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'Teachers still give 100 per cent, even as the country disintegrates'

The View from Here: Brummana High School in Lebanon continues to provide education as the country is forced to its knees, writes principal David Gray



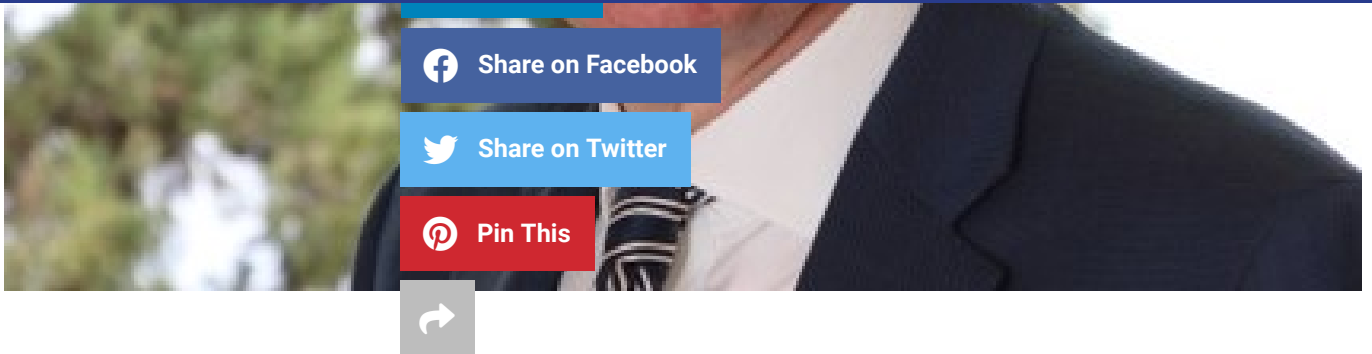
by **David Gray** — November 9, 2021

in A day in the life, Bursars & Finance, Development & Fundraising, Heads & Governors, International Schools, Latest News

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I write to you from Lebanon and a country whose dramatic plight continues to be headline news. Quite frankly, so it should be. This disintegrating country offers little optimism for its population during these dark days but at [Brummana High School](#), and thanks to supporters across the world, it can remain the important educational beacon of hope in a troubled country and region that it has been for nearly 150 years.

Predicted by the World Bank (in June) to be in the “top 3 worst financial crises since 1850,” the country is perilously close to disaster on a very large scale. The crumbling economy, political and social upheaval, August 4th 2020 [Beirut explosion](#) and Covid pandemic have forced individuals, families and communities to their knees. Without international support, the country once revered for banking, medicine, entertainment, nature and education may be little more than a forgotten speck on the globe.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic over the last 18 months, we have continued to provide a first class, British education largely online until this term for 1250 students of all backgrounds, all religions and practically all nationalities, here in the Lebanese mountains, 750 metres above Beirut.

“Without international support, the country once revered for so much may be little more than a forgotten speck on the globe.”



the most challenging period of its lifetime

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I also feel immensely fortunate to witness the great support the school has received and continues to receive through the school community worldwide, of Old Scholars, Parents, Quakers and Friends

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“Community members are struggling on with over 90 per cent of the value of their incomes scrapped.”

In a country with such a sparse state education system, the non-profit Brummana High School has filled the gap for so many families over generations, and for so many communities and nationalities. The school continues to teach the Quaker values of individuality, service, tolerance, respect, peaceful resolution and environmental stewardship. A quality education provides three elements: the relief of poverty; the conferring of human dignity; and the basis of democracy. All three elements are needed in Lebanon right now and all three elements in a Brummana education.

The support the school is receiving comes in many different formats yet the most pressing is financial: to provide a living wage to teachers (staff hardship) and to ensure no student is left behind by the crisis (bursaries).

“I feel immensely fortunate to witness the great support the school has received.”



Please contact me directly if you wish to receive updates for the event at principal@bhs.edu.lb.

In giving you will help guarantee the lives of hundreds, and hope and optimism for thousands. Thank you to all school supporters past, present and future.

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I wish the educational community we begin to approach the end of the year and the Christmas festive season.

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David Gray

David Gray is the principal of Brummana High School, Lebanon, a day and boarding school founded by the Quakers in 1873.