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

Newsletter July 2026

Congratulations to the first cohort of our EPIC Youth programme, who have successfully completed a six-month pilot project funded by the Al Madad Foundation (AMF). The project was designed to test our belief that the interconnected challenges of poverty, educational exclusion and social isolation facing refugee young people in Lebanon are best addressed through integrated programmes combining education, sport, creative arts, enrichment activities and mentorship.

Thanks to the AMF's support, we were also able to provide laptops for 10 students, which enabled us to introduce digital skills in small-group sessions. For most of the participants, this was their first experience of using a computer.

Results have been extremely encouraging. The programme has had a significant impact on the young people who took part and has reinforced the value of our integrated approach. Building on this success, we will now expand digital skills and mentorship across all of our programmes, beginning in Burj Barajneh, before extending to Shatila.

To mark the end of the project, students celebrated with a football tournament against teams from Shatila and they demonstrated their new digital skills by preparing a presentation on a topic of their choice. The diverse range included *The Mona Lisa, Oceanography, Video Game Design & Production, Fast Cars, Animals, The Al Aqsa Mosque, and The 2014 World Cup Match between Germany & Brazil*.







Thanks to everyone who donated to our Small Charity Week match-funding campaign, which raised a total of £4,610 (plus gift aid on eligible donations). This will be used for digital skills provision in Burj Barajneh; we will buy two new laptops and provide two classes of students with a year's worth of digital skills lessons.

Digital literacy is now a fundamental life skill. For disadvantaged children, developing these skills helps reduce digital exclusion and expands opportunities for education, employment, and participation in an increasingly digital world. Benefits include *educational inclusion; future employability; digital safety; confidence and self-efficacy; problem-solving and creativity; and greater resilience*.

For many refugee children, the impact can be life-changing, equipping them with the knowledge, confidence and opportunities to continue learning, build sustainable livelihoods and realise their potential despite the challenges of displacement.







Enrichment Programme: For many of our students, opportunities to explore beyond their immediate surroundings are rare. Our enrichment activities, including educational and cultural trips, provide children with the chance to experience new places, build confidence and develop a stronger sense of curiosity and belonging. These experiences complement classroom learning by encouraging teamwork, independence and creativity, while allowing children to enjoy positive experiences that many of their peers take for granted.



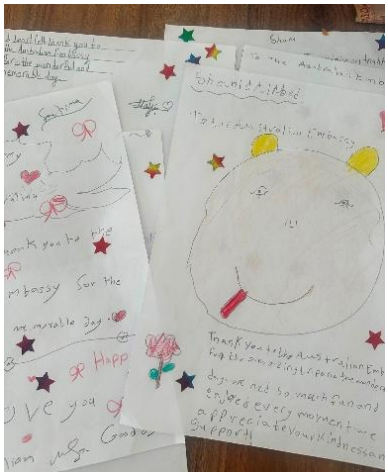


Earlier this month, students from Shatila camp enjoyed a day out at Wadi Al Laimon (Lemon River), where they had the opportunity to relax, play and enjoy time together in a different environment.
Many thanks to Mahmoud and his team for organising this exciting day.

The girls from Burj Barajneh also enjoyed a fun day out, organised in collaboration with the Australian Embassy in Beirut. Alongside games and activities, the Embassy team kindly provided snacks and goodie bags for the girls to take home. Back at school, the girls showed their appreciation by writing thank-you letters which were warmly received by the Embassy.







We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and encouragement of everyone who supports Future Academy. Every pound, euro and dollar donated goes directly towards programme delivery for refugee children in Beirut. Our trustees cover the charity's support costs through their own voluntary donations, ensuring that every public donation is used where it has the greatest impact – helping children learn, grow and build brighter futures.

Read our annual report for 2025 on the Charities Register here

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