

Volume 9 | Issue 12

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al-qalam

Termly Newsletter

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Headteacher's Message - Mrs R.Adam

"In the Name of Allah ﷻ, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All the praises and thanks be to Allah ﷻ, the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists). The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. The Only Owner of the Day of Recompense (i.e. the Day of Resurrection) You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help. Guide us to the Straight Way. The Way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger, nor of those who went astray. (The Qur'an-Surah Al-Fatihah)"

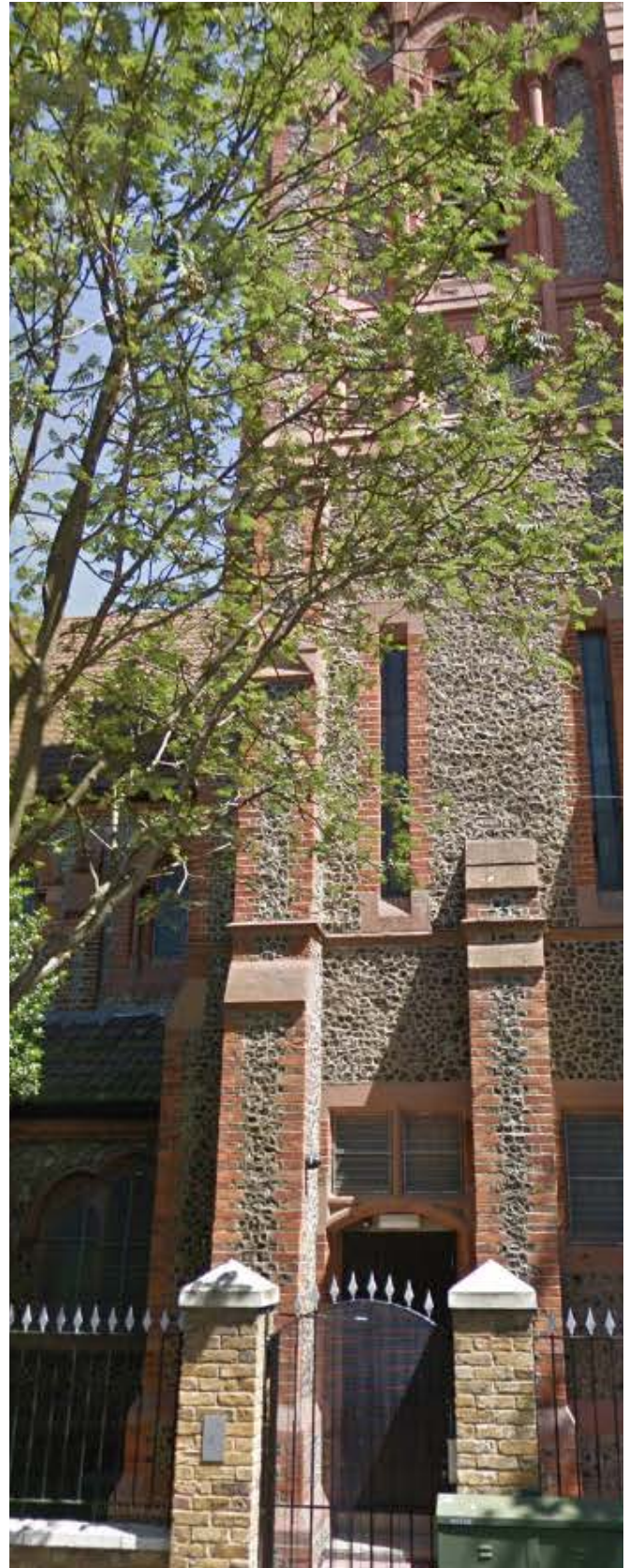
As we reach the final term of this academic year I would like to share with you our last newsletter for the summer term. As always it is filled with exciting and informative articles from our students.

It has been an exciting and productive year at the school. Students enjoyed end of year school trips and an amazing sports day which was held on Wednesday, 10 July at the Cricklefields Sports Stadium. Science students were selected as finalist for the Big Bang Science exhibition to be held in Birmingham in the new academic year.

We bid farewell to staff and students who will be leaving us at the end of this year and we hope to welcome our new staff and students in September 2017.

I look forward to your ongoing support in ensuring that we help our students to achieve the best education to prepare them for the journey ahead!

Mrs Rookshana Adam
Headteacher



Three Faiths Linking

Another year, another successful year of linking complete...

This year, our year 9 3FF ambassadors were given the opportunity to meet with students of different faiths, beliefs and cultures and had the chance to learn from one another.

The programme encouraged our pupils to feel confident and curious as they met people from different backgrounds, by providing meaningful encounters for both students and staff. Linking increases recognition and respect for different beliefs and cultures.

Themes covered this year were:

- Who am I? – exploring ideas of identity
- Who are we? – exploring ideas of community and belonging
- Where do we live? – exploring connections to wider society and ideas around diverse citizenship

As part of the Core Linking programme, our students got together and discussed topics around equality, respect, suffering, as well as many others. On a lighter tone, they also had fun designing and creating canvas tote bags for each other and taking part in a one- off special theatre workshop.

We hope our current year 8s seize the opportunity to apply for a place on the linking programme next year, in order to embark on a wonderful and unique linking journey of their own.

By Apa Shabana Nakhuda



Poem created by an Azhar Academy and St Ursula's student.



Creative theatre workshop attended by Azhar Academy and St Ursula's students



London Bridge Vigil

Monday, 5 June was a time of quiet, sadness and reflection for all Londoners who gathered at Potters Field Park for the vigil to remember the victims of the London Bridge attack.

The atmosphere was tranquil as everyone who assembled there held their silence for those who lost their lives or got injured because of the horrible attack. However, all that were present on that day knew that they had to stick together and fight against the evil and corrupted people who try to divide us.

As the minute silence started, I began to have flashbacks of the day when gossips and news about the tragic event that were circulated all over the media. It made me think how selfish and wicked some people can be and how their behaviour affects others who are innocent.

Attending this vigil has made me realise that no matter what skin colour you have, what gender you are or what faith you believe in, at the end of the day, we are all equal. Therefore, we should all stick together and stand up against the evil by those who try to destroy the peace that we have.

By Habiba Ahmed 10A

In Support of the Distraught

Despite recent events of the acid attacks, Grenfell Tower Fire and death caused by extremism, it is vital that we support each other either through giving charity or by consoling victims of these tragedies. We must remember that we are being tested, by Allah on how we respond and take care of those who are suffering and are in need. Therefore we must strive to help them to the best of our ability.

Jasmin & Maimoonah Year 10

The recent tragedies have been difficult times for the victims and we must ensure that we remember them in our duas.

We pray that Allah grants those who have sadly passed away Jannat-ul-Firdaus and families that are affected be reunited with them. We pray that Allah supports them in their grieving and strengthens the Ummah to stand united against all calamities, ameen.

by Year 9 and Year 10 Prefects





The Royal Navy

In 2017 a few selected year 9 students had the amazing opportunity to visit the Royal Navy and find out more about the defence of this country.

We left school and travelled by public transport. When we arrived at the royal navy, the staff was very welcoming and alert at all times, making sure that everyone on the ship was safe.

At first we all sat in a circle and many talented people who worked hard and were aiming towards a goal came around and spoke to us. They told us about their experiences and what they had to do to be at their current stage. They also told us a bit about their job and gave us a lot of useful advice. This was a great opportunity for us to ask any questions and get to know about them and their job a bit more.

Once the talking was over and done with, we were led by a group leader who worked on the ship. We had a tour around the ship and we found out a lot of new and interesting facts about the Royal Navy and how they work together to make this a safe and reliable country.

We were able to see how life is like working in the navy, and how it isn't a job to be taken lightly. You have to be alert when walking up and down the stairs as it could get a bit tricky. Also you have to make sure you do not mess around, especially near the control room where they manage most of the ship's activities.

They also told us about when they have their free time or time off. They have a great time with their colleagues playing fun games and entertaining themselves in the best way possible.

We were very lucky to be able to see the defence system where they had dangerous weapons (under supervision). We also had the opportunity to hold unloaded guns and explore the front of the ship where the navigation system was.

In addition to this, we were taken to see inside a helicopter and explored the amazing features and first aid system it had within. Many of the students mostly enjoyed visiting the helicopter as it was something they wouldn't usually get a chance to do.

Once the tour was over, the final activity was to meet the captain. We had a great time meeting him and learning about his job. Trying on the captain's hat and taking pictures were fun.

To conclude, all the students had a great time where there was a balance of learning and fun. They were all able to get involved and find out more about what interested them regarding working with the navy as there was a huge variety of staff that did different jobs. There was a lot of excitement and they definitely went away with a lot more knowledge about the Royal Navy.



Textiles in Art

This term we had an opportunity to become fashion designers, designing modest wear for Muslim girls and women.

Our first topic was looking at motifs which are a pattern or a design that can be repeated many times or used once in a work. We looked at lots of different motifs to give us ideas and inspiration for our own motif designs, before designing our own motifs!

Then, to transfer our motif design onto fabric, we needed to draw it on a lino which is a print-making technique, used for the relief surface. The design is then cut out using a lino blade; (the uncarved areas show the parts that will be printed.) After drawing and cutting out our designs we did a test print on paper.

Next, we moved on to designing our fabric for our modest wear. The technique we used for our fabric design was tie dye- a technique which consists of folding, twisting, pleating or crumpling a piece of fabric or garment and binding it with rubber bands, followed by applying dye.

There are many types of designs that can be achieved using tie dye, such as crumple tie dye, shibori tie dye, sunburst tie dye, stripes tie dye, spiral tie dye and one colour spiral tie dye.

From these designs, we picked three and followed instructions to achieve professional tie dye effects.

After having our motif on fabric, it was finally time to outline our dresses for modest wear. Our overall clothes creation had to show how well we used our dyed fabric and our motif design.

Our blueprint was put onto a large piece of card, showcasing our dress, use of tie dye fabrics as well as our motif.

Overall, I have enjoyed art throughout year nine. It has been enjoyable, exciting and interesting to work with new techniques and ideas. We learnt all these fun techniques and had an awesome year all thanks to Miss Mahmud who always makes her lessons entertaining and lively, which help bring art to life.

Samiha Khan 9G





GCSE Art & Design 2017

Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah swt, we have had another great and productive year. The Art department would like to take this opportunity to thank our Year 11 pupils, parents and school for all the support you have given us.

Here are some of the fantastic pieces of art work produced by our fabulous year 11 pupils for their GCSE examination this year. Enjoy!



Print Project

For our first lesson of the project we drew six observational drawings of leaves. We then added tone and full details but no colour. For homework, we studied the famous design called "Snakehead" produced by William Morris. The amazing project is block printed on cotton with natural coloured dyes.

The design was made in 1879 and was influenced by Indian textiles. I researched another design by William Morris called "Strawberry Thief". Here the pattern has also been printed several times with different wooden blocks where shapes and patterns are leaves, vines, different coloured birds and flowers.

In our second lesson we developed four motif designs. We took our six observational drawings and developed them further; we kept these black and white. Some of our lines were thick and some thin. In our next lesson we created a final motif design combining four pattern designs together. Using our sketch we repeatedly drew them several times to create our very own repeat pattern.

I found this project fun and interesting and learnt a lot about William Morris and print motif.

Kulsum Valli - Year 8A



The "Me" Project

In Year 7 we did a project named "ME" in Art. For this assignment, we had to share our true selves and our love for our favourite things. This mission was very stimulating and fun. I felt that this project was an amazing opportunity to express ourselves.

Everyone could show who they really were and express it in Art. We did many things for this exercise and a lot of them were unique and very creative. Everyone could choose whatever they felt like for the project and that's what truly made it very memorable and special.

By Suweybah Ahmed - Year 7





Year 8 Art – Landscape Project

In Year 8 Art, we have been exploring landscapes with the theme of nature. We have completed many projects including going to the park to make collages out of simple, natural materials. Our inspiration was Andy Goldsworthy.

We also explored and researched why Andy Goldsworthy and many others like him, created work that did not get preserved or kept in museums, rather, it is left to blow away with the wind or naturally disappear. The reason being that natural art should not be preserved.

We created motif designs using only nature related patterns and drawings. To do this, we made still-life drawings of various flowers/plants. We then combined a few of the patterns together to use in our final mural design.

Additionally, we made a collage using only natural resources such as flowers, leaves, cotton wool and ferns. We collected these before putting them all together to make a beautiful development from drawings we had done prior to this work.



By Raeesah Patel Year 8



The Globe Theatre Trip

On Thursday, 13 July 2017, the Year 9 students visited the Globe Theatre as part of their English Studies of the play *Romeo and Juliet*. The trip consisted of a tour of the theatre followed by an interesting workshop.

We travelled by public transport and arrived there on time, at 10:30am. It was a long journey but was worth it.

Once we arrived at the theatre, we were welcomed by the staff and were put into 2 groups. Firstly, we discussed the history of the theatre and a bit about Shakespeare. One surprising fact was that the theatre was built three times due to tragic circumstances. There we had a great opportunity to ask questions and get to know more about the history of the theatre.

After that, we were taken to see a technical rehearsal of a Shakespeare play on the real stage. It was a great chance for us to understand how a play was constructed and how they fully prepared for the big performance. We asked questions regarding the arrangements of the seats and who sat there and how people were considered during Shakespearean times.

Furthermore, we were taken to a room where the actors would rehearse before a play. There we discussed the balcony scene in *Romeo and Juliet*. In addition to this, we were taught about the key aspects of constructing a play on stage. It was really fun when we had the chance to act out the scenes and improvise in our pairs.

To conclude, it was a fun and interactive trip, where we had an amazing opportunity to see a live rehearsal and act out a main scene from the play *Romeo and Juliet*. We would surely love to go on another educational trip like this one!

Umara Kashif, Ayesha Zulekha Shaik

World Book Day - 2nd March 2017

I have to say, World Book Day is definitely my favourite day of the year, majorly because I absolutely love reading. I'm also very crafty and have fun putting together costumes and getting into a character.

The day started with our usual morning classes. Everyone was waiting rather impatiently for form time to be over so we could change into our costumes. When we were finally allowed to leave, it was a race to see who could get to use the cubicles first. The bathroom was absolute chaos as students quibbled to get their share of the mirror. A few pushes, shoves, last minute adjustments and a good sprint up the stairs later, everyone was seated in the main hall and waiting for the costume parade to begin.

The costumes were mind-bogglingly brilliant. Each year group was called one by one to showcase their efforts to the rest of the school. The characters varied greatly, from Alice in Wonderland and the Mad Hatter, pirates, an elf (that was me), Robin Hood and Maid Marian. The teachers definitely got the loudest cheers as The Cat in The Hat, Willy Wonka, his Oompa Loompa's and a dazzling Evil Queen made their way across the hall.

Another part of the World Book Day celebrations was the book sale that was held during lunchtime. In my opinion, this was a good thing as hopefully it inspired some students to start reading more. We also received our WBD £1 book tokens which we could exchange for a book in any participating store.

Personally, I feel the importance of celebrating World Book Day. It's a celebration of reading, which is one of the things I enjoy doing most in the world. Reading exercises the mind, makes you smarter and improves your literary skills.

It also helps you develop into an overall cultured person. It is vital to study and also read for pleasure, the works of literary greats

such as Charles Dickens, William Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Edgar Allen Poe, to name a mere few.

The run-up to World Book Day is always difficult. There are tons of great characters to choose from, and so it usually takes a lot of precarious deliberation to come to a decision. This year, I decided to dress up as a She-Elf from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit, which are the works of the great writer J. R. R. Tolkien. I'd fallen in love with his world of wizards, quests to kill dragons and destroy rings, elves, dwarves, hobbits, orcs, goblins, and countless other fantastical creatures. I also gave myself a challenge to see if I could make my costume instead of buying it.

Thank God I was able to pull my DIY stunt off. I admit it was difficult, but it was nice working on something as challenging as this. My costume was almost entirely handmade. I'd managed to salvage a few useful things from charity shops and somehow created beautiful Elven attire complete with a bow and arrows (with some help from my father and also Pinterest).

In the end, my hard and strenuous efforts paid off as it ended up with me being O-so-flattered as I went to collect my prize for best costume. Apa Mohima was the winner from the teachers' side; she dressed up in a stunning costume of Lady Macbeth from, well, Macbeth.

Of course, all this wouldn't have been possible without the English teachers organising it. So I must say: thank you to you English teachers. And also thank you to Mrs Adam for again, allowing for this to go forward.

I pray that next year, we get to hold WBD for the fourth year and have even more activities to participate in, Insha'Allaah.

Maryam Raza - Year 10G

Al-Khayaal Performance

We are honoured and delighted to have Al Khayaal Productions performing to our school on the cultural day. The drama was captivating, engaging and enjoyable for us to watch. It included hand motions, sound and light effects and the two actors really brought the story to life with their brilliant acting skills. Their work amazed us and we were able to engage with the actors in the main parts and even join in!

The plays were depicted in two different ways- the first play was in English and then the same play was translated into Arabic. This was extremely beneficial technique, as it enabled us to understand and enjoy the story; it also allowed us to pick up new words in Arabic.

As well as enjoying the story we were able to learn and understand key words in another language, and we ultimately had an extremely gratifying experience.

Amina Haskic - Year 8G

My Work Experience at Azhar Academy Primary School

From the 16th May to 26th May, I amongst the other year 10 students went on work experience, where we had the opportunity to gain real life knowledge. There was a group of us spending our work experience at Azhar Academy Primary School.

On the first day, I honestly did not know what to expect. I clearly did not know how to get there and ended up getting lost. I thought I had already messed up and made a terrible impression of myself since I also came late. I explained myself and what I thought would be a lecture about being late ended up being a reassuring talk.

The school manager, Ms Ruzvana gave us a school tour and told us the DOs and DON'Ts. Aysha and Aminah had chosen to stay in nursery in the first week, whilst Fatimah and I had chosen to stay in Reception. Fatimah and I had attempted to get to know the children and at first it was awkward but as the day carried on that feeling of anxiety disappeared.

During work experience we had a chance to play with and teach the children. We also did display work to show the progress of the children's hard work. In Nursery it was the same routine but we were also required to clean. With the nursery children, we made a display on Eid and Ramadhan; this was fun and the children learnt about the importance and purpose of Eid and Ramadhan. Apart from that, the children insisted me to read them stories because they enjoyed listening to fairy tales.

Overall during these two weeks, I enjoyed myself as I got to learn many things about children and taking care of them. This was a very joyful experience.

Maisha and Jasmin - Year 10A



The British Museum Trip

On 24th April 2017, Year 8A and 8G visited the British Museum in Central London on a Mathematics trip.

We looked at money and its worth through the ages. This was important to look at as money gained its worth more and more through the time. We observed different cultures such as Korean, Greek, Chinese and Babylonian.

Money is what makes the world go around, which is why it was interesting to observe money changes through the ages. We also looked at forged money replicas which we found very surprising as they looked almost the same as the real pound coins.

Overall, the money exhibition was thoroughly exciting, informative and fascinating.

Apart from the money exhibition, we also looked at the making of clocks which were equally as stimulating. We found that clocks had minute clocks for each hand. For example, the hour hand had a clock which controlled it whilst the cannon pinion held the minute hand. Time is something that we cannot live without so learning how the clocks were made was extremely beneficial.

In conclusion, the trip to the British Museum was very thought-provoking and beneficial.

***Syeda Tafhima Khatun (8A), Taybah Altaf (8A) and
Syeda Jannah Ahmad (8G)***

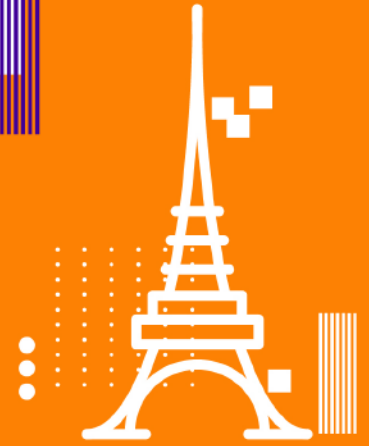
Today we went on a Maths trip to the British Museum.

We discovered what the ancient Chinese used for currency. We were asked to estimate how many £5 notes can fit on the Chinese note. We learnt that the Chinese note was one of the first paper notes ever invented. We also learnt about the Roman numerals and how to change modern numbers into numerals.

We received activity packs which set us on a "scavenger hunt" to answer questions about the items in the exhibition. We were given a set of triangles in various sizes and instructions to arrange the triangles in a pattern to create a square. We measured the length of many different artifices including a huge tomb- it was 16 feet tall!

***By Maryam Hussain and Tasniyah
Ferdause- year 8G***

bonjour



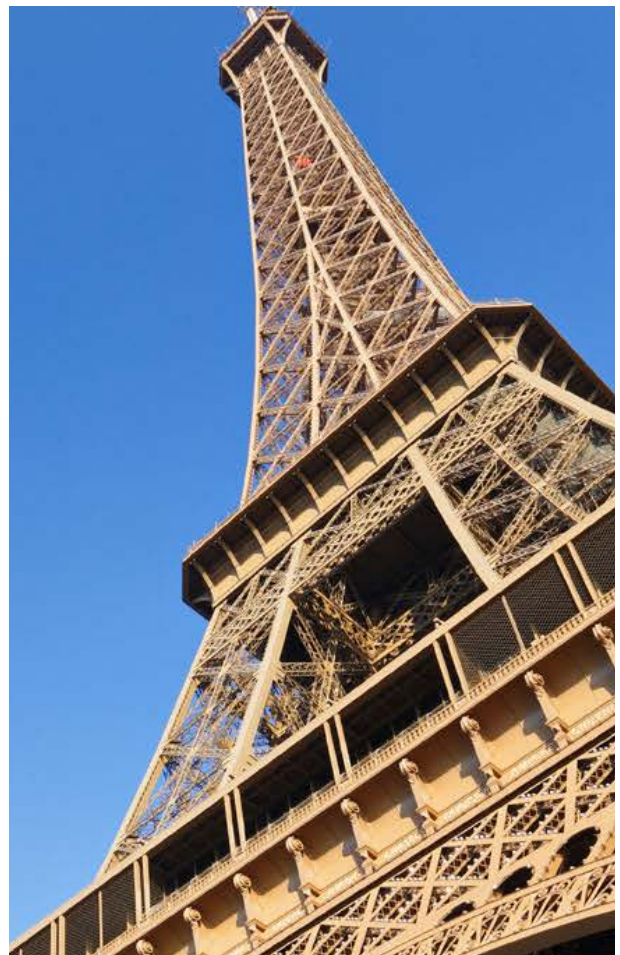
My First Journey Through French

Bonjour! My miraculous journey in French took me to a whole different level from 'salut' to 'cheveux'. As I travelled through the waves I reached my first island. The introduction island, the food I ate to survive was 'quel âge as tu? c'est quand ton anniversaire?'

Then, I travelled through rougher water. My ship nearly sank but I reached my next island- the Family Island this time. I had predators to catch me this time; I was the food and I longed for 'ma famille et mes copains'. I had left this island and continued to my final journey...the personality island.

Well this time I knew I was not going to give up and I would find the treasure even if it took ages. If you don't succeed, try and try and try again. So after a bit of rambling for maybe a few months, I found the treasure 'Moi et les autres'. I unlocked my potential. I had reached the end but also the start of another spectacular journey.

Asma Shaik – Year 7A



London Dungeon



My experience on this thrilling trip was amazing. Both Year 8 classes went together to this trip. The subjects associated with the trip were English and History. The journey was the boring bit, but the time went extremely fast and the teachers were amazing.

When we got to London Dungeon, we were told the safety rules and other important information.

Then the thrill began and we learnt about Henry VIII. We went on a scary but thrilling boat ride- dark and spooky, not knowing where we were!

Jack the ripper, the barbers and the most “amazing” meat pies were very horrific times in history. We learnt about who Jack killed and murdered and more about the suspects themselves in general.

The barbers were not like the barbers we have today- thank god! The meat pies were not consumable meat; they were human pies. The people the barbers killed were given to the bakery to use for their pies. People later found out that they had real human flesh.

We also learnt about the fire of London and much more. We experienced how people were judged (very unfairly). We enjoyed the last ride, an underground drop ride, which was very fun! To top it all off, the tavern gave us a free coca cola slushy.

Overall this is the best trip I have gone to so far. I would love to go back again.

Kulsum Vali & Taybah Altaf – Year 8A

Selected students from both 8A and 8G were given the opportunity to visit UEL for a drama workshop and a performance. We are indeed very lucky to go on this amazing trip. We all, including the teachers found the trip delightful and we learnt a lot from it.

When we got there, the first thing they did was to introduce us to an amazing group of ladies who we would be working with in the morning for the first session. To start, we all got to know each other and did a few activities; one of them was saying your name and how you were feeling, using a colour to represent this such as yellow.

We were divided into groups and a lady was allocated for each group. We had a number of activities planned one after another and we talked about problems in life then shared them with the rest of our classmates. We did a still frame representing a problem. From our still frame idea, a mini action play was developed. Then it was time to perform the play! Many of our performances portrayed the same kind of idea- exam stress.

Last but not least, towards the end we played a game; it was very fun and everyone enjoyed themselves. In addition to this the ladies who were working with us were very nice and welcoming. They joined in every activity and they were extremely interactive. They were very down to earth people and genuine in the way they spoke and their character.

This trip really broadened our minds and we learnt a lot from it. In school we are not exposed to much drama, so getting this fantastic one off chance really meant a lot. At the end of the first session we realised life is all about teamwork, working with different people and getting to know them.

After lunch, both classes were asked to go into a magnificent theatre room, all dark with flashing lights. The Azhar girls were so excited and mesmerised by the two rows of performers, all unique and individual. They then began to perform a theatrical performance, with powerful words that we found out, would change our lives forever.

Continued...

London Dungeon

Continued...

This perplexing play was called 'forbidden bodies' and was presented fabulously by a group of students from UEL. The words of the performers brought us back from the fantasy world and made us come to the realisation that each and every person will experience discrimination in one way or another. Soon after the play, we split into groups with some actors in each group.

We discussed all the problems of the world and they asked how we thought the play could improve. We expressed our own ideas, created freeze frames about some ways of how people are currently being discriminated and then unfortunately, the day had come to an end. The year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful experience and would willingly and happily go again if we had the chance to.

Overall this trip to UEL really got us Azhar girls engaged; all of our talents and creativity were put into this and we got to present our drama skills as well as our thoughts and ideas. We thank Azhar for giving us this great opportunity to go and visit UEL and show off our drama skills.

*Maryam Deedat and Jannah Ahmed
- Year 8G*





Salters Festival Chemistry Challenge

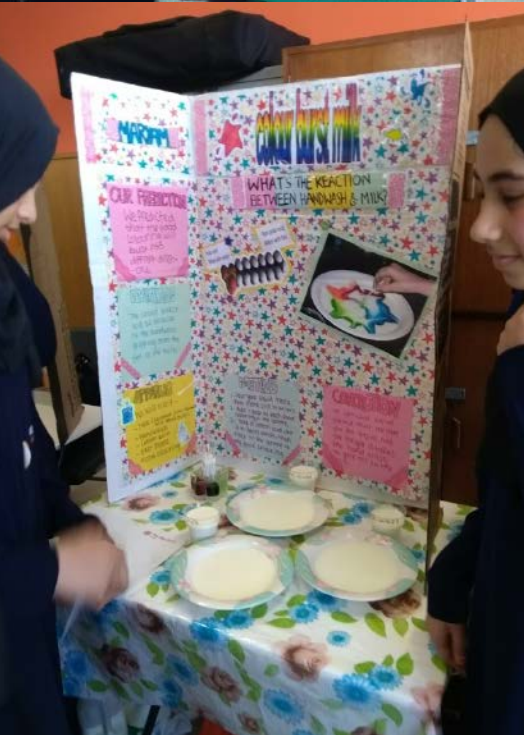
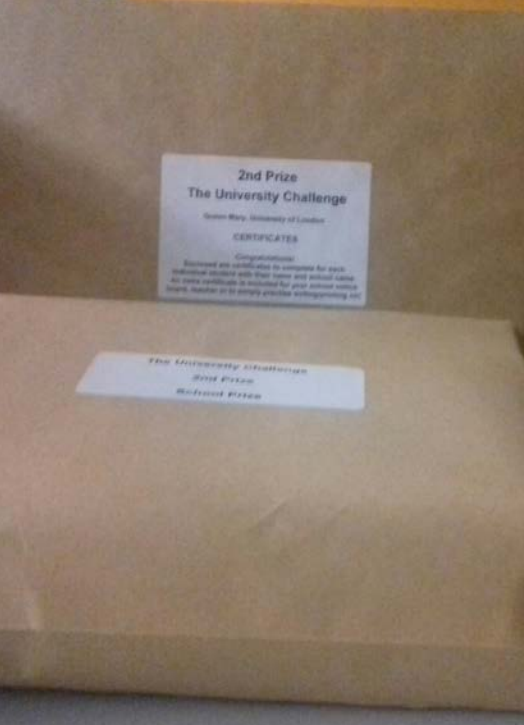
A few weeks ago, we were chosen to participate in the Salters Festival at Queen Marys University. We completed two hands-on chemistry challenges, versing about 20 other schools. It was a thrilling experience. We entered the laboratory, excited but nervous, we had a reputation to uphold! We started the event by using our analytical chemistry and deductive skills to investigate a murder. With only 2 hours on the clock, we needed to get going. We worked in pairs to decode the names of the suspects and victim. Then we moved onto chromatography where we tested a variety of ink. Finally, we experimented with test tube reactions to finish solving the crime. The pressure really hit us at the end as we completed our final forensic report. The Salters chemistry challenge was over! We headed off to the canal for a well-deserved lunch break.

We were ready to face the university challenge. This was unlike the previous one but still as exciting and fun! Our task was to create six coloured solutions: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. The challenge stated that the art department had run out of colours for exams and it was our task to make them using only the substances we had.

This consisted of universal indicator solution, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid. There was no recipe or any clues, just a time limit of 1 hour. This gave us the opportunity to use our creativity and chemistry knowledge to experiment with different amounts of the liquids given to see what colours it created. In this way, we achieved our goal by the end of the time and had accomplished the task of creating the six colours!

Whilst the judges deliberated, we headed off to a lecture theatre for a fun demonstration, "Chemistry is Kool". We were lucky to see liquid nitrogen and dry ice. It was intriguing to see the effect of cooling various everyday objects down to $-196\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, including a cup of tea. In addition to this, other experiments were carried out like elephant toothpaste, a colour changing liquid, fake blood and much more. Then it was time for the prizes. Alhamdulillah, our team work and effort got us into 2nd place which we were both overwhelmed and extremely happy with. For us, this challenge was an inspiring experience and we would definitely love to go again.

Aisha Jasat and Amina Haskic – Year 8G



Science Fair Visit to St. Angela's Ursuline School

On 7th July 2017, Year 10s went on a visit during school, to a science fair which was held at St Angela's Ursuline School. We walked to the school because it was not very far. We were all very excited because it was our first time going to a science fair at another school.

When we entered the hall, we could see many experiments and science projects and we looked forward to hearing about them and finding out more.

We went in small groups and tried to watch as many experiments and projects as we could, but sadly we only had a limited amount of time so we could not survey them all. The girls at the school were very enthusiastic about showing us their experiments and they explained them well.

I was very interested in some of the projects and experiments because I could actually try it for myself at home and see the end result. One of the experiments I found interesting was, whether Mentos or salt were more reactive in coke. I enjoyed this experiment because the reaction was very interesting and fun to observe and in the end I found out that the salt was more reactive.

Overall, I think that this trip went really well and I and my fellow classmates enjoyed it a lot because it was very educational and we learned many new things. I would love to go to more science fairs in different schools as this trip was a huge success.

Fatimah Ilyas Patel - Year 10G

On Friday 7th July, 2017, my science class, Triple Science A, had the amazing opportunity to visit the Royal Society's Summer Science Exhibition. It was a huge honour for us to go because there were very limited spaces available.

There were 22 exhibitions held at the Royal Society. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see all of them, as the rooms were crowded and it was really busy. However, the exhibits that we did manage to visit were really interesting and informative. My favourite exhibit was 'A Future without Fakes'. This exhibit showcased an innovative, easy way of telling the difference between legitimate and counterfeit products.

The exhibit focused on using the random arrangement of atoms in graphene to identify products that were real from ones that were artificial. The authentic products would reflect a specific pattern of light when a source of light, like a camera flash or a torch light was beamed on them. Using an app on a smart phone, the reflected rays of light could be recorded and compared to ones in a database. If a match was found, the user would be notified by the app that the product was genuine and if a match was not found, the user would be alerted by the app that the product was fake.

After the exhibit, we got to take part in a competition to build a replica of the graphene atom model on display. It was difficult, but lots of fun. I liked this exhibit more than the rest because it was a cheap, easy way to stop people from committing frauds. Also, it combined lots of different subjects together, including Chemistry, Business and Computer Science.

Overall, I had a very enjoyable experience on this trip and I would like to go there again in the future.

Aisha Shahab - Year 9A

Ramadan

Ramadan is

Amazing,

Magnificent!

An opportunity to do good!

Desires are diminished,

Happiness is attained.

A blessed month, and a

New start

Sara Kayum – Year 8G

Never Give Up

Sometimes in life you feel like you have nothing left to give, and no matter how hard you try, there's always something that seems to hold you back. But pushing through the bad times, helps you find success within yourself.

There's ALWAYS someone working harder than you. Compare yourselves with them. Don't look at someone achieving lower than you and compare yourselves with them. Even if you think you've done all you can, you're wrong.

Everyone has motivations, dreams and goals; it just depends on how far you're willing to go to get yours. Remember, success comes from being unique and standing out amongst the crowd.

We are ALL human. Making mistakes is part of being human. Learning and moving forward comes from making mistakes. Reaching your goal should be a special moment. If it wasn't for the hard things in your life, then you would probably have not achieved it. Knowing that you did everything that you could, is an honour in itself.

Don't let people underestimate you. When someone tells you that you can't do something, show them that you can.

"The world always gives you a second chance. It's called tomorrow."

Khadija Tafader – Year 8A

And Your Lord Inspired to the Bee

And your Lord inspired to the bee, "Take for yourself among the mountains, houses, and among the trees and [in] that which they construct.

Then eat from all the fruits and follow the ways of your Lord laid down [for you]." There emerges from their bellies a drink, varying in colours, in which there is healing for people. Indeed in that is a sign for a people who give thought.

This verse of the Qur'an talks about the importance of the bee, and links with a hadith of the messenger of Allah SAW:

"By the One in whose hand is the soul of Muhammad, the believer is like a bee which eats that which is pure and wholesome and lays that which is pure and wholesome. When it lands on something it does not break or ruin it."

(Narrated by Imam Ahmad on the authority of `Abdullah bin `Amr).



In 5th Year Qur'an translation, we learnt about the many lessons and pearls of wisdom we can attain from the humble honey bee, so let us reflect:

The honey bee only eats from flowers which are tayyib (pure and wholesome). It is not attracted to repulsive things, unlike other insects. Likewise, the believer only eats that which is pure and wholesome.

When a honey bee lands on a flower, it hovers over the flower, out of fear of harming or hurting the flower in any way. In the same way, as believers, we should be very wary of how we are with others.

The honey bee never goes to a flower or plant that has already been pollinated by another bee, which teaches us that we should always wish well for others.

Also, the honey bee never takes more than it gives, teaching us that we should not only worry about what we can gain for ourselves, but think about how we can be there to support those around us instead.

Finally, if a honey bee ends up harming somebody, it ends up harmed (dying) out of regret.

So, as believers, let us learn from and try our best to be like the bee InshAllaah!

Shilpa Khanom – Year 11G

Lessons from the Qur'an

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ
أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفُرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ ﴿٢٤﴾

Have you not considered how Allah presents an example, [making] a good word like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches [high] in the sky? (14:24)

In Surat Ibrahim Allah compares a GOOD WORD to a GOOD TREE. It is firm, which means that it can't be uprooted or blown away. Its branches are high in the sky, which means that it reaches for Allah and for paradise. It bears a lot of fruit, which means that there are many good results for many people as a result of a good statement.

If we contemplate this comparison, we will realise that it perfectly corresponds to the tree of Tawhid whose roots are fixed in the heart (of a believer), whose branches comprising of good deeds, are raised high in the sky (and) continuing to provide the fruits of good deeds depending on the firmness and well-establishment of Tawhid in the heart – the level of love that a heart has for it, the level of understanding of its reality and truths – and the level to which a person is appropriately mindful of the rights (of the deed).

Allah also informs us that the result of a good word is a good deed for the person who utters it at all times. This is because whenever a believer testifies and utters the word of Tawhid while knowing its true meaning and reality – what it confirms and negates and encapsulates his heart – he is rewarded, for indeed, the roots of this word are firmly entrenched in his heart and its branches are connected to the sky, yielding fruit all the time.

Reference: Paragons of the Qur'an by Ibn Qayyim al Jawziyyah Pages 74-76



Great Ramadan Get Together

On 18th June 2017, we held our annual Ramadhan Iftar event- with a twist. Aside from our usual coming together to share spiritual reminders, reflect on moments from the lives of our pious predecessors and picking up tips on how to make the most of the last few nights, we merged our event along with The Great Get Together 2017.

The Great Get Together Weekend was in memory of the murder of Jo Cox MP on 16th June 2016. The themes of the weekend included public service, gratitude, unity and peace. These themes not only resonate with members of the public but very much resonates with us as British Muslims.



Ramadhan gave us the perfect opportunity to reach out to neighbours and strengthen relationships. Eating together is one of the most natural and well established ways of developing deeper friendships and, in our experience, there is no better way of breaking barriers than by inviting people to share a meal.

“We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us”- Jo Cox, in her first speech to parliament.

Other highlights of the Iftar included:

- A charity auction, which raised over £800 for the school- well done attendees!
- Zakat session, for those wanting to calculate and learn more about this important pillar
- Links to a Muslim bereavement support service- serving the Muslim community by supporting them in times of grief after suffering bereavement, (mbss.org.uk)

Apa Shabana Nakhuda – RE CurriculumLead

Being Honest



An honest personality should be engraved into every single Muslim. Striving to be an honest person is the foundation of a successful life, not just in this world, but also the hereafter.

First and foremost being honest with ourselves is crucial in every relationship we hold, be it with our parents, teachers or friends; no relation can be built sturdily on the base of lies and falsehood. This could mean simply telling our parents the truth about where we are going and whom we are going with; when we plan outings; or perhaps about a problem we are facing at school.

Lying to our family members about anything is the same as being disobedient to them, and we must refrain from being sinful for such things. Similarly, we should always be honest with our teachers, for instance telling them the truth when our homework is incomplete. As I am very sure, that if our teachers found out about our lies later on, they would be disappointed.

Bear in the mind the following hadith:

“Truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to paradise”
(Sahih Muslim)

So if this quality of being truthful and honest is not part of our personalities, how will we attain closeness to Allah (SWT)?

Finally, I would like to share the following story with you:

A king in the Far East was growing old and thought it was about time he chose a successor. So he gathered four boys from the village and announced that one of them would be chosen to continue ruling the land as king. The king gave each boy a seed and told them each to nurture it and let it grow for some time until the following year, whereupon their plants would be judged by the king.

So each of the village boys planted their seeds and began to nourish them. One of the youngest boys of the group thought he had killed his seed as after nurturing it for more than six weeks, it hadn't even grow a sprout! Whilst the other village boys' seeds had grown into trees and wonderful flowers.

The day had finally arrived to meet the king with their plants. The youngest boy whose plant had not grown was very nervous, but his mother told him to just be honest about his seed.

All the boys had gathered with their tropical and exotic plants and trees, whilst the youngest boy's plant pot was barren. The king observed every plant and called the youngest boy up to him then announced, “This young boy will be the next heir to the throne!” Everyone gasped in shock and surprise. Some of the villagers even laughed at this young boy, but the king went on to explain, “Last year I gave each boy a boiled seed which could not grow, and all of you replaced the seeds with new ones out of fear, except this young boy, so he will be the next king due to his courage and honesty.”

This story sheds light on the result of being an honest person; the outcomes will always be positive and rewarding, so never fear speaking the truth!

Shair Bano - Year 11G

School SURVIVAL Kit!



Top Tips Surviving Year 7

My first year at Azhar Academy was an opportunity since we learn things we will never learn elsewhere. Well mine is a phenomenal experience!

Here are my top tips on surviving at school;

- Crayons to make your day bright and cheerful
- Erasers to remind you that everyone makes mistakes
- Paperclips to hold us together
- Tipp-ex to correct your wrongs
- Rubber bands to remind you to be flexible
- Tissues to wipe away tears- yours and theirs
- Glue sticks to bond friendship together
- Push pins to help you push through your battles
- Batteries to energise yourself
- Life savers for when it's one of those days
- Decorations to keep you cool when the pressure is on
- Touch of light to remind you there is light in every person

Tasnim Sultana – Year 7A

My life in 7G

My life in year 7! Well if someone asked, "How is it going?" This is what I would say:

My life in year 7 so far- well there have been a few ups and downs, but my lovely friends have helped me along the way.

The teachers have been really helpful and caring. The administrators have been really busy keeping the school together, making phone calls and writing letters and organising events. But most of all, the Headteacher has been really careful and kind. She cares for all the students, even if they are naughty and if they caused her any trouble. The Headteacher deals with it and at the end of the day she has a smile on her face- we all do too! When that stabbing incident happened, she called for an emergency meeting to tell us, and ask us to be careful when we are leaving. Some people may not appreciate her but we should.

My classmates are caring, like if I block my ears because they are being loud, someone would notice and tell everyone else and they would be quiet.

I know this hasn't been about my whole life in year 7 but it is part of my life in year 7. Everyone I have mentioned played a huge part in my life.

Zahra Bint Afzal Asghar – Year 7G



Sports Day 2017

On Wednesday 12th July, Azhar Academy hosted a come-back of one of their most favourite annual events. Sports Day. For most of our students, this was their first ever Sports Day whilst being in Azhar

As it was the first Sports Day after many years, the planning team wanted to make it as fun as possible

We held the day at Crickersfield Sports Club which fortunately provided us with a large amount of space to hold all our activities. On the day the girls arrived in spirit, decked out in clothes that supported their team colour and created a really positive atmosphere. The sports day involved a lot of various activities for both solo and team participants. There was a 100m race, javelin and obstacle courses. The students really showed their competitive side in the tournaments, such as a dodge ball and particularly enjoyed tug of war.

Overall, it was a good outcome and hopefully we can have just as much fun in our next sports day.

Last but not least, congratulations to our winning team of 2017: the Blue team!

My name is Dhiyaa Hayaat and I am in year 10. I am going to be sharing with you the experience of my first sports day Azhar Academy sports day.

When I reached the venue my excitement overtook myself. The atmosphere was consumed by an air of competition and exhilaration. I was very eager and couldn't wait to start. Once we had the teams sorted we started playing various games and relentlessly competing against each other in our house team, made visible through our Hijaabs, tops and banners. My personal favourite was the obstacle course which consisted of skipping running hurdles and a hula hoop.

The highlight of the day was when we all unexpectedly had a water fight. It was nice seeing all the teachers join in the fun and loosen up with us. Overall it was a blast and on behalf of the whole school we are already counting the days for our next one.

Dhiyaa Hayaat



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