

# AL-QALAM

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## UKMT TEAM MATHS

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E

*On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Plashet School hosted this year's Team Maths Challenge.*

This gave our students the opportunity to compete against over 280,000 students in UK, in the regional final of the Team Maths challenge. Four girls from Year 8 and Year 9 were chosen for their achievement and ability to solve problems in mathematics. The group enjoyed snacks and drinks while they warmed up with quick maths challenges.

Students competed throughout the day in four rounds of mathematics; group round, crossword, shuttle and the relay race; each round requiring the team to work together and support each other. The girls really enjoyed relay race where they had to solve problems correctly to win points and collect the next question for their other pair. The girls appreciated the importance of working together as a team to achieve their shared goal. They showed great resilience and determination because some of the tasks were incredibly challenging but they carried on with great enthusiasm. The girls certainly enjoyed themselves and Plashet School did an excellent job in hosting the event.

*This is an example of the type of questions that students had to solve.*

*What is the difference between the smallest 4-digit number and the largest 3-digit number?*

A 1    B 10    C 100    D 1000    E 9899

(JMC 2014 Q5)

## *The Role of a Mother*

A presentation was prepared on the important status a mother holds, from an Islamic perspective. We focused on the Hadith where the Prophet ﷺ told a believer that after Allah you should love your mother; he said mother 3 times, and then said "your father". This is how much the Prophet ﷺ loved his mother and we should all do the same.

We were able to highlight the importance of mothers. When we are ill, they look after us, feed and gives us medicines. She puts our needs before her own. SubhanaAllaah, we can never repay our mothers.

The next part of our assembly was a role play which was performed in two parts. We tried to show the manners towards our mother, and highlight the wrong ways that children treat their mums.

Finally we ended the assembly with a nasheed, called 'Number One for Me'. The message behind the nasheed was: it's never too late to say sorry; our mums do so much for us; we should always try and do as much as we can for them, and we will see that they will really appreciate it!

**Yasmine and Zahra**  
7TK

## SCIENCE WEEK EXPERIENCE

During Science week I got to participate in the science fair and had the chance to show what my group and I had chosen to do for our project. We learnt what corn flour and water made when mixed together. We both enjoyed this experiment and so did many other students when we showed them our project at the science fair.

One of the most enjoyable parts was when we did the crime scene investigation. We took part in 3 different enquiries throughout the morning. My personal favourite was the tinkle test, where we had to find out who the murderer was by examining all the urine samples and comparing them to the villain's sample (I'm not sure if the samples were real, though I hope not!). I liked it a lot because I got to use my detective skills by doing different experiments. We also did activities like ink-vestigation.



Most students seemed to like the science week stickers, which teachers gave out and many students were trying to collect. Not only did we get to do practical experiments, but we also got to interact with different people. In my opinion I think this is the best science week so far!

*Niha Khanom*  
*8SND*

## OUR REWARD TRIP



Our trip to the London Sky Garden was absolutely amazing. It was relaxing and took us away from exam stress for one day.

We were rewarded to go on this trip as we were the winners of the football tournament that took place within our school. It was the first tournament that I had taken part in with my school and worked hard to win. The football tournament itself was absolutely amazing. The purpose of a game is none other than having fun through team effort. When playing in tournaments, there is no such thing as losing. One team just progresses a little better than the other.

The Sky Garden consisted of amazing scenery of London and the plants and trees were worth a sight. We also went to Qasida restaurant where we relaxed and enjoyed our meal with no rush.

We returned to school and shared our experiences with others. Since then, many individuals wished they had worked a little harder to win and join the trip.

*Aimen Rahman-11SI*



## MATHS CHALLENGE

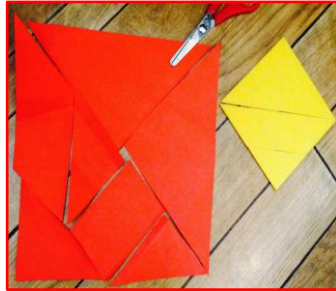
We took Year 8 to visit the British Museum to take part in a maths trail. Students were put into small groups; each group went around the museum with their teacher to complete the maths activity. The tasks ranged from numeracy to geometry and algebra. The students discovered how different civilisations used maths to solve problems and different symbols they used to represent number.

Students used Egyptian symbols to represent numbers.

$$\text{☉} \quad \text{P} \text{P} \text{P} \text{P} \quad \text{9} \quad \text{9} \quad \text{9} \quad \text{^} \quad = \quad 140,310$$

Students were challenged to replicate the Chinese tangram puzzles by folding and cutting only.

At the end they made pictures using the seven tangrams. Can you guess what they represent?



## YEAR 8

## LITTER PICKING CAMPAIGN

As part of IPSHE Year 8 did their bit for the local community by cleaning and picking up litter using the council's equipment. We used black bin bags and litter pickers in small groups. The most common litter we found was cigarette butts; people had just thrown them on the floor straight after smoking.

It is important to keep the environment clean not only because cleanliness is a big part of our faith, but also because people can live comfortably in a clean environment. Many people who passed by us were impressed and I think we gave a good impression of what Muslims believe in. Seeing us litter picking could make people feel inspired to also clean their local areas and use the bins rather than the roads to dispose their unwanted rubbish. During our walk, we saw some builders who waved at us and praised us. They said that we were doing something fantastic for the community and we were wearing the same gloves as them to pick up our rubbish.



Under cars we found many orange peels and wrappers. It is evident that the drivers threw their orange peels and wrappers under their cars as they didn't want to use the bins. Whilst we continued to pick up litter, a man complimented us saying that we were doing something great for the community, which felt very rewarding.

***Students who participated in the campaign said:***



"I will now put my knowledge to use by picking up litter every time I see it and show others so they can learn as well."

**Jasmin Kalam, 8HY**



"From this activity, I understand that a good Muslim should help people for the sake of Allah. We benefitted from this and I am proud of myself for earning the reward."

**IshratTahira Rahman, 8HY**

"I have learnt not to look down on workers who pick up litter and I will help others by moving away harmful things on the street."

**Huda Ahmed, 8HY**

*Thank You*



*A big thank you to the prefects and tarbiyya mentors for their excellent service to Azhar Academy Girls School. Our prefects and tarbiyya mentors will be rewarded with a well-deserved farewell lunch, InshaAllaah.*



# WORK EXPERIENCE

After February half-term, Year 10 went to their planned business destinations to carry out their work experience for a course of two weeks (23<sup>rd</sup> February-6<sup>th</sup> March) to learn about work life and the daily routines and responsibilities that a job demands. The Year 10s went to a variety of different places such as pharmacies, IT companies, main street shops but the majority went to primary schools. I went to a school and my experience was one of enlightenment and humour and an incredible learning experience as a student and as a person. For my first week, I was placed in the nursery where I was working with 3-4 year olds and while I was there, I had to observe the different roles of the teachers; the amount of interaction with the children and how they go about doing their activities. Although I found the first few days slightly difficult, I began to pick up how they learn colours, numbers, shapes and other things all through play and it all showed me how they're at the inception of their lives and how they adapt themselves to different things and people.

In week 2, I got moved to Year 2 and each day got better. I saw how intelligent the children were; when they would read their books to me or even when they asked me if I was from Bangladesh and why I only speak English but why do I then wear the hijab! On World Book Day, many different activities were arranged for the children such as making puppets, story-telling, author-researching

and from this, I got to observe how they engage themselves in what they relish and how much harder they'll try if something is exciting and interesting for them. From reflecting over those two weeks, I really got to see the difference between the younger and the older children. I was able to watch how their personalities are moulded and developed according to their surroundings and the people they are with and what the classroom is like. From being in the school, I learned how you cannot ever contain children and the environment in which they are in has to be warm, welcoming and just happy in order for them to have the ability to learn in a comfortable and tender environment. Children have a certain brilliance which grown-ups do not have and I have seen how important it is to let them be themselves with no confinements and no restrictions whatsoever. In addition, I know that punctuality is extremely important and presenting yourself in a professional manner at all times. By doing my work experience in a school, I learnt values that I will need always such as; patience, tolerance, communication, being able to socialise and more which will help me grow as a student and as a person.

***Fathima Abdullah-10FZR***

## *My Work Experience*

I did my work experience in an IT office in Aldgate East. I found my experience very motivating as it has inspired me to learn more about IT. I learnt a lot of new skills which will benefit me as I use computers on a daily basis. The company I worked with handles records of patients and puts their data onto spreadsheets using the programme, Excel, for important record keeping. I was given many tutorials where I learnt many new skills to use on a spreadsheet and skills which benefit working in an office. I helped sort out important and confidential data and inputted them onto spreadsheets. I also reviewed a lot of work and I learnt how to touch type as I was given a tutorial to help me type faster and feel more comfortable with my keyboard. The people in the work place were very friendly as everyone made me feel welcome in the office. I found my work experience very beneficial as I now know what I should expect when applying for a job in the future. Overall, I thought it was a great and fun learning experience and I am very grateful that I was given the opportunity with the company.

***Tahera Tasnim-10AS***

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March, Year 10 went to do their work experience- a different experience from a normal school day. Many students chose to do work experience in local primary schools. However, I decided to work in an IT company in Aldgate East. I had never travelled by train before so I had to get used to the idea. My first thoughts of working there was that I would be an outsider as there were lots of strangers that I had never seen in my life before, although I was lucky that I had my friend there with me.

On my first day of my work experience, I had arrived there at 10 am. Funnily enough, they hadn't realised we'd be coming in on Monday and so sent us back home. They told us to come in the next day at 9am.

Our general job was to make coffee

for everyone and go to Tesco to buy biscuits- lots of biscuits. We also sorted out medical files on the computer; emailing each other all the while despite the fact that we sat opposite each other.

When we left, they gave us each a Thornton's chocolate box along with Celebrations. That was probably the best bit.

Overall, work experience gave me a taste of life without the teachers' spoon-feeding us and I would do it all over again.

***SumayyahRaza***  
***10FZR***



During my work experience I did many things that I enjoyed. The first day, the children were a bit shy of me but soon warmed up and felt more comfortable. This allowed them to start questioning me about their work. I was put with Year 2 and it was fun. The teacher and teaching assistant made me feel

welcomed and I was never bored as I always had something to do. Year 2

would do something they're not supposed to do. If it was small like getting up from their chair, I would just tell them to sit down. If they did something that was against school rules I would tell the class teacher and let her deal with it.

During assemblies, I would be given the task to drop the children off then I got to choose whether to stay or leave. However I did not stay for the assemblies as I had small jobs like cutting and sticking things in the children's books before they came back.

Sometimes, I also marked their writing books. Some of the students found it hard to catch up with the class; so, the teacher would ask me to take them to the table while the other students are on the carpet listening to her and I would explain things to them slowly. I enjoyed this as it allowed me to be independent and teach them little things without any help.

In conclusion, I enjoyed my work experience and would even go back to volunteer, InshaAllaah.

**AhlamHabib**  
**10AS**



Between February 23<sup>rd</sup> and to 6<sup>th</sup> March, Year 10 went on work experience- a different experience from a normal school day. Many students chose to do work experience in local primary schools. However, I decided to work in an IT company in Aldgate East. I had never travelled by train before so I had to get used to the idea. My first thoughts of working there was that I would be an outsider as there were lots of strangers that I had never seen before in my life, although I was lucky that I had my friend there with me.

Our general job was to make coffee, go to Tesco; we

## BREAKFAST MORNING

Last month, AAGS hosted a delicious breakfast morning in order to celebrate the effort and hard work of all of the students throughout our Aalimah, Islamic Studies and Hifz exams.

Different classes were assigned to bring in different breakfast items such as fruit, crepes, croissants and drinks. It was really enjoyable to get to spend the morning eating breakfast together with our friends and teachers, and it created a real sense of unity and peace.

*By*

*Maryam Ahmed, NahdaTahsin, Malak Mohammed and Aisha Tin- 9SIB*





YEAR 10

## *Art trip to THE BRITISH MUSEUM*

Year 10 art students visited the British Museum. On this occasion, we were allowed to bring cameras as our aim was to take 10-20 pictures of items related to our chosen theme. I managed to take a quite a few pictures and the building of the British museum itself was quite a sight.

The museum had a vast number of collections, ancient Egypt, South America, North America and a majority of tapestries, items and relics, and it was interesting looking at different items compared to being in a classroom. We ended our trip with a visit to the gift shop, overall the trip was an enjoyable experience.

***SumayyahRaza -10FZR***



## *Why Poetry?*

Throughout the years, poetry was used by many as an oral mean to transmit laws, stories, history and other ideas that cultures wanted to preserve. Poetry is used as an effective way of communicating with people from all over. It's a brilliant form of expression because what may take pages and pages of words to create can be effectively cut down to simple words that will convey the same message.

Reading poetry allows you to get a glimpse into people's mind which stimulates their thinking to explore new things, creating a deeper appreciation of the wider world.

Poetry, unlike novels, has no official rules. There's no specific layout, nor a strict grammar guideline and can vary from person to person. Poetry can be six pages, or



## HIFZ Competition

Pi Approximation Day is held on July 22nd in the day/month date format because it's the approximate value of  $\pi - 22/7 = 3.14$ .

Al-Khwarizmi is a man who lived in Baghdad around A.D.800 and worked on the value of  $\pi$  calculated to four digits. The term 'algorithm' derives from his name and a book that he wrote, *المَقْبَلَةُ الْجَبْر كِتَاب* (The Book of Completion Concerning Calculating by Transposition and Reduction) is where the term 'algebra' comes from since the word *الجبر* means completion/restoration.

From Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, the entire Hifz class participated in a week long competition to see who could pray the most new Sabaq. The Hifz class was divided into three groups according to the quantity memorised. All girls were encouraged to challenge themselves and memorise as much new Sabaq as they could. Meanwhile, the girls also prayed Sabaq Dowr twice in the week on Tuesday and Thursday to retain all their new Sabaq. Mash'Allah all the Hifz girls showed admirable determination and perseverance throughout the week. They are an inspiration to all of us at Azhar and remind us how much can be achieved if we only put our minds to it. In recognition of this, the Hifz class was treated with hot chocolate on Friday. Finally, the winning girls were announced on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January in an assembly before the school. All the Hifz girls were awarded certificates for their efforts and the winning girls from each category were presented with prizes.

The winning girls from each group Maryam Rehan 7FT, Zaynab Islaw 10PZ and Maryam Roshidi 9FA who memorised 31, 7 and 6 sides respectively. Hannah Hussain was also presented with a prize for her exceptional effort during the competition week and learning a commendable 22 sides.

A text message has been sent home congratulating parents on their daughters' success and we hope that the entire school also, will share in the success of these girls. The Hifz girls had an enjoyable and rewarding experience Mash'Allah and we look forward to more occasions in the future insha Allah.

Lots of people with a love for Maths celebrate Pi Day in fun, creative ways such as games, activities, quizzes and competitions. This year Pi Day will fall on a Saturday.

## Facts About Pi

We can never truly measure the circumference or the area of a circle because we can never truly measure the value of



## SOLAR ECLIPSE 2015

On Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015, people all over England were able to witness an extraordinary, once in a lifetime phenomenon- a full solar eclipse. So it was with this in mind, that the students and staff of AAGS gathered together to remember Allah's great favours and bounties upon us, as well as taking advantage of the opportunity to establish a rare sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

Whenever an eclipse takes place, it is a reminder to the believer that the sun and moon are from amongst the greatest signs of Allah, each one set on its own course, from which it never diverts or veers off. Both the sun and the moon willingly obey Allah SWT, and just as these two great creations of Allah SWT will one day come to an end, so too will we. Everything in this world is temporary and will eventually die, and we will too. We don't know when this time will come so we must strive to attain as many good deeds as we can.

***The Prophet SAW has said, "When you see the eclipse remember Allah, say Takbir and give in charity". (SahihBukhari)***

The eclipse served to strengthen our faith in Him. By acknowledging this, many of us in the gathering realised how Mighty and Great Allah SWT is and how He has infinite control over all things.



## MY JOURNEY THROUGH THE QUR'AAN



Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'aan in Ayah 17, Surah SurahQamar:  
I have certainly made the Qur'an easy for remembrance, so is there any who



cannot remember it. My journey of Hifz during my primary school years. I undertook to memorise the Qur'aan. He was my initial inspiration. My father would sit together and memorise the Qur'aan every day. The difficult part of this journey is consistency. Some of you might be inspired to start today, but you will stop after a week, or a month. It is only those who persevere who succeed.

For everything we do in life there will be highs and lows, and of course we are humans and we have various problems. We have education, travelling, illnesses and the constant whispering from Shaytaan to deal with. For me personally, there are days when everything becomes a burden and for a while I completely lose all my inspiration. Sometimes the mountain seems too steep to climb. The journey has its ups and downs. However, if you push yourself to achieve your goals you can achieve anything! In February 2012, Alhamdulillah my brother completed his memorisation of the Qur'aan and I saw the true joy and happiness on the faces of my family. I was so overwhelmed and proud of my brother that I knew I too had to finish the Qur'aan. There is no honour for this Ummah except in holding firmly to the Book of Allah SubhananuWa Ta' Ala.Inshallah, I too would be able to earn this honour by make my parents proud and receiving the pleasure of Allah (SWT)

Throughout our life, we are taught to go slow and steady, in order to learn, grow and achieve our

# IMPORTANCE OF *Women* IN ISLAM

*Many people misinterpret that women in Islam having very little rights;however:*

- Muslim women were allowed to divorce their husbands 1400 years ago, which was only allowed for British women from 1857
- Muslim women were allowed to work 1400 years ago, whereas it was not common for a British women to work until the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Muslim women were allowed to possess their own property 1400 years ago, whereas the British were only allowed from 1809

## **Khadija bint Khuwaylid** ﷺ

- First woman to accept Islam
- First wife of the Prophet ﷺ
- Was a rich business women/trader
- Commonly known as the Mother of the Believers



## **Aisha Bint Abu Bakr** ﷺ



### **LEARN:**

**Patience** from Asiyah  
**Loyalty** for Khadija  
**Purity** from Maryam  
**Sincerity** from Aisha  
**Steadfastness** from Fatima



- She is considered one of the most knowledgeable women. It is narrated that she memorised around 2210 hadiths. (What does this show?)
- Companions (both male and female) used to go to Aisha  to ask questions in regards to Islam.
- Was the most beloved wife to the Prophet 

### Khansaa


- One of the greatest poetess of that time (especially as education for women was not common)
- Took part in the battle of Qadisiyyah with her four sons- was very brave
- She understood that this dunya is something so little compared to Jannah

### Summayah bint Khayyat

- First martyr in the history of Islam
- *She had:*

Determination – she stood up for her beliefs against all criticism and hardship.

Patience – she put up with the negative things people said about Islam without letting it affect her faith.

- Sumayyah  was willing to sacrifice so much, ultimately her life, for the sake of Allah. How about us? Are we willing to give up much smaller things for the sake of Allah?



## WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE ART GCSE?

When I signed up to undertake the Art GCSE course two years ago, I had no idea what I really was signing up to: sleepless nights, cumulative deadlines, exhausted arms but most importantly- an overbooked schedule! I realized this only a little too late- *after* I began finalizing my ideas for the first of the two projects.

HOWEVER, despite all of the above-mentioned afflictions, I solemnly swear that this was perhaps one of the most influential decisions I accepted in the last two years.

The one major difference between Art and other scholastic subjects is that this creativity-filled course requires no stressful thoughts but instead an open mind bursting with imagination! Yes, that's right. You don't have to be top-of-the-class at Maths, English, Science or *History* but what you do need is a dedicated mind-set, a keen eye for design, and above all, a genuine passion for originality and artistry.



So, what are my thoughts for the subject? Hang on-*subject?* I like to consider Art as a weekly two hour period of taking much-needed break from exam stress and pressure (you'll find this most noticeable

# TRIPS! TRIPS!

# TRIPS! TRIPS!



I felt like a secret agent as we proceeded towards the entrance to the museum, which was inconspicuously placed within the tunnels of the underground. The great halls and raised ceilings scaled with beautiful ancient architecture depicted history's battles and gore.

Year 9 seemed to have an endless list of sculptures and artefacts to observe and criticize. Being surrounded by all these remnants of history, made me wonder if simple inventions from our time would inhabit the museums of the future. We arrived at the object of our visit; the Jameel gallery. It was like walking through the

history of Islamic art and it touched my heart to see it being recognised in a British museum amongst all others, showing that in some ways we



## *Year 8 - Saint Pauls Cathedral*

Year 8s have been on a trip to the St Pauls Cathedral trip for RE and we enjoyed it a lot.



# **BBC** SCHOOL REPORT

Over the past few weeks, the year 9's have been really busy with the task of producing a news report for Azhar Academy to send to the BBC.

We all worked very hard and put in our best effort, from research, to filming, to directing.

Now that we have sent it off to the BBC we can officially call ourselves BBC Reporters! We hope that the future BBC Reporters will continue to improve each year, insha Allah!

This was a new experience to all of us and many of us had never filmed or edited before but we learnt to work together as a team and of course there were some bumps along the way but as a group we pulled through.

It was a full class effort and we would have never completed the report without the whole class doing their part.



In science week, KS3 pupils had a chance to get their hands on some science equipment and experiment on different things such as flowers, microscopes, etc. We used microscopes to look at pollen from different flowers in order to match them to pollen found on a dead body found in the classroom.

In another experiment we were involved in a murder case where we had to investigate the killer of a young female student who figured out how to make gold. We used urine tests to help uncover the murderer.

As a class we mostly enjoyed using the microscope as we rarely get to use them in lessons. We got to focus them, zoom in and out and try different settings to focus the polled samples. It was quite an experience and we hope to do things like this more often, we think it motivates pupils to do better in their learning and education.



Ways we could improve Science Week is to do activities like this more often and involve not only KS3 pupils but also KS4; it will be an opportunity for everyone to learn new things!

**Mariam Abedin and Summaya Raja – 9 SIB**



## **3FF LINK DAY 2**

Today, some girls from St Ursulas girls school came to visit Azhar Academy girls school to get to know us better and visit our school. When we first encountered each other, we were shy all over again, but soon everyone settled in and we picked up our conversations from the last link day as though no time had even passed. During the ice breaker 'human bingo' we got to know one another really well, by asking not just about each other but also our families and interests as well. We then split up into groups and gave the students from St Ursula's a tour of our school.

They got to see the library classrooms and even got to speak to some of the teachers. We then all sat and ate lunch together which was a chance to find out more about each other, likes and dislikes.

The best part of the link was getting to decorate cupcakes for each other. We could be as creative as we wanted- and they ended up being delicious! We had the opportunity to ask about each other's faiths and schools, thinking about all the differences but also all the similarities that brings us together.

Finally we had to say goodbve. We were very sad that our new friends were leaving. Some of us exchanged numbers in order to stay in touch. All in all, it was a fun and productive day. Much was learnt and many new friendships were made.