the support of Kroll, now a division of Duff and Phelps

**Kroll** A Division of **DUFF & PHELPS**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Georgina Simpson

As you will know, last year after much reflection the DSMT board decided the time had come to wind down the charity. With over 15 years successful operation in support of Palestinian education: kindergartens, schools, further and higher education, this felt like the right time to conclude. Our day-to-day operations will finish at the end of February 2021, and we will officially close in April/May.

On behalf of myself and the Board, I'd like to say an enormous thank you for the amazing generosity and loyalty shown to DSMT: by our many individual supporters, by Kroll who have been our corporate sponsor since the beginning, by the Council of Arab Ambassadors, and by the many other organisations who have contributed over the years. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our final fund-raising reception, a fitting celebration of what has been achieved in Dominic's memory since 2005.

We have made many friends in the OPTs and met some delightful and inspiring young people. You'll read here how our current students are rising to the challenge of corona virus and pursuing their educational ambitions with their usual focus and determination. We are delighted to be able to award two more rounds of scholarships with Dar Al-Tifel School that will help another twelve girls and their families. In our final year, with all that is happening, this support is arguably more significant than ever.

**Thank you everyone for making this possible.**

## Final celebratory reception

Reform Club, Pall Mall, October 2019



The first dinner and launch of DSMT took place here in 2005, so the venue was a fitting choice for a final fund-raising celebration of the last fifteen years. Many thanks to member and long-term friend of DSMT Andrew Marshall for arranging the booking.

It was great to see so many people who had also attended the original dinner, along with other supporters who have joined us along the way. Tributes were paid to the generosity and loyalty of our supporters: individuals and corporates, particularly Dominic's employers Kroll and the Council of Arab Ambassadors.

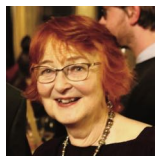
Funds raised are supporting more disadvantaged girls to complete their schooling at the Dar Al Tifl School, East Jerusalem. In 2005 we had no expectation that DSMT would continue so successfully for so long, raising more than \$1 million towards educational projects in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and it's fitting that we are closing on a high note.

The evening was a great success socially, with just the right balance of celebration, remembrance and thanks, as one supporter observed. There was a shared sense of satisfaction at being part of an enterprise that has brought practical, measurable improvements to the lives of many young people, and strengthened their resolve to be the best they can, despite what is going on around them. Dominic would be very proud of what has been achieved in his memory.

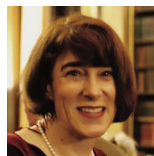
## A warm farewell and heartfelt thanks to all our supporters from the DSMT Board



Georgina Simpson, Chair



Angela Simpson, Secretary



Susan Cooksley



Matthew Edwards



Tom Hartley



Anne Tiedemann

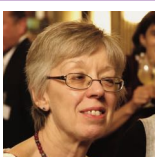


Jo Walker

The Board would also like to thank our two brilliant administrators. We couldn't have done it without you!



Fiona Seymour  
2010-17 and  
graphic design  
services to 2021



Lesley Shareif  
2017-2021

## How COVID-19 has affected education in the OPTs

All schools and universities were closed from March and higher education students returned home.

Teaching continued online where possible. The Palestinian Ministry of Education announced in May, when COVID-19 cases were still low, that the 18+ school leaving exams would still take place in a slightly slimmed down form with social distancing, and 75,000 12th grade students duly sat their Tawjihi papers. Results were announced on 11th July. By this time virus cases were rising and the already fragile economy was in crisis. The usual celebratory school and university

graduation ceremonies were cancelled. The Ministry decided that school progression would be based on first semester grades only. The Dar Al-Tifel School reopened briefly in September only to close again because of cases amongst staff and pupils. At the time of writing (November 20) the school is managing a phased reopening and older pupils are receiving online tuition. Universities are continuing to teach on-line and students remain at home. We have missed the usual photos and letters from school girls, though HE girls have kept in touch and sent in their reports via Facebook.

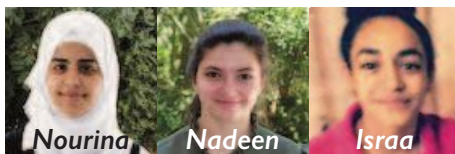
### A memorial to the DSMT-DTA partnership

This successful partnership has lasted since 2007 and the board strongly felt that some form of visual memorial would be fitting. This will be a wall display at the school, made from traditional Palestinian pottery tiles, listing the names and dates of every school and HE scholarship holder. Construction was underway at a pottery in Hebron when COVID-19 struck and the project was halted, but should be completed over the coming months. We will post photos on the website.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Given the difficulties they have faced all girls have done remarkably well. You can read more about them all on the DSMT website. [www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk/dar-el-tifl](http://www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk/dar-el-tifl)

### SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS 2018-20



Six 12th grade leavers all passed their final Tawjihi exams, some with marks in the 90s.

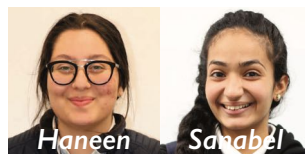
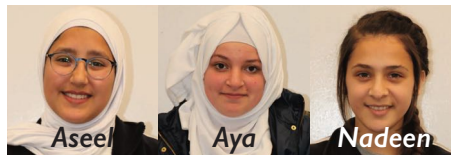
Rahaf and Natal are now studying Nursing at Bethlehem University.

Razan and Nourina are taking preparatory courses at the Hebrew University, hoping to study for degrees there next year.

Nadeen is studying at Beit Salil College in preparation for studying for a degree next year.

Sponsored student Israa also completed this year and is now studying Nursing in Jerusalem.

### SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS 2019-21



All five girls successfully progressed from 11th to 12th grade and will take the Tawjihi in summer 2021.

Aseel, Aya and Nadeen are studying in the Scientific stream.

Haneen and Sanabel are in the Literary/ Humanities stream. Sanabel was given a scholarship in the course of last year when the previous holder Dalia moved with her family to the West Bank.

Visit the DSMT website for more information about our scholarship students:  
[www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk](http://www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk)

### NEW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS 2020-2022

Reflecting the increase in families in need because of corona virus, the school proposed six girls to receive new scholarships this year.

They are currently in 11th grade. Hayat, Basmaleh, Mayar and Douha, are in the Scientific stream and Ziena and Sadeen in the Humanities stream. We hope to share photos and letters from these new girls on the website soon.

### MORE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

After the fundraising event in October 2019 and a very generous donation from The Jane Gibson Trust we consulted the school and agreed to fund a final round of scholarships from September 2021.

Since then we have asked if they would prefer to use this to fund more scholarships this year, to help families who are struggling to pay fees to keep their daughters in school at this difficult time. This would in turn help the school's current financial position. Either way, our final grant of \$30,000 will be used for more school scholarships over and above those recently awarded in 2020.



## DSMT HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

All DSMT HE students successfully completed the 2019-20 academic year, despite the difficulties.

### CONGRATULATION TO DSMT's NEWEST GRADUATES SUMMER 2020



#### LEEN

Graduated in Social Work and Psychology, Bethlehem University (partial award)

*"Hello DSMT... I'm very good and I have got HONOR at the last semester. I have finished my degree from the last semester of fall 2019 and I will be graduating at the summer."*



#### ISRAA

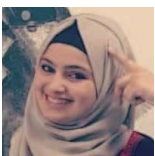
Graduated in Architecture, An Najah University, Nablus

*"...I owe you a massive thanks that words cannot describe... I have to admit I could not have reached this position without your generous funding."*

Israa is now working in an architect's office in Jerusalem.

See Israa's reflections on the pandemic and its effect on her age group on our website.

[www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk/archives/2701](http://www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk/archives/2701)



#### MARAM

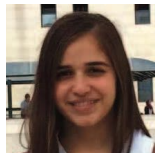
Maram should have graduated in Physics with Education. She passed all her theoretical modules but has to wait until

schools re-open for her final teaching assessment.

*"I hope you are good safe and a good health. I was late with my answer because my mom is infected with corona virus and all the house responsibility is on me."*

### CURRENT HE STUDENTS

Current students share their experiences of university life 2019-20 during the pandemic



#### NOUR

Now started her 5th and final year of Architecture at An Najah.

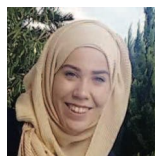
*"My university announced we should continue our studies from homes and attend classes at Zoom application. At first it wasn't easy but in the end we got used to the new method of learning... Now I am doing practical training in an engineering office in Ramallah."*



#### RAWAN

Now in her 3rd year in Computer Engineering at Birzeit University.

*"...My first semester was great, well, I have received an honor but this time with a new record, I got an average of 98.4% which was the highest among all engineering students. I felt really proud of myself ...But COVID-19 has made our lives a mess,... I have passed all courses successfully and benefited as much as possible. There will be no honor list for this 2nd semester as many students who deserve it have had difficulties with electricity or wifi connections."*



#### HANEEN

Now in her final year of Primary Education at Bethlehem University (partial award).

*"...my family is facing some challenges related to living conditions due to the lack of jobs caused by the corona virus,... We did the exams online successfully.... The university administration decided to put an incomplete mark for the practical teaching this semester, and to fill in the mark when we can come to the school when it's open..."*



#### ARWA

Now in the 2nd year of Finance and Business at Birzeit. She has passed all her online assessments. Her household has been affected by corona virus.

*"I've done many charity works in the first semester like spending time with cancer patients and having some joy with them, I have also joined a group of charity works in the university, but as you know, due to Covid-19, we were not able to achieve the works the way we planned..."*



#### NARMEEN

Now in her final year in Law at Birzeit University

*"This year is exceptional for everyone and it was not what we thought or planned, but we are hoping that this virus will come to an end and we'll return to our normal life as before..."*

### A new DSMT HE Scholarship through Friends of Birzeit University

Given the success of DSMT's HE scholarship programme since 2007, we have decided to support a final four-year HE scholarship for a disadvantaged young woman. This will be awarded and administered by UK charity Friends of Birzeit University (FoBZU), and named in memory of Dominic. For over 30 years FoBZU has been supporting higher education in Palestine in partnership with Birzeit University in the West Bank. DSMT is very pleased to announce this arrangement which will begin in September 2021.

# SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED IN PALESTINE

As DSMT closes in February 2021, if you would like to continue giving your support to those in need in Palestine, we suggest you take a look at these long-established UK-registered charities:



Friends of Birzeit University:  
[www.fobzu.org](http://www.fobzu.org)

FoBZU is a UK charity championing the right to education for Palestinians under occupation and in exile through scholarships, fellowships, and advocacy.



Action around Bethlehem  
Children with Disability:  
[www.abcdbethlehem.org](http://www.abcdbethlehem.org)

ABCD's main aim is to support the non-discriminatory delivery of accessible, appropriate, affordable, and high calibre holistic rehabilitation for every child with disabilities and support for their family.



Medical Aid for Palestinians:  
[www.map.org.uk](http://www.map.org.uk)

MAP's vision is a future where all Palestinians can access an effective, sustainable and locally-led system of healthcare and the full realisation of their rights to health and dignity.

## Future DSMT updates

This is our final newsletter but we will be keeping the website up and running until late 2021 with updates twice a year on the progress of those girls who continue to have DSMT scholarships.

Please do keep in touch with what is happening. Your support has enabled us to award our final rounds of scholarships

and it is important to us to inform you about the impact of these and the progress of the girls who received them. You can also revisit some of those wonderful DSMT events through the website's picture galleries.

There are tentative plans for a final DSMT visit to the school in spring 2022, depending on travel possibilities and the COVID-19 situation at the time. If this goes ahead a visit report will be posted on the website.

## WAYS TO DONATE

**DSMT is still able to accept donations up to 31 December 2020, either by cheque or by Bank Transfer.**

### CHEQUE

**Send a cheque, made payable to 'The Dominic Simpson Memorial Trust', to:**

**DSMT Administrator  
Flat 3, 4 Bolebrooke Road,  
Bexhill-on-Sea,  
East Sussex TN40 1EN**

### BANK TRANSFER

**Contact us for bank details.  
See details below.**

## Contact us

**ADMINISTRATOR  
(to end of February 2021):**

+44 (0)1424 225270

[admin@dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk)

Flat 3, 4 Bolebrooke Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1EN, UK

**HONORARY SECRETARY  
(to end December 2022)**

+44 (0)1273 509668

[secretary@dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk)

5 Buxton Road,  
Brighton, BN1 5DE, UK

**DSMT Registered Office:  
5 Lime Grove, London W12 8EE, UK**

**Visit the DSMT website for more information  
about our scholarship students:  
[www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk](http://www.dominicsimpsontrust.org.uk)**