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Arabic and Islamic Studies Open Week

Qatar Academy Primary's Arabic and Islamic Studies departments collaborated anew for the Arabic Open Week, a hands-on lesson sharing project for the parents. "It aims at providing parents with the opportunity to attend an Arabic/Islamic Studies lesson and see their children in action and how they are interacting with others and participating in class activities," Noura Al-Hajri the department's Academic Coordinator explains. While open house days are common practice in schools, the Arabic Open Week is a valuable "opportunity for parents to experience the teaching methods used in the Arabic, Islamic Studies and Qatar History subjects and to strengthen their relationship with the teacher".

An introductory parent information meeting opened the week which served as a primer about the three subjects. "The purpose is to introduce them to the resources, curriculum, policies and assessment tools used by the subjects in order to promote QA's vision and mission," she says. By checking their children's schedules online through the class blogs, parents are able to sign up for the schedule most suitable to them. On the day itself, they attend the class with their children, sit in through the lessons and participate in that day's activities.

The actual classroom experience is essential in making the parents understand not only the lessons and how they're acquiring the knowledge and skills but more significantly, how it is learnt within the context of international understanding and education. Al-Hajri believes that more than anything, "it aims at achieving greater parental involvement and partnership that will assist the school in raising internationally minded students who are still grounded in their identity and mother language".