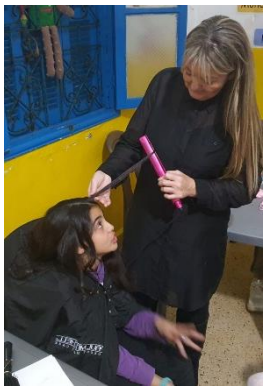
Future Academy – *dedicated to unlocking the potential of refugee children in Beirut*

Newsletter February 2026

News: Professional hairdresser Claire Lee has recently returned from a self-funded visit to Beirut. In addition to bringing generous donations of art and craft supplies, dental hygiene kits, and small gifts for the children, Claire delivered two special hairdressing sessions for girls from Burj Barajneh and Shatila camps.
At Burj Barajneh, approximately 20 girls took part. While waiting for their turn to have their hair styled, art teacher Nada supervised a craft workshop, creating a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.
Due to the current security situation in Shatila, Claire was unable to visit the girls in this camp. We were therefore delighted when the Australian Ambassador and his wife kindly offered to host the event at the embassy. This meant that the Shatila girls not only enjoyed having their hair styled, but also experienced a memorable day out. They, in turn, impressed the Ambassador with their confidence and conversational English skills. We are immensely grateful to Claire for her generosity and initiative. Her visit provided a meaningful boost to the girls' confidence and self-esteem.






Our **EPIC Youth** project, delivered in collaboration with The Al Madad Foundation, is now well established. The programme combines digital skills training, football, mentorship, and social and enrichment activities to empower, protect, inspire and challenge refugee youth. Our aim is for students to develop a shared sense of purpose and belonging, gain transferable skills that support access to meaningful employment, and build confidence and resilience. Just four months ago, only one of our 20 participants (boys aged 8–16) had ever used a computer. Today, they proudly demonstrate their new digital skills. This progress is the result of a high staff-to-student ratio and a deliberate focus on linking digital learning to tangible, real-life outcomes.
We have recently secured additional funding for digital skills education, enabling us to extend provision to all the girls in our Burj Barajneh school.




Fundraising: Many thanks to everyone who participated in The Big Give Christmas Challenge! We reached our £10,000 target, which will be used to provide 20 children with our full programme of education, creative arts, sport and enrichment activities.

Turn your shopping into support: If you are in the UK, you can sign up to easyFundraising – your online shopping turns into free cashback for Future Academy.

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