

# Al-Qalam



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شهر ربيع الثامن

## 3FF Final Link Day



Following on from our second interfaith link with St. Ursula's Convent Secondary School, we attended the final link day, on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015, this was a day of memories and new beginnings.

We arrived at the venue by public transport and were greeted with warm welcomes from the students we had met before, and some new faces. It was great to see them again! We settled inside the hall, and were put into groups of six; three girls from Azhar and three from St. Ursula's, we were with students that we had never met before, to get to know each other, we played a few effective icebreaker games, this allowed us to familiarise ourselves with each other. We learnt very interesting and fascinating facts! After that we were taken for a captivating tour around the historical building, we were introduced to some of the staff and other students coming in and out of classes. We noticed a symbol of the cross in every classroom, a symbol of their religion and reminder of their Holy figure. A very touching aspect of their belief shown in each classroom. We settled down and made logos which summarised all our links with the school.

During lunch time we ate together and had lunch, a great community feeling. Once lunch was over, we were taken to the attached Chapel, where a talk was given by Maria, a dedicated woman planning to become a religious sister. We gained understanding from her about the Catholic Beliefs and what it's like to give up everything for God's cause and live life fulfilling three conditions; Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, Maria then gave us an insight on her journey to becoming a Sister, a touching story. She happily answered a few of our questions.

On our return back to the school, we used the logos we previously made, and came up with an idea to make a video, to summarise all of our links. It was very enjoyable experience making the videos as it enhanced our understanding further. The video is valuable to the key memories in our links.

We were overwhelmed to be awarded certificates for participating in this project. Overall, this experience was a real eye opener; it has changed our perspectives of one another, by removing stereotypes that we may have previously been influenced by. It has also taught us to respect and value other people's beliefs. We would without a shadow of doubt, love to participate in this project again. We encourage the next Year 9 students to participate in this wonderful learning programme.

**Maryam Ahmed & Sana Hussain - Year 9**



## 7MA'S Forgiveness Assembly

7MA presented an assembly based on forgiveness. One part of the assembly that was particularly thought-provoking was the drama performance. The drama sketch centred around four girls going to an interview for the same job; there were two pairs of friends – who absolutely despised each other. The sketch consisted of spectacle, humour, quirky props and brilliant acting skills! One famous and memorable quote which was used as the grand finale - from Resham Zahir (who acted as the clueless character) was:

*“Guys, did I tell you about my dead cat?”*

The building blocks of a successful play, is dedication. Our young performers expressed this, exceptionally well. Some actresses even brought in some of their own belongings from home, to create unique props from the depths of their imagination. Their costumes made them have a closer connection with their character. With their gear on, 7MA produced a memorable performance.

On top of the drama and home-crafted accessories, Hannah Patel stunned the audience with her gigantic outburst; she shouted out with her arms open wide: *“FORGIVE ME!”*

Behind the scenes, Hannah commented,  
*“I even shocked myself!”*

She quickly thought, about whether she should have said it normally or to raise her voice, but she took the risk – all in the name of acting!

The assembly encapsulated the spirit of the class- we hope to prepare and present similar drama sketches in the years to come Insha'Allah.

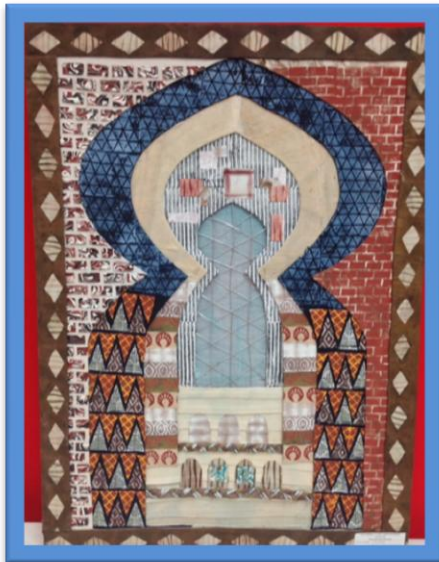
**Jumanah Zahra Hussain Year - 7MA**

## AAGS ANNUAL

# ART AND DESIGN EXHIBITION 2015

Year 11's art students recently completed their Unit 2 Art Project. The art students' hard work definitely paid off as they each successfully created exquisite wall hangings after months of hard work and development.

Each wall hanging is a masterpiece, unique and beautiful and a one-of-a-kind. Be it a frame, a 3D construction or a sculpture, they all consisted of complex dyed and printed samples, inspired by their chosen theme. The art students researched and sought inspiration from many sources and mastered various techniques to include in their final pieces.



In order to display all these amazing pieces of art, the art room was decorated and converted into an exhibition. Students were allowed to enter the exhibition and admire all the wall hangings and the portfolios of the year 11 students. This was particularly of great benefit to the year 10 art students.

The work of the art students made an extremely impressive exhibition and is a credit to Azhar Academy Girls School.

**Habibah Khanom – Year 10FZR**



# AAGS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As part of our citizenship controlled assessment task, we had to run a campaign based on an issue of our choice. We chose to raise awareness about domestic violence as we felt passionate about this issue. We genuinely wanted to make a difference to the situation our society was in. We worked for weeks to campaign, advertise and raise money for domestic violence organisations.

As part of the task we had to campaign about our chosen issue. We noticed that the best way to get our message out there to the wider audience was through social media. So we set up a website which we designed and made ourselves. We also set up a twitter page (@Key to\_freedom) where surprisingly we got a very good response. We were stunned by the amount of people who followed our page and joined us in the fight to eliminate domestic violence. Furthermore, we contacted people that we believed were influential and could help spread the word of our campaign.

During our campaign we were given the opportunity to visit the House of Lords and be present during a youth leaders meeting with Baroness Scotland on the best ways to tackle domestic violence amongst young people. During our campaign, we realised that not many youngsters were aware of the detrimental



effects domestic violence. Hence, to raise awareness, we arranged a few presentations to the students in our school. As we expected, not many students entirely knew what domestic violence, so we took it as our duty to explain the issue to them. Many of them were shocked to hear that this was going on in our society and wanted to join our fight to eliminate domestic violence.

Because of the results we received from this campaign, we firmly believe that domestic violence should be incorporated into school curriculum as this generation will grow up to become our future. They should not turn a blind eye to these issues, but rather want to assist in eliminating domestic violence for good. We firmly believe that through education we can eliminate domestic violence.

**Hannah Hussain – Year 10FZR**





# Proud to be **British**...

## Polite? Arrogant? Terrible at cooking?

*Don't mean to alarm you old chap, but you might be British.*

The majority of students in Azhar Academy are British citizens.

They have either  
have stayed here  
long enough to be  
When asked about  
respondents insisted  
the best in the world  
care, sports and



been born here or  
over a period of time  
classified as British.  
Britain's strengths,  
we are up there with  
for theatre, health  
media. Britain, a wide-  
ranging list of food, sights and monuments that make us proud, it's a reminder  
of all the reasons to be happy with where we live. England's historic features  
prompt a surge of pride. From modern architectural designs such as the  
London Eye to the historic Stonehenge, Britain is enriched in history. Many  
people believe that we strive to achieve the best we can as a developed  
country. We are a proud first world country. We are famous for many  
remarkable things such as fish and chips, vintage tea parties, Harry Potter  
and much more.

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remarkable things such as fish and chips, vintage tea parties, Harry Potter  
and much more.

**We might be a small country but we're a great one and the quirky list of British aspects tells you something about our character.**

*By Salihah, Halimah and Suhaira 7TK*



# Homeless Shelter Visit – Whitechapel Mission

It has been related by Safwan ibn Salim w that the Prophet s said: Anyone who looks after and works for a widow and a poor person is like a warrior fighting for Allaah’s cause, or like a person who fasts during the day and prays all night (Bukhari) Hence, our school took twenty-five year 10 students to a homeless shelter, Whitechapel Mission, to fulfil our Islamic duties. This exciting day took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, 2015.

After 45 minutes of packing £450 worth of essentials, we headed out the door, anticipating the day ahead of us and what it would hold for us. Arriving an hour later with mixed emotions, we were welcomed warmly by the staff and volunteers of the Whitechapel Mission. They were overwhelmed by the amount of food we had brought for them and were immensely grateful. After being sat down in the main hall, we were introduced to the head worker and MBE (a British honour given to a person by the Queen for a particular achievement) awardee, Antonio Blair. He talked us through the purpose and ethos of the work he does through snippets of his life; which all linked back to his work and how the Whitechapel Mission came to be. We were all extremely inspired by his drive to do good and help others. Tony began his career in the police department, which he worked with for 18 months before quitting for many reasons, and beginning a new career working with IT servers, earning over £2000 a day. Despite many people believing he would be happy with such a high salary, Antonio was not satisfied; he believed there was greater good to be done.

During his work in the IT department, Antonia found out about the Whitechapel mission and decided to volunteer there for a number of days. Seeing the work that was being done to help those who had very little made him look at his own self and the privileges he acquired. After enquiring about the project, he learned that there were many unsolved problems that no one was trying to fix, so he agreed to start working at the Mission for a year and quit his current job. His ‘one year’ quickly became thirty-four and to this day, he still remains there with the same passion and drive he started off with.

With his wife, he guided us around the building to have a feel of how the place works and what the homeless experience. Despite learning of the difficulties the homeless go through daily, we were told that it would be impossible for privileged girls like us to understand the experiences they have to face. We were undeniably inspired by our day at this shelter and felt as though it was now our new-found duty to help out other as often as possible.

**Article - Year 10 Students**

No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.  
- Aesop

# ***LONDON QUIZ - 2015***

*Azhar Academy Girls School participated in London Quiz Team 2015. Our students performed exceptionally well to earn a place in the second round and finished overall as the highest achieving school in the borough, MashaAllaah.*

*As a result all six team members were invited to attend the London Festival at City Hall with the opportunity to take part in some of the activities. The team had an opportunity to visit the Shard and experience the best views of London from the top of Western Europe's tallest building! Travelling skyward in high-speed lifts, this multi-sensory journey took them 800ft above London, where 1000 years of history unfolded beneath them and was brought to life in multimedia displays.*

*They also had the opportunity to Visit the Golden Hinde II with a guided tour of this handsome ship and experience the life of a 16<sup>th</sup> century explorer aboard this full-sized reconstruction of the ship Sir Francis Drake used to circumnavigate the globe between 1577- 80.*



## 9KB's Trip to



On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 9Kb went on a trip to The London Dungeons this was a reward trip for their improved behaviour over the year. There were many educational aspects (as well as fun) to this trip! As we went on a 90 minute journey through 1000 years of London's murky history we learnt about Jack the Ripper, Guy Fawkes and the gruesome methods they used to pry information out of him and how the plague arrived in London.

There were stunning special effects, authentic sets, witty comedy, a heart-stopping ride and a host of scary surprises lurking in the Dungeon. Halfway through our journey, the fire alarm went off, causing us to have to wait outside until we were given the all clear. That did dampen our mood slightly but once we were back in, our spirits were as high as ever. All in all, the day was one to remember and everyone had a lot of fun.

**Fabiha Ahmed - Year 9KB**

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, Year 8 had the great privilege to visit a fun, yet educational trip to the London dungeons. The students enjoyed a tour of the past where characters from London's history shared their gruesome, shuddering stories that left the students shrieking and terrified. As well as the tour, students really enjoyed two additional rides that added to the excitement and thrill.

The attraction is spread over three floors and is a third bigger than the old venue. The basic format remains the same: you get divided into groups of about 20 people and then visit different rooms and meet actors who will tell you frightening tales about London's past. You can't stay longer in each room - and I doubt you'd want to, once you start getting scared!

It's pitch black inside and ceilings have been designed to drip so you may get a little wet at times. Sensory details have been used to create an authentic experience, certain smells such as 'rotten food' and 'dirty Thames water', which was extremely weird and left us completely disgusted.

Moreover, you may spot a few rats and crawling cockroaches.

There are a few times where you are given a chance to sit down, as in the Plague doctor's session and the barbers shop. Be prepared for a few crawly surprises and know that you are never sitting down for a relaxing rest!

Henry's Wrath is the boat ride and needed 20,000 litres of recycled water from the River Thames to create the attraction inside. You start out quite slowly and pass Henry VIII with Brian Blessed's face projected on a wall to talk to you, but you only see him for a few seconds. Be prepared when the ride stops!

The second ride, 'Drop Dead', is at the end of the tour and you literally drop down three storeys in the building! You'll definitely scream but you'll be giggling as you get off. If you really don't want to do the last ride there is an 'escape to freedom' which takes you to the gift shop and exit.

Overall, London dungeon was a favourite from amongst all the trips we visited in year eight.

**Aminah Omar - Year 8HY**



# MODESTY

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, 8SND hosted an assembly for the entire school on the topic of modesty.

Modesty is a term that some believe only has one definition. However, modesty could be of the mind, body or state. It is a term that can be quite confusing. Some believe that dressing in an abayah and covering with the hijab is modest, a stark contrast to the rowdiness of screaming and shouting in public. In the assembly, we clarified the fact that modesty is being aware of what is right and wrong and refraining from it due to the fear of The Almighty. Being modest means different things in certain areas. Being modest in front of Allah means to guard yourself from forbidden things, both in public and in private. In general, it means to keep your dignity and respect. The prophet ﷺ said 'Modesty is a branch of faith' (Bukhari). This hadith illustrates how important it is to be modest and humble.

It is also stated in the Quran,

***"Tell the believing men to lower their gaze and be modest. That is purer for them. Lo! God is Aware of what they do. And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and be modest, and to display of their adornment only that which is apparent, and to draw their veils over their chests, and not to reveal their adornment." (Quran 24:30).***

Allah clarifies in the ayah that modesty of the eyes is also important.

In conclusion, modesty should generally be the state of a person who wants to maintain dignity, respect and piety.

***Jamila Kasoma - Year 8SND***



# Netball

## Tournament

Yr 7, 8, 9 and 10 competed in the first ever AAGS Netball Tournament earlier this term, the much-anticipated finals was held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The nerves and excitement meshed together created a thrilling atmosphere with anticipation and eagerness calling us to victory. All of the matches were very intense and we all tried very hard to win, but in the end, 9SIB won.

We all enjoyed the event and are looking forward to next year, when we can have more exciting games, Insha'Allah.

**Sabah Athar - Year 9SIB**



## Interfaith Games 2015!

Students at AAGS took part in the 'Inter-Faith Games 2015', held by the Mo Farah Foundation. It was held in the Lea Valley Athletic Centre. Students from Year 7 & Year 8 had the chance to show off their amazing ability and to compete against other talented multi-faith schools around London.

We participated in many different challenges such as: the high jump, long jump, hurdles, 300m, 200m and 800m races, shot put, triple jump, relay and many more to mention. We competed against three other Muslim schools and 7 squads had entered.

In the athletics centre, we viewed many athletes and paralympians who were training for other events. There were not just things to practice and compete, but also places where we could have fun! We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and were also very proud of ourselves because WE WON!

MASHALLAH, we took the trophy with glory! We won many gold and silver medals as well!

We had the best time ever and are sure everyone else did too. We would like to thank everyone for their help and support. JAZAKUMULLAHU KHAIR!

***Resham Zaheer & Fatima Ali - Year 7MA***



## THE FINALS OF NETBALL

The top 3 classes that were in the semi-finals this year for Netball at AAGS were 7TK, 9SIB and 8SND. The tournament was held on 11th June 2015.

The first game was 8HY vs 9SIB. 8ND won with a score of 12-3. Next was 7TK vs 8HY. Previously, when it wasn't the semi finals, 7TK had beaten 8SND. But this time it was different.

8SND was able to beat 7TK with a score of 6-0

It then came to the intense moment of which team would get into the finals with 8SND. 7TK vs 9SIB. So far, 7TK had a better chance of winning because 9SIB had let 8SND shoot 12 goals against them whereas 7TK had let 8SND shoot 6 goals. 9SIB was able to get into the finals with 8SND. The game was very intense and 9sib won with a score of 7:1

**Sumayyah Taj - Year 7TK**

## THE BLEEP TEST

During the last term here at AAGS, we have been doing fitness in PE. We did something called the bleep test where students had to run 20 metres from one side of the hall to the other. To reach the next level, we had a range of 20m to run, this had to be carried out before the next bleep was heard. The Bleep Test had to do be carried out at the beginning of the term and at the end, this was to see if our fitness had improved. The girl who ran the furthest in the school is a girl in 7TK who was able to run 112 laps which is 2240 meters without stopping. When she did the bleep test at the beginning of the term, she ran 82 laps which is 1640 meters. She has improved by at least 500 meters or more. This is a great achievement and I am proud to say that it was me who achieved this Alhamdulillah!

**By Sumayyah Taj 7TK**





## International Junior Maths Challenge

Students at AAGS took part in an International Junior Maths Challenge. The students of year 7 and year 8 competed in this challenge. We were given two pieces of paper, one of which you had the problems that were to be solved and one which was used to write the answers. It took one and a half hours, but Alhamdulillah we managed

to complete it with ease. It was very nerve racking for many students, the thrill and excitement, along with nerves anticipated enthusiasm and eagerness. After the students returned, they were jumping with joy, the experience was definitely memorable!

*Hannah Munir Patel & Jumanah Zahra Hussain*

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## *Helping the sick*

Year 7 organised a campaign on helping sick children. First the teacher put us into pairs and allocated us a child, we were then told to give gifts and a letter/card to the child that was allocated to us. My partner and I were able to search about the child that was allocated to us, we found a list of things that he enjoyed. His name was Tie He was nine years old, he liked Mickey Mouse, cars and drawing, he was diagnosed with epidermolysis bullosa in 02/09/2000. My partner and I bought gifts which we thought he would like erasers in a car shape, drawing pens and coloring pencils, a card and some stickers too. We then put all of the gifts into a big gold box with his name printed onto the box cover and then we ripped some tissue paper and put that inside the box to make it like a lucky dip.

Once we had given in our gifts, Yr 7 students went on a 'Share a Smile Walk' in which we walked to each of the hospitals giving the gifts we made. Receiving the gifts brought smiles on their face which was really nice for us to see.

I hope you like our campaign on helping the sick and we hope you learn from this too. I would like to end with a hadith on the sick:

**“Feed the hungry, visit the sick and set free the captives”** narrated by the prophet

By Safiyyah - Year 7FT



# Queen Mary University

## SCIENCE FESTIVAL TRIP

Year 7's went on a trip to Queen Mary University of London on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

There were stalls around with many displaying different experiments. The one I particularly liked was testing your heart rate, I enjoyed it as I was able to see the technical age of my heart, it was a good health stall to test the rate of one's well-being.

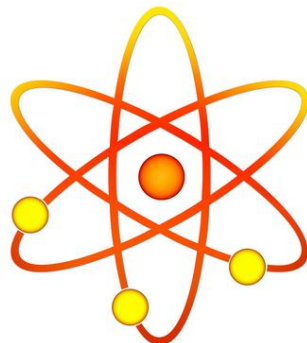
After 10 minutes, there was an introductory speech about the different stalls and a guide of what was going on in the day. As my friend and I looked around, we noticed the names of famous people in engraved in gold on the floor. The second speech was titled 'Snot, Sick and Scabs'. It was a very interactive workshop informing us how and why we vomit.

Later, they asked for a volunteer, Nabila Issa from our school was chosen to go up on stage. She was told to wear gloves and try to cover the gloves with the feathers below in a bowl with pure air. Obviously it didn't work, then she was told to put the glove she was wearing into the bucket of "snot", then try to cover the gloves with the feathers, this time it worked.

The lady was saying it worked as the snot was sticky. This is the reason why our nose hold more mucus when we have a cold compared to a usual day. Overall the trip was fun and educational and I learnt a lot about science too.



*Safiyyah Attan Year 7FT*



# Ramadan

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 9KB presented an assembly about Ramadan and its references from the Quran and Hadith. A beautiful nasheed called 'Ramadan' by Mishary Al-Afasy was playing as the students entered the prayer hall. They proceeded with the assembly by starting the PowerPoint presentation which was prepared collectively within the class.

There was an enchanting Quran recitation of an ayah from Surah Baqarah which was recited by Rayyan, a student from 9KB. The assembly was well organised and performed, all the students in 9KB took part in either creating, helping or performing the assembly. A du'aa was made to ask Allah to accept our fasts this Ramadan and to make this Ramadan easy for us as well as the Ummah. Insha Allah.

**By Jiniya Al-Mamun 9KB**

During the past few weeks, the girls in Azhar Academy Girls School prepared themselves for Ramadan. As we all know Ramadan is one of the most sacred months in the Islamic year, where there is an immense amount of reward to be gained. It is also the month of fasting and Muslims all over the world come together to do the same thing.

Allah (SWT) says in the Quran: 'Oh you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may guard' (against evil) - Surah Baqarah, Ayah 183. In our school, we did a number of things to remind ourselves of what we need to do in Ramadan, what goals we want to attain, and how to bring ourselves closer to Allah (SWT). We had Tarbiya Circles; where we discussed how to have a productive Ramadan, whether it was about the food we should/shouldn't eat or about the Ibaadah we should do.

The tarbiya mentors running these circles also made a display board on Ramadan. On the display board there are twenty doors for everyday day of Ramadan we have in school. Each day, one of the doors will be open and

behind it there will be a quote, quranic ayah or hadith that everyone should ponder over. We have had a few assemblies based on Ramadan, teaching us the benefits and reward we gain whilst fasting. This has motivated many of us to do even more good in Ramadan. They mentioned the different forms of worship we could implement into our routine.

To bring the atmosphere of Ramadan to school, we decorated our school hallways with lanterns. Lanterns symbolise light and knowledge, Islam is a religion of light. Islam stresses on the importance of seeking knowledge.

The Prophet Muhammad s said,

**“Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave”.**



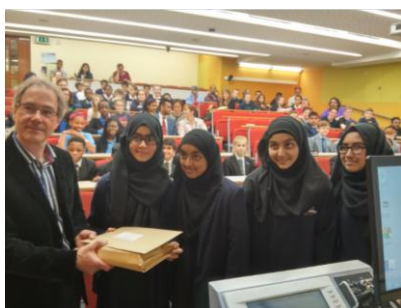
# SALTERS FESTIVAL OF CHEMISTRY



On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, my three classmates and I, were chosen to go on a trip to the Salters Festival of Chemistry, held in Queen Mary University of London. Along with Ms. Iqbal, Faheemah, Maimoonah and Aiaza we attended this prestigious event; therewith the experience was divided into two parts- before and after lunch.



Firstly we had to solve the intricate problem of who killed the salt miners' manager by dividing into pairs and doing three experiments each, in turn, comparing samples of salt, ink and liquid found at the site to others (to see which matched). Maimoonah and I paired up and started doing the first experiment, which was to find out the non-metal part of the salt samples (to compare them to the sample found at the site). We found it reasonably difficult, however the next two experiments were fairly easier as we had already done something similar in school during science week. These were, respectively, a chromatography and a pH test. After both pairs completed the experiment and wrote a report on who we believed was the murderer (a man called Charlie Rock), we then had lunch.



The inside of the campus is truly beautiful, with a sub-branch of the Thames flowing through it. We ate lunch there, and afterward walked into the same building for our next experiment- the University challenge. This was only seventy-five minutes long and seemed simple. It was not. We had to make the hydrochloric acid's and sodium thiosulfate's color change in exactly one minute, while it was being combusted by the fire beneath.

What was extremely frightening was the fact that our gauze (a stand you put beakers/flasks on top of) was previously burnt, thus when we put our solution on it, huge clouds of smoke arose and personally, it was horrifying and it seemed like we were in one of those teenage movies where an experiment goes wrong and everybody goes to A&E! Everyone else found it funny!

Then we went into an auditorium where we were shown a demonstration of liquid nitrogen, dry ice and even the extremely rare liquid oxygen! The performance/presentation was amusing and perhaps something to be seen once in a lifetime. The awards were then given out, firstly to everyone who participated and then to the winners. Shockingly, the experiment I believed I would die in was the one we won third place in (out of seventeen schools)!

Overall, I'd say it was an interesting, remarkable and highly underestimated (by me) experience, along with the intense backdrop of the competition we had fun and it is definitely something I will remember for years to come, maybe one day one of us (the four students who went) will even study there....  
Until then, good luck to next year's Year Eights who will go on this trip!



**Esha Kamran - Year 8SND**

## **HISTORY – YEAR 11**

It began as a challenging term for History, with the controlled assessments looming for Yr 11. Year 11 students were nervous, a little uncertain and slightly confused. They weren't sure what they were going to do and how. In the end, tears were shed, timelines were prepared, flashcards were designed, deadlines were met, a few nervous giggles resounded, but with the grace of the Almighty everything pulled together for them. From their disgust towards Nazi discrimination policies to their compassion about stories from World War 1, our students were prepared to analyse, assess and scrutinize.

That is how we feel when we are doing something for the first time, unsure, apathetic, nervous or even hysterically excited. But somehow, it all is part of the learning experience. Somehow it is all training for the future world that awaits our students. Whatever we learn, unlearn, recall, forget, re-recall, write, scrap, re-write, it all contributes to making our learning process stronger. In fact, it makes us prepare for all kinds of challenges related to life, not just academic. The process of learning makes us more confident and sure about ourselves eventually. It is all a matter of trial and error. In order to achieve something we have to strive and that is exactly what our Year 11 History students at Azhar Academy did this year. They strived and they strived hard!

**Ms Yamna Maqbool - History Teacher – K4**