

BMCE BANK FOUNDATION IN 2020

PUPILS CONTINUING TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

The particular context of 2020 saw distance learning adopted as an alternative learning platform across the Kingdom. This phenomenon underlined further educational inequalities, primarily due to a growing digital divide resulting from a lack of technological equipment in homes and sometimes non-existent network coverage. The quality of distance learning has also been hindered by a lack of teaching experience and a shortage of appropriate support mechanisms. This situation is a further reminder of the extent to which BMCE Bank Foundation's commitment is vital to building equitable access to knowledge.

During the pandemic, Medersat.com network schools have adapted their way of working to be able to continue to educate their pupils. In schools with smaller pupil numbers and where conditions allowed for social distancing, the mode of teaching remained face-to-face teaching. In schools with larger pupil numbers, teaching was organised on an alternate face-to-face basis.

All network schools benefited from specific measures to prevent contamination and the spread of the virus. In addition to social distancing measures, temperature checks at the school gate as well as shifting entry and exit times to limit the number of students and teachers mixing, a protocol was put in place to ensure regular disinfection and handwashing, the compulsory wearing of masks and the continuous disinfection of school premises, with classrooms and common use areas permanently ventilated. All pupils and teachers were provided with appropriate hygiene products and protective kits to ensure that they were protected. Despite such unprecedented circumstances, the 2019-20 school year ended with a pass rate of 97.69% for those students moving on to higher education.

MEDERSAT.COM ACADEMY, OVERCOMING THE STAFF TRAINING CHALLENGE

In response to a lack of teacher training during the global pandemic, BMCE Bank Foundation for Education and the Environment created Medersat.com Academy, a virtual training institute. The initial aim of this institute is to provide teacher training and qualification in digital format. Subsequently, the institute aims to digitise practices and teaching in network schools.

BMCE Bank Foundation is one of the pioneers in digital education with the Medersat.com network beginning to introduce digital technology into its classrooms as long ago as 2007 with the introduction of interactive whiteboards and the use of videoconferencing to teach Mandarin Chinese.

