

Volume 9 | Issue 14

Summer 2018 | Dhul Hijjah 1439

# al-qalam

Termly Newsletter

Trip to Botany Bay

Hajj Exhibition

Azhar Academy Sleepover 2018



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Azhar Academy (عزهار) Girls School

# 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)"*

It is with great pleasure that I would like to once again share our exciting newsletter with you. As always students at Azhar Academy Girls School are actively involved in many activities and events alongside their studies. This edition of the newsletter incorporates all the activities and more that took place during the Summer Term 2018.

I am extremely pleased to share information about the latest GCSE results achieved by our students for the May/June 2018 GCSE examinations. MashaAllaah, the results are impressive considering many of the subjects were the new reformed versions taken by students for the first time in the whole of the UK.

88% of all grades were good passes A\*-C/4+ grades, and we are celebrating a big increase in the top grades this year, 50% of all grades were the highest prestigious A/A\*/7/8/9 grades.

Most of our students passed with 8 or more GCSEs, more than half achieved at least 4 A/A\*7/8/9 grades, three top students achieved 12 A/A\*/7/8/9 grades.



English pass rate: 4+ 100% 5+ 100%

Mathematics pass rate: 4+ 100% 5+ 76%

Science pass rate: 4+ 100% 5+ 95%

Humanities pass rate: 4+ 81% 5+ 65%

Languages pass rate: 4+ 76% 5+ 65%

The final results will be confirmed once the Department of Education completes the table checking exercise. The efforts of students, parents and teachers in supporting our learners through their studies are acknowledged. The benefits of intervention, additional classes, and support clubs have also contributed immensely to these results.

Remember the school in your duas and we look forward to the continued support and guidance of parents.

**Mrs Rookshana Adam, Headteacher**

# What Azhar Academy Means to Us

Azhar Academy is a school where chances are of a lifetime. The staff at this school are kind and caring; which allow them to be the great role models and mentors for us, as they are always there to provide the help we need as young muslimahs. The teachers in Azhar Academy inspire us to think differently about the world as they set us on the correct path in this dunya which eventually, shall lead us to right direction of the Akhirah, inshaAllah.

The teachers at this school have immeasurable energy for working together to help students excel in education and life in general. Their passion reminded me why it is so important that we show teachers how thankful we are for all the hardships that they have gone through for us. Year 8 was a very interesting yet challenging year for all of us.

We have learnt a lot of useful knowledge about each of the subjects we have been taught. Each of us have also experienced new things and all of these first- time encounters embody with them a life lesson that shall from Year 8 stick with us until the very end, because Azhar Academy is not a simple girls' school but it is our stepping stone to becoming great muslimahs of our time, insh'Allah. Ameen.

***Mu'mina Hanan Abdullah and Nanziba Chowdhury***

# Starting Year 7

Starting secondary school comes with a number of mixed feelings. It is an exciting time. So much is changing and you're about to step into a whole new world. How would you feel starting out fresh in a new environment? New faces you've never seen? We've all been there and it is a huge struggle at first. Despite all these, you can try and overcome these challenges. One thing you'll always need by your side is confidence. Having the correct mind-set ready to learn and start making new friends is extremely important yet a little difficult.

**So here are a few of our helpful tips for starting year 7:**

1. Prepare everything the night before- pack your bag and prepare your clothes; you don't want to be in a rush in the morning!
2. Set yourself a routine of what you need to do- you've got to be organised!
3. Set yourself some goals for the end of each term- keep yourself motivated!
4. Always be proud of what you have achieved
5. Don't be afraid to ask for help
6. Last but not least always stay confident and never be afraid to talk to anyone.

We hope these tips help you start year 7 and we hope you have an amazing year!

***Tanisha Afsar 8G and Balqisa Abdi 8G***

# A Reflection of My Time in Azhar Academy

As ex-students of Azhar Academy, we are now at a significant point in our lives. Here we are, about to step into the 'real world', something which the last 13 years of our educational lives have been geared towards. Our parents and teachers have warned us time and time again about this 'real world' outside our little bubbles, and now it's finally time. We've planned, worried and worked for this moment, taken the exams and now awaiting results day. This is where that distant point of 'leaving school' becomes a reality, and for some of us it may still seem rather surreal. Perhaps at this transition it would be appropriate to contemplate the future. What will it bring?

The great point about this moment in our lives is that nobody really knows. Sure, university perhaps, then a job, which would fit the majority of us. But what about in 10, 20 years' time? According to the year group, Esha Kamran will be prime minister, and others from us will be cat ladies, housewives, teachers, etc. Who knows whether these predictions will hold true? But in looking towards the coming years, let's not forget the 5 years which have just passed us. I would like to say that each individual from the 2018 leavers can name more than a few things that they have gained from their time at Azhar. Yes, you sit your exams and get the qualifications necessary, but there's more to it than that.

I, for one, have learnt various skills and have had the opportunity to experience things that I will most likely remember for years to come, providing my memory stays at its best. I have been taught discipline, respect and of course gained much knowledge over the course of my time at Azhar. I have built upon my morals, manners and strengthened my relationship with my Creator, in ways I couldn't have without ever being a part of Azhar Academy.

Waking up early at dawn was a challenge I faced every day, but then again, for me, so was a Maths GCSE. It is under these various challenges that we develop, and a time here at Azhar gives challenges that yield huge rewards and allows one to learn about oneself and others.

We don't mature by age, we mature by experience, and I can say that we have all

definitely matured through breaking our personal inhibitions and overcoming various obstacles. Have trust in the plan of Allah; He knows us much better than we know ourselves. This has been said many times but now I see it myself; we are so lucky to have been chosen to study and gain access to such sacred knowledge, be it through the Aalimah, Islamic Studies or the Hifz courses.

Azhar brought me confidence and more importantly, formed strong bonds between me and my classmates. I think that it's the friends we've made along the way which will last the longest. This is again evident by some rather sentimental comments witnessed by many teachers. I can still remember my first day, looking around my form class, wondering where all these people had come from, and simply if I would be successful in making friends with some or any of these girls. For many of us, those first few days were the basis of friendships that would last for the duration of our time at Azhar, and our school careers wouldn't have been the same without them.

My year group has developed a real sense of community over the past years, held together by strong friendships and beautiful sisterhood, which should remain for many years into the future, In Shaa Allah. I would like to think that even with the year group following wildly different paths in later life, those friendships formed here, on the stairs or in the classroom, will still hold strong as they were formed over happy, funny or, in some cases, outright embarrassing memories of the years gone past.

As I said earlier, nobody truly knows what the future has in store for us. Only Allah knows what is in store for us, He is the best of planners. However, I hope that despite whatever comes next, we can look back fondly on our time here at Azhar Academy. Jazakillahu Khairan to all my patient teachers and unforgettable classmates. I'm so grateful that you were all a part of my journey and I couldn't have made it this far without you all. I hope that we are all rewarded and reunited in Jannah, In Shaa Allah. Ameen.

*Faheemah Ali 11G*

# Drama Club

Drama Club has helped us express our opinions about issues like sexism and euthanasia. We have also acquired refinement in our interaction skills, such as speaking and listening whereby I now believe that I am confident enough to be able to raise my views as well as express issues that may be applicable to the audience.

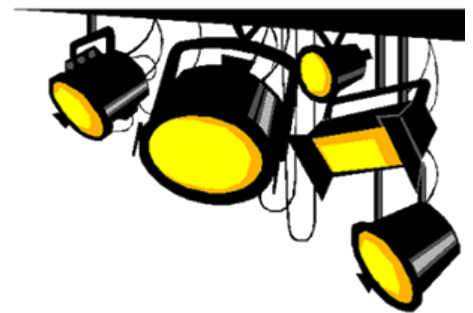
Euthanasia was an interesting and sensitive topic as we tried to think about the mind-set of the people who have undergone this type of experience as part of the matter. Being young people ourselves, we want to understand the complexities of issues within our societies; therefore, hoping to bring changes to the future where everyone supports each other within reasonable boundaries. We believe it is absolutely paramount for us as young muslimahs to be knowledgeable and confident enough to raise our voice in order to create awareness. The Drama Club provides us this platform to discuss and perform our inner

voice so that we may be able to present for wider audience.

We were able to debate our views in a formal manner without any one judging us for having a right or wrong answer. We aired our thoughts and personal experiences that we have faced in our everyday life and thought of possible solutions to overcome them.

Our confidence level was built higher as we proceeded with the club time. We found it very helpful and at the same time reassuring to be have that special place to go and share our views comfortably; and so we hope that drama club continues onto next year.

*Mahela and Maryam*



## Year 9 - Trip to the Globe Theatre

On 10th July 2018, both Year 9 classes went on an educational English school trip to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in South- London.

Students of Year 9 have currently been studying Shakespeare's famous play, Romeo and Juliet. The students learnt about the poet's background and life as well as analysing the play itself. Visiting the Globe Theatre was a chance for the students to visualise the life of William Shakespeare in the Elizabethan era and how his extremely popular plays came about.

At the trip, Year 9 were shown and personally taken to a replica of the theatre in which Shakespeare's plays were first performed. Tour guides, who were former actors of Shakespeare's plays, took the students around to show them the interior of the famous roofless theatre and gave them seats inside the

circular building to see exactly how plays were set up back in the Elizabethan era.

A workshop was also made available in which both classes of Year 9 took part in trying to understand how the actors acted out the scenes of the plays. The students took part in different activities to physically and mentally take on the job of a professional actor or actress.

In addition to this, in order to better understand the play, the students were given the task of acting out a famous scene from the play itself, in which they enjoyed and learnt a lot from.

Overall, the visit to the Globe Theatre was a success in teaching the Year 9s more about the life of William Shakespeare and the widespread popularity of his plays, particularly Romeo and Juliet.

*Tafhima Khatun*



## Year 9 –Textile Design Project– Flower Power!

In year 9, we have been doing textiles and printing for art throughout the term. First, we did observational drawings of flowers. We then went on to colour them in and improve them until they were drawn to the best of our ability. After that, we used our flowers to create various motif designs that had elements from each flower and used those motifs to develop a final motif design. Then using lino and lino cutters we engraved our final motif designs onto lino blocks.

After cutting out our lino blocks we used a sheet of fabric and used the colours of our flowers to tie-dye the piece of fabric. We had many different ways to create tie-dye designs. We used the spiral effect, marble effect, the striped effect and the multiple spiral-circle effect. After that we used our lino designs, rolled black ink onto it and made a repeat pattern print onto paper. We created two more tie-dye designs and printed our lino designs onto it.

While doing the lino prints, we used a model template to then draw a body and design modest types of fashion. We mostly focused on shape and design. We used designs and ideas we got from secondary research mostly off the great wide web.

Some of us designed dresses, others designed loose fitting jumpsuits and playsuits however hoodies were also created with beautiful designs. Overall, art this term has been incredibly fun but challenging as the cutting the lino out took a long time and precision.

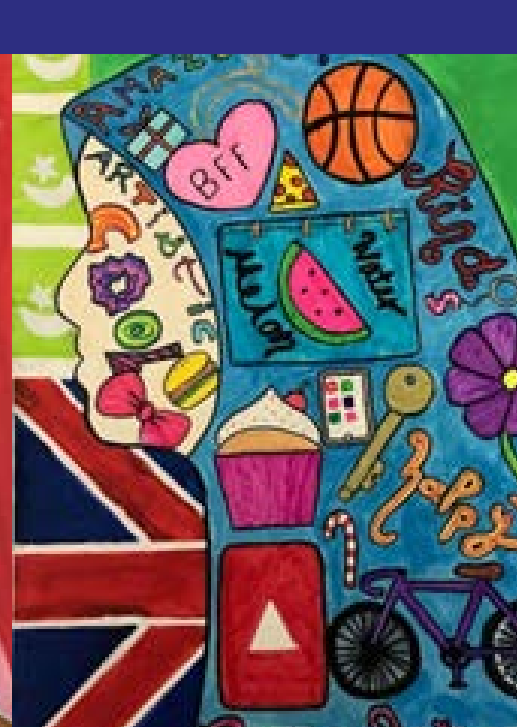
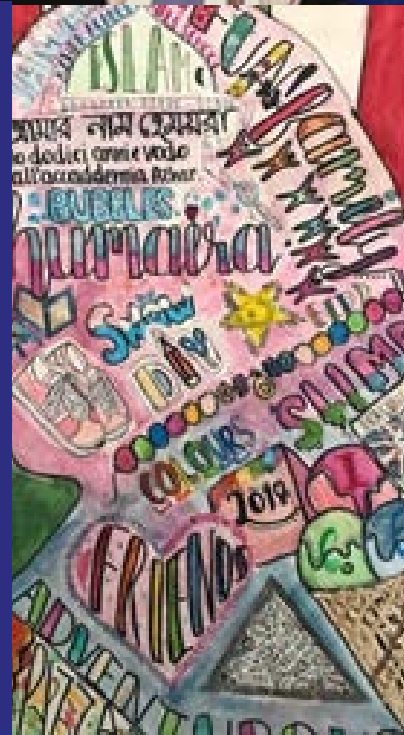


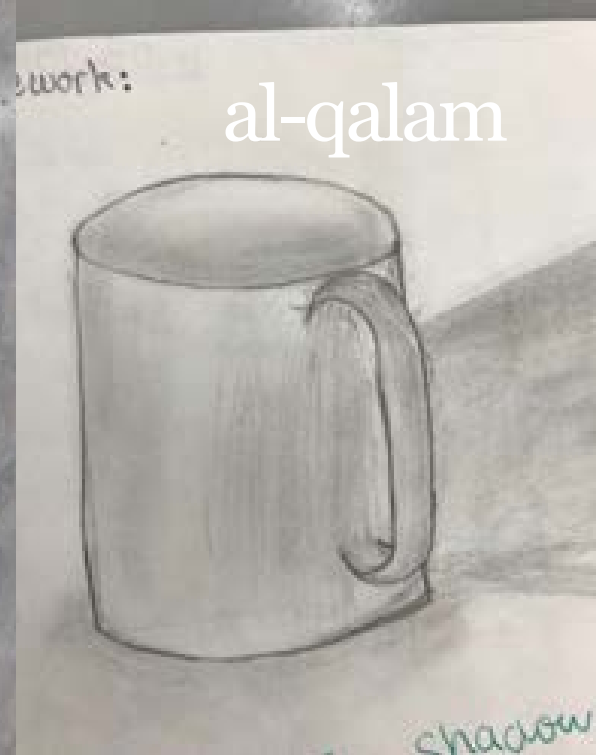
*Aziza Miah (Y9)*



## Year 7 Final Pieces ME Project Alternative self-portraits

MashaAllah, the first year of school is almost over for our lovely year 7 students and they have worked hard to produce some thoughtful, creative and skilful work, so the art department thought it would be lovely to showcase some of our students' work to share with their parents! Enjoy!





# Year 7 – Drawing Project

This term students have been focusing on their observational drawing skills. The target has been to improve and develop skills in order to draw objects realistically. Students have been instructed to use line, shape and tone in order to make their drawings look lifelike and more three-dimensional.

Through practice they have improved their drawing skills and it is clear to see many have progressed a lot since the beginning of the year. They have enjoyed these drawing lessons and have demonstrated a mature approach to this activity and have taken the lessons seriously. These drawing skills will help them in future projects and if they choose, they will also be able to incorporate this in the 'Art and Textile Design' GCSE inshaAllah.







## New Year 7 Art Induction Workshop

Every year we give prospective year 7 pupils an opportunity to try out different workshops including art and design. This year pupils enjoyed learning about and applying a simple and easy but rather beautifully effective marbling technique on paper using fabric dyes and shaving foam. These were then taken away by the girls and could be utilised as decorative pieces to make cards with or bookmarks.

The new year 7s were very attentive, masha'Allah, and followed instructions well, producing some great marbled bookmarks. They enjoyed the session and seemed keen to do more! It was a good experience for them and a great way of introducing secondary school life.

I look forward to seeing them again in September, ready to produce lots of creative and fantastic pieces of art!



# My Journey Through Computer Science

In computing, I have learnt a lot of new things that I have never learnt in primary school. For example at the beginning of the year I did not know how to use excel however now that we have spent quite a lot of time on it I know how to add, divide, multiply and subtract. I am 100% sure that this will help me in the future because in excel you can use any set of data such as a line graph. This will help me or anyone else as it will help them set out their data, for example, a teacher will need it to keep track of their students' progress.

We also learnt about denary and binary numbers; this helped us understand how computers are programmed. I also learnt that the Binary system is used internationally by all modern computers.

A topic I enjoyed learning and creating was scratch. I created around three different projects such as The Banana Joke, The Maze of Doom and Catch the Fish game. Miss Rubeena also taught us how to draw different shapes such as squares and triangles on scratch. Unfortunately, we did not have enough time this year to explore all the things on scratch. Of course my class and I have learnt many more things but the pages will go on and on and on. This just shows how much we have learnt this year!

Hopefully throughout the years we will all excel in our computer science studies and increase our knowledge.  
InshaAllah.

*Morium Chowdhury, 7A*

# Computer Science...

I have learnt a lot about how computers work and about the programming. I do believe that this will benefit me in many different ways such as: if my computer stops working I don't have to pay someone to fix my broken computer; I can do it myself. I have improved immensely in Computer Science since I have arrived at Azhar Academy. I feel like I didn't know anything when I arrived to this school but now I feel like I know everything but there is so much more to learn. Studying Computer Science will take you from learning practical computing skills in programming, data management, hardware and networking to understanding and developing software solutions for many of the new challenges facing today's computer-dominated world, such as safe online shopping, computer graphics, mobile app development and artificial intelligence. Also if you join Azhar in computer science you will learn about HTML, scratch, binary numbers and denary numbers, Excel, input and output devices, computer hardware, algorithms, computer networks and the Internet and online safety: viruses, password security and digital footprints. I am now able to be safe online, understand how a computer works and how it is programmed and I can do formulas on a spreadsheet using MS Excel.

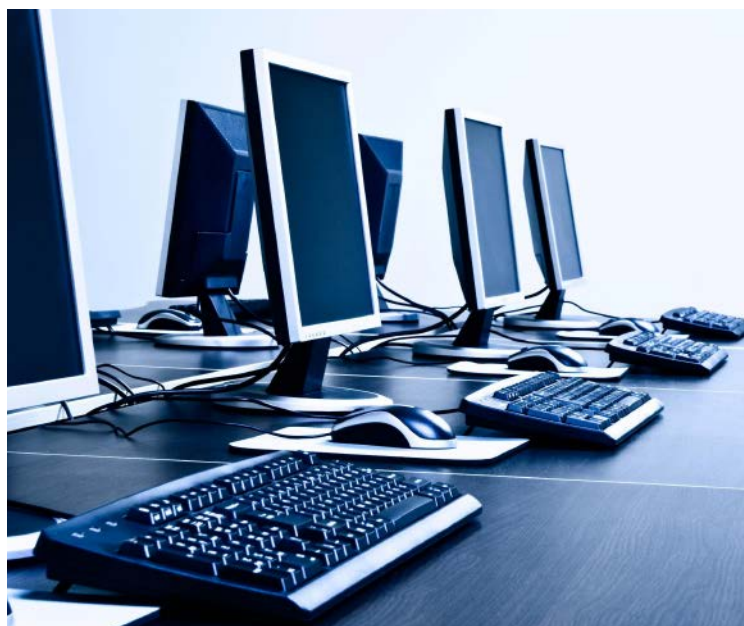
*Summayah Naeem ( 7A)*

# What I Have Learnt

In primary, I learned only a few topics including excel, word and PowerPoint. When I moved to secondary, the topics changed and the expectations were higher. It was different to what I knew. I have improved a lot in the topics I have already learned and now understand how they are used in everyday life. I can now do formulas in excel and I am capable of creating my own powerpoint. I have learned more advanced computing skills in computer programming, hardware and the different parts inside a computer. I realised that there is a lot more to computing than what I had thought of it at first.

I understand the different types of websites and what viruses do to your devices. I have also learned many new things such as creating a scratch cartoon joke, the input and output devices and what to do when you are being bullied online. I can write a simple algorithm and even decipher binary numbers to denary numbers. The computer world has a lot to offer, from shopping online to simply doing maths calculations on a spreadsheet. I understand that computers are used every day and everywhere. I have learned a lot so far, but there is still so much more to learn.

*Maryam Soyer 7A*



# Why Do Maths?

We all use the telephone, television, internet, transport, fridges, computer games, satellites for communications and weather forecasting, computers, electricity, transport (cars, airplanes), mobile devices, debit cards, and the list is endless.

**NONE OF THESE WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT MATHEMATICS!!**

Why don't more people do Mathematics?

## - Mathematics is hard.

Yes, it can be. But it is also very rewarding, and is no harder than learning to skate or tennis. It takes time to understand any new skills and concepts. In any endeavour you need to do something hard to excel.

## - You need to be bright to do Mathematics.

No. You need not be very bright; maths is all about practise. But Mathematics makes your brighter. And it will improve your skills and understanding of other related subjects.

Rewards of doing Mathematics:

- Problem solving skills that will help you in every aspect of your life
- Good organisational skills
- Logical, clearer thinking
- A very interesting, satisfying life full of challenges and achievements

**Did you know over 70% of all jobs require Mathematics?\***

*\*statistic taken from [Mathscareers.org.uk](http://Mathscareers.org.uk)*

This year Azhar Academy's Year 7 were welcomed by the Centre of the Cell and had a marvellous time.

The year seven classes were cleverly split into 3 groups for maximum enjoyment. The Pod was an exciting game room shaped like a cell. Games were spat out from the nucleus to challenge all the neurons on board. Not one game was boring. Cells are great!

The DNA workshop blew everyone's minds. Topics about chromosomes, adaptation and habitats were discussed freely to broaden our horizons. Everyone was challenged to compete for the "real, solid, gold plastic medal"

Spellbound, everyone rushed to complete the activities. The medals were won by a few notable notables (whose names will not be noted). The presenter was enthralled and smiled broadly. "Animals adapt to their environments" she went on to say, we were certainly adapting to our surroundings...

Lunch and prayers followed with us rushing to catch the bus back to good old Azhar Academy (our natural habitat).

I give a huge gratitude to all our teachers who organised a cellulous- sorry fabulous trip.

*Maryam Binkuweir – Year 7A*

# GCSE Mathematics

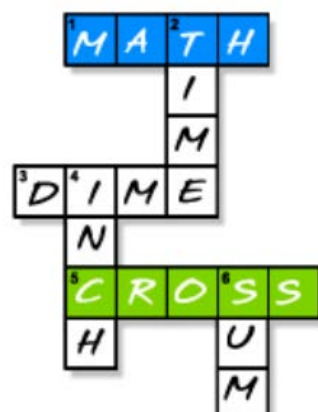
Mathematics, a subject greatly loved by some and bitterly despised by others. I vividly remember being a part of the latter for the majority of my academic life, despite achieving a level 6 in my Maths SATs and maintaining a steady grade throughout Year 7 and 8, tentatively stumbling through Maths classes without motivation or ambition.

However, since beginning the GCSE Mathematics curriculum this year, I have honestly started to perceive the subject in a different light and I am beginning to appreciate the skills that one acquires through continuous practice of a wider range of Mathematical challenges and topics, rather than simple multiplication or addition, which does not require much thought.

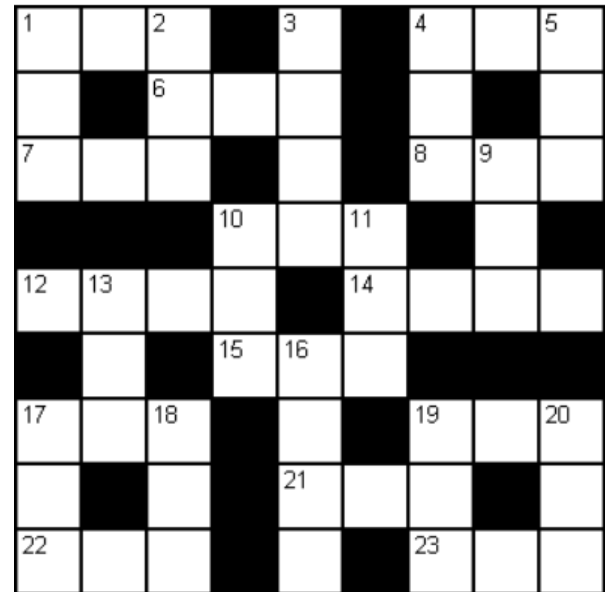
Being introduced to more complex areas of Maths such as quadratic equations, algebra and trigonometry has presented me with a side of Maths I didn't know existed- a side that actually interests me. We are expected to apply our knowledge to situational problems and complicated questions in our examinations, rather than having to merely recall formulae or solve simple calculations.

The workload and content is definitely increasing steadily as our GCSE approach and therefore, so is the effort and concentration that is required from us. I am enthusiastic to continue my journey in Mathematics and continue discovering and learning more about this subject.

*Nureeya Khan- 9G*



# Maths Crossword



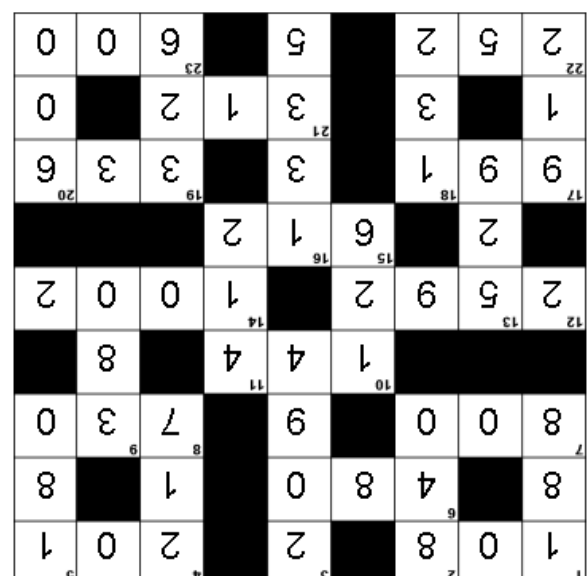
## ACROSS

1. 9 years = \_\_\_ months
4. \$ 5.00 - \$ 2.99 = \$ \_ . \_ \_
6.  $(240 - 120) \times 4 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
7.  $9,000 + \underline{\quad} + 60 + 0 = 9,860$
8. 2 years = \_\_\_ days
10.  $12 \times 12 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
12.  $144 \times 18 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
14.  $167 \times 6 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
15. 6 dollars + 1 dime + 2 pennies = \$ \_ . \_ \_
17.  $\$10.00 - \$ .09 = \$ \_ . \_ \_$
19.  $112 \times 3 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
21. 6 years = \_\_\_ weeks
22. 1 Across + 10 Across = \_\_\_\_\_
23. 50 years = \_\_\_ months

## DOWN

1. 7 Across - 15 Across = \_\_\_\_\_
2. 70 years = \_\_\_ months
3.  $\$18.95 + \$ 1.99 = \$ \_ . \_ \_$
4.  $31 \times 7 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
5. 15 years = \_\_\_ months
9. 3 dollars + 3 quarters + 1 nickel = \$ \_ . \_ \_
10.  $(5 \times 20) + 26 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
11.  $(500 - 100) + 12 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
13.  $\$ 2.99 + \$ 2.30 = \$ \_ . \_ \_$
16.  $\$ 4.45 \times 3 = \$ \_ . \_ \_$
17. 23 Across + 21 Across = \_\_\_\_\_
18.  $11 \times 12 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
19.  $\$20.00 - \$16.74 = \$ \_ . \_ \_$
20. 10 minutes = \_\_\_ seconds

# Answers



# Mathematical Anagrams!

Rearrange the anagrams into Mathematical words.

1.	I TAR GLEN	
2.	READ TIME	
3.	DOSI VINI	
4.	NO GO LYP	
5.	CAR OF TIN	
6.	IM THEIR CAT	
7.	CLERIC	
8.	LE QUAS	
9.	A COURT CALL	
10.	GOAL ANDI	

## Answers

1.	I TAR GLEN	TRIANGLE
2.	READ TIME	DIAMETER
3.	DOSI VINI	DIVISION
4.	NO GO LYP	POLYGON
5.	CAR OF TIN	FRACTION
6.	IM THEIR CAT	ARITHMETIC
7.	CLERIC	CIRCLE
8.	LE QUAS	EQUALS
9.	A COURT CALL	CALCULATOR
10.	GOAL ANDI	DIAGONAL





## 8Gs Reflections on One Year of History Lessons

Azhar Academy staff and students mark homework and evaluate their progress in class by using the two criteria of what went well (WWW) and even better if (E.B.I). This year, class 8G were asked to apply this formula to their history learning throughout the year.

This exercise will hopefully be useful to all as it will allow students to evaluate their year, participate in their own teaching and learning and to feel like their views are heard. It will assist teachers to continuously improve their lesson plans for next year, and parents can take advantage of the information given to support their children's learning at home over the long summer break.

Some of 8G's ideas and responses have been reproduced below:

"This year in History we covered various interesting topics such as: The Industrial Revolution, The British Empire, Napoleon's War, The Battle of Trafalgar, Crime and Punishment and the Slave Trade.

We have done role plays in class which helped us visualise reality in the past and to help us learn better. We also prepared presentations in groups to educate the class from a student's point of view, helping us to progress.

As a class with our teacher, we read through our textbooks and answered the questions so that we fully understood them. Through this, our confidence grew and it gave us the ability to answer exam style questions.

Our teacher gave us exam style essays to complete as homework, preparing us for our GCSE.

It would help the class a lot more if we checked our homework as a class. Also we would enjoy more interactive activities to learn History such as games, worksheets and documentaries."

***SINCERELY 8G***

# Making History Count

**1789:** France is in revolution! The workers try to overthrow the monarchy. By the end of it, power becomes violent and leaders are executed at the guillotine.

**1933-45:** 6 million Jews across Europe are relentlessly massacred under the Nazi regime of Germany under Adolf Hitler. A Jewish man by the name of Raphael Lemkin coins the term 'genocide' after analysing the horrors of the Holocaust.

**1995:** Mass massacre of Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica. It will be another few years till it is declared a genocide internationally.

**2014:** Russian troops brazenly march into Ukraine and invade Crimea. The world watches. Russia is given more sanctions and removed from the G8, now known as the G7.

These dates might be fleeting events for many of us but they all contain a jarring message: History repeats itself. Over and over again. Yet, when we study history, we tell our students it is a subject that tells us about mistakes people made in the past so that they are not made again. The struggle today is some of us are so divorced from our surroundings and are often so unaware that our ability of foresight can become stagnant. Why do some students find history boring? Why do some of them think history revolves around blindly memorising names and dates? It may very well be because they just cannot relate. Why is that then? We need to find connections between times gone by and modern times to feel motivated and determined to make a difference. Here are some ways in which we make some of the books studied at school more relatable.

**Henry VIII and his Ministers:** The actions of Henry and Cromwell led to the foundation of modern-day Church of England. If you look at a 1pound coin you will find the letters F.D engraved on it to this day. F.D stands for Defender of Faith, a title given to Henry VIII by the Pope at that time for trying to support Catholicism. Ironically, Britain today largely follows the Church of England, not Catholicism. However, the title still has been applied to every monarch who came after Henry! One of the palaces built for Henry still exists today in the suburbs of south-west London.

**Nazi Germany:** The mass massacre of a community was not unfortunately the last. To this day people from various faiths and communities are still victims of genocide. Germany did learn a lesson from its ugly chapter in history, making the denial of the Holocaust a crime. Today, it is the strongest economy in Europe.

**Crime and Punishment:** A museum in the City has replicated what life was like in prison during Tudor times. The museum is built on the original site of the prison and carries the remains of one of its walls from the 16th century. More recently, online hackings of bank websites and mobile companies along with data privacy breach on social media have become very common creating opportunities for modern-day fraud.

**Superpower Relations and the Cold War:** Parts of the Berlin Wall still exist in the city today. In fact, tiny fragments of this piece of history can be bought in Berlin for a few Euros. Closer to home, the former site of the American embassy in the Mayfair area has a park situated opposite its grounds. A large brick from the wall is encased in stone surrounded by quotes from world leaders. Every mark has an unknown history to it. Other valid questions include analysing where US-Russian relations stand today.

*Ms Yamna Maqbool, History teacher.*



# Dealing with Exam Stress

Exams. The time of the year which everyone dreads. That time of the year that we revise frantically, half driving ourselves insane. All that sleep deprivation, all those big words and complicated equations... they just won't stay in our heads. Or at least, that's just what we think... what about what we could believe?

Most of us are so badly affected by the way we think, me, you, we all do. These negative thoughts and vibes... why? When we tell ourselves, "We're going to fail our exams", what do we expect? it's like we want to fail, we've already put ourselves in this mind-set. Those thoughts, most probably result in you forgetting something in the exams and those thoughts, they probably also have an effect on your result. So, just a simple step can be a big change. Next time when you're doing an exam... remember "I'm going to pass my exams". Who knows! Maybe it will make a difference, the difference that we require to aspire.

One of those other annoying reasons why we "do bad" or fail our exams, is due to the competition between other students. Whether it be your best friend or just a classmate, everyone tries to compete with someone, be better than someone. Most times... this actually isn't bad. Competition can be good. It makes you try harder, strive a little more. But sometimes, this competition drives you crazy, because all you think is "I need to beat this person" and "oh, I need to beat that person", until it gets to such an extent where you feel like your mind will explode and you don't actually end up remembering anything in the exam. Remember, we're all different; some people are naturally better at some things and others are better at other things. But you still have your own talent, and I know that because everyone does.

Next time, before an exam, take a deep breath and remember... "It always seems impossible until it's done".

*Khadija Tafader*  
*Form Class: 9A*

# Azhar Academy Sleepover 2018

The sleepover at Azhar Academy Girls School organised by our school council representatives was a thorough success! It was very enjoyable and fun. The sleepover was well organised and it was clear a lot of hard work had been put into planning it.

There was a treasure hunt, which was planned out really well around the school, party games such as 'pass the parcel' and 'musical chairs'. We were also able to spend some time telling each other scary stories, which I believe was actually the most exciting part of the whole experience.

We had a range of food from pizza and chicken wings to candyfloss, popcorn and cake, all of which was scrumptious! There were many teachers there to supervise us in a relaxed and well protected atmosphere, provided with a spacious area that was comfortable enough to sleep.

Overall, it was an amazing event and I would love to do it again!

*Aatikah Chohan 8A*



On Thursday 29th March, we had a school sleepover organised by our school council representatives. We arrived to school at around 8pm and we were very excited as this was the first ever school sleepover. After everyone arrived, we went upstairs and changed into our pyjamas and put down the bedding. At around 9pm we went downstairs for dinner. The food was very exquisite and filled our stomachs with satisfaction. After dinner we began the games as we first played the game of pass the parcel in which there was a variety of different presents and small prizes to win. This was different to the original games as dares were incorporated into the play which overall made it more interesting.

After the very fun and interactive game we had a treasure hunt. For this game we got into teams and searched the school using clues. It was not only fun but also very competitive. After this we had a chubby bunny challenge, the aim of this challenge was to be able to stuff as many marshmallows into your mouth without swallowing them and the person with the most marshmallows in their mouth wins the chubby bunny title.

At around 1am we began telling stories and that lasted into the night. When it was nearly 4am we were told to go to sleep as we would be very tired in the morning if we didn't, therefore we went and tried our best to rest our heads but we were all sleepless due to all the excitement. When we were told to pray Fajr in the morning we were so tired and sleepy however we prayed and had a light breakfast and played some games until 9am when our parents came to collect us.

To conclude we had an amazing time and it was worth it. A wonderful experience that we shall forever cherish as a memory in Azhar was made and at the same time we managed to raise over £1460 for the charity 'Crisis' that aims to provide help for the homeless. Alhamdulillah!

*Ayesha Zulekha Shaik 10G*

# *Life as a Prefect*

Life as a prefect requires dedication and responsibility. Throughout my experience as a prefect, I have understood the struggle and understanding of teachers of having to cope with difficult students and maintaining the reputation and standard of the school.

As prefects we uphold a respectable duty where we act as leaders and role models to the younger pupils. Also it is necessary to act responsible and follow rules so that the other pupils can learn from us and try to improve their behaviour and attitude towards the school or regarding any other matters. Being a prefect doesn't mean to boss people around and to tell them off, but rather it is an opportunity for others to get to know you and share issues with you that may concern them. It is like being a comforting friend and a more approachable person.

Our main roles are to ensure that all students pray correctly, as that is very key aspects in everyone's lives as prayer should be a daily, constant activity. Therefore as prefects, we monitor Salah and help the people around us to pray correctly and gain as much reward as possible, as well as gaining reward for ourselves. This would be considered a huge blessing as we would have the opportunity to assist the younger years concerning issues or rules that they are unaware of.

In addition to this, prefects are also responsible for certain reception jobs. There is always something happening within the office, whether it is students or parents dropping by in order to drop off or receive a letter or calling in for an inquiry. Therefore the receptionists have a lot to tend to within a short time span. Because of this, the prefects are there to help with less major jobs to ensure all jobs are done on time and nothing is left till last minute. We would have jobs such as doing the register or setting up for an event or an assembly that the school might be holding. This helps reduce the pressure on those around us and allows us to gain experience of small jobs here and there and also increases our confidence and makes us more independent.

To conclude, the prefect life requires responsibility and also to reflect on your personal appearance and personality in order to help those around you and to spiritually become a better person. Being a prefect is a great honour and people would show that respect towards you. Even though we may have to sacrifice a bit of our free time, it is worth it as we know that we are helping the school progress and inshallah to excel in the future.

**Umara Kashif 10G**



# Year 7- Trip to the Science Museum

On the 17th April, students from both Year 7s attended a trip to the Science Museum in South Kensington. They left the school at 10:00am and travelled on the 25/80 bus to the station to then ride on the London underground trains.

When the students arrived at the destination, they had the opportunity to explore the science of heat and temperature in a 'Supercool Show' where they learnt about the movement of heat, heard the loudest balloon explosion ever and discovered the makings of instant ice cream. This show was very engaging and helped the girls really understand about temperature.

They also experienced a great time at the 'Wonderlab' watching lightning strike before their eyes and playing with forces on giant slides.

## Science Documentary Club

This term we have explored a large variety of scientific issues that affect society in modern times. Students also researched and found material for the class to watch. For example, one student found a YouTube video on the cloning of pets in Japan, which is also part of the science GCSE curriculum under a topic titled 'Genetic Modification'.

Students then shared their views and opinions on the ethical implications of such technology. Of course, the Islamic viewpoint is always discussed and students felt that if cloning is unnecessary it should not be done as it inflicts pain on other animals.

The gift shop in the museum was also very interesting. The girls were very excited to buy some fun and wonderful gifts from a great variety from galaxy slime to glowing lamps.

The students then arrived back at the school at 4:30 pm exhausted after a very busy day!

*Pictures by Khadija Akhtar*

*Written by Nailah Ali*

We also looked at the latest technology in chemical engineering, nanotechnology, 3D printing of organs and tissues and animal conservation issues. These topics fascinated the students and made them aware of the application of topics which they learn in Science. Students also chose to watch documentaries on topics such as the Bermuda triangle and 'The Truth about Cosmetics' available on BBC iPlayer. These developed their critical thinking skills and helped them to see that not all information is reliable and to research issues helps to uncover the truth. Within this club it was my aim to inspire students to watch and engage with factual programmes and to enjoy gaining knowledge even outside of school. I feel it has been a fruitful club and that students enjoyed the experience.

*Ms. A. Khalil*



## Year 7 -End of Year Beach Trip

I have never been to the beach with a school before so I had lots of fun when I went to Botany Bay. The journey to the beach was 1 hour and 45 minutes long. We spent the time on the coach eating (most of our food) and singing every single nasheed we could possibly think of. I had great fun with my friends as we talked all along the way.

When we arrived at the beach it was quite cloudy and windy. We walked down the beach and were allowed to pick where we sat as long as it wasn't behind the cliffs. We played in the sand and bought food from a shop on the beach. There were many seagulls that kept coming looking for any food left behind. Sadly, one of my friends had left her chips on the mat. It was all gone by the time we came back. What a waste of money!

After there was around 1 hour left, the sun came out and the beach was boiling. The tide had gone down and the sea was a beautiful sapphire blue with pearl white frothing waves. We were allowed to paddle in the sea which felt amazing as the water was icy-cold. At 3pm we had to leave the beach and board the coach.

It was extremely hot on the way back. We sang more nasheeds and I did crosswords with my friend. Unfortunately, we returned to school 2 hours late due to severe traffic. However, overall I had an amazing experience and a great time!

*By Zaynab Lone (7A)*





## Our Trip to Botany Bay

Last week, we went to the beach for our end of year trip. It was a unique and very enjoyable experience, from the moment we sat on the coach to the moment we got back to school.

The coach ride was very fun; we sang along to nasheeds, played games and just talked to our friends. We also shared scary ghost stories, and even the driver told us a few!

At the beach, we relaxed in the sand, built sand-castles, played around in the water, had a few games of beachball, and we even treated ourselves to fresh, hot chips, ice cream and much more food!

This trip was an amazing opportunity for everyone to spend time together and enjoy themselves in a different environment. It was a very lovely atmosphere. The views of the sea along with the cliffs were breath-taking and mesmerising, and it was nice to have a day out of school for a change.

Overall, we all enjoyed ourselves and had a brilliant time, and we would love to go again.

*By Amaani Patel, 8A*

## Botany Bay

On the 11th of July, students from the years 7, 8 and 9 went to a beach called Botany Bay. Botany Bay is in Kent and has a lot of lovely soft sand and incredible smugglers caves. Smugglers once carved impossible mazes in the cliffs of the beach to hide their valuable stolen goods. We travelled for an hour and a half in three different coaches. On the way nasheeds were sung, games were played and cows and horses were spotted. It was a journey to remember and when the beach was at sight, students screamed in excitement for all the fun to be had. In our non-uniform, we stepped out the coach, and climbed down the stairs which lead to the beach. The beach was surrounded by cliffs with tides coming in and out. One of the teachers briefed us on where we could and could not go, and then we scattered around the beach like leaves falling off a tree.

We all did different things at the beach: some people set up a place and had a picnic, some bought chips or drinks from a little kiosk, some ran away from sea gulls; some chased away those sea gulls, some played with a ball, Frisbee or other things similar to it; some people sunbathed, some people paddled in the cold water some went and made sand castles, some collected the white chalk stones found on the sand, some went looking for beautiful sea shells and even found parts of a crab like one of its arms and more. Some also found an unfortunate surprise left by the sea gulls.

The journey back took longer, but was still enjoyable. The girls began to fall asleep one after the other whilst others sang songs to pass the time. Everyone had an enjoyable time there, Alhamdulillah and we are very grateful for it. We also wish to do it again, Jazakallah Khair.

*By Humaira Uddin, Form class: 9A*



## BBC Studios - On News day 2018

Azhar Academy's Year 9 students, were fortunate enough to be granted the opportunity to participate in this year's BBC news report. This gave us a chance to create our own individual news report segment as a school as well as visit the BBC Studios in London.

In order to produce a professional report of a very high standard, we had to dedicate several hours of our time to scripting, rehearsing, filming and editing. When we visited the studios, not only were we given a private tour of the building personally by a BBC journalist, but we were also invited to discuss the topic on which we based our report, on the BBC Asian Network radio which was hosted by Qasa Alom. We expressed our personal views regarding the matter. We were intending to raise awareness about which was 'The increasing mental health issues amongst the youth that remain unaddressed and ignored'. The subject of the matter was directed especially towards the Asian community; however, we also spoke a bit about ourselves. This meant discussing our identities as young Muslim females and the societal problems we face on a day to day basis and how this affects the meaning of modesty to us such as covering up our hair with a hijab.

It was an honour to be the voice for many young girls like ourselves, who have not been given the opportunity to personally refute stereotypes and false perceptions that have stemmed from the consistent and generally negative portrayal of Muslims in the media and news. In addition to this we were given the chance to meet the Head of BBC-Tony Hall, who was a very humble, down-to-earth gentleman who congratulated us on confidently articulating our outlook on matters we feel passionately about, on live radio.

Through this experience, we gained a lot of confidence as we refined our speaking and socialising skills however most importantly we grandly represented our school and young Muslims across London. We were also given an enlightening insight into the reality of the BBC News Department and shown a pathway into a potential future in journalism or the reporting media, something which we all have immense gratitude for. We would definitely describe it as an experience of a lifetime and would jump at the chance to do it all again.

*-Nureeya Khan & Mariya Rasool (9G)*

# Core Strength - Fitness Tips For Females

Sporting some serious toned abs can be a great motivation to get your powerhouse into shape but what exactly is the 'core' and why improve core strength?

## What's Core?

The 'CORE' is a group of muscles surrounding the midsection including the abdominals, pelvic, hip, mid and lower back muscles. These muscles support all movement at any intensity level be it sitting, walking, exercising or raising an arm. The core also supports some inner organs and the central nervous system.

## Why Should We Improve Core Strength?

By engaging this area in specific exercises, the CORE's ability to support the spine brings about many benefits to the body as a whole:

### 1. Confident Posture

Helps you stand up straight with limbs in alignment exuding confidence and 'in control of one's life', improving inhalation and exhalation.

### 2. Prevent injuries

Better control of movement if caught off balance without over-pressuring other muscles. Alleviates pressure on spine, improving mobility and can aid in better bladder control with kegel exercises.

### 3. Increase Athletic performance

Critical to sports performance the Core is required in all sports from swinging a bat to running long distance. Linking the upper and lower body together the powerhouse gages the body as a whole and prevents other muscles from tiring.

### 4. Feel Fantastic

Not only will you look fantastic with a toned trim set of abdominals that will impress yourself and others but developing core strength will improve quality of daily life from lifting shopping bags, picking things up from the floor, placing objects at a reached height and give you a greater sense of confidence.



And to start you off, the **Plank** is a fantastic way to activate this group of muscles:

1. In push up position, place forearms on the ground with elbows under shoulder and feet hip width apart.
2. Tighten abdominals and squeeze glutes.
3. Hold in this position keeping neck and spine neutral
4. Hold for 30 seconds, rest, repeat x3





# French Language

In Azhar, we believe that Languages should be accessible for all students. That's why the new Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in French has been developed to help students of all abilities to progress and develop a passion for learning a new language.

The authentic situations and stimuli enable students to see language in context and learn about the culture.

***K.Borg***  
***French CL.***



# Year 9 Trip to the Richard House Children's Hospice

Our form class (9G) had the privilege of visiting Richard House Children's Hospice. They aim to care and support for children and their families in East London to lead as positive and happy a life as possible when dealing with a life-limiting health condition. We were given the opportunity to visit the facility after deciding to make this our next campaign focus; for both teachers and students, it is vital to understand the difficulties that others face as, not only a means to realise our own blessings, but to be more understanding and compassionate of others. Empathy is an important quality to have especially as a Muslimah, and our aim was to teach this to ourselves first and foremost as well as our students, and instil in them the importance of charity and helping others.

The visit to the Hospice was both an eye-opening and emotional experience. We started off with an introduction where the lovely workers told us about the help they provide to the children and their families. They showed us some examples of the children they housed and it was truly moving to witness this. The girls were visibly affected, but in a positive way. As teenagers, it is easy (and expected) to be living a bubble and not aware of a life bigger than your own -seeing these children who were similar in age to them and their siblings was truly eye-opening for them. What developed this further was the tour; we saw where the children stay, their rooms, where they eat etc and it was absolutely surreal. Their lives were condensed into this facility however it was beautiful and accommodating to their needs and to them, it was home. Walking through the Hospice and hearing the stories of these children made us all realise one thing: despite their hardships these kids were still happy! They still wanted to accomplish something, even if it was what we would see as meagre like going to the park or the cinema to watch a film, this is something they looked forward to and brought them joy. It was then that we learnt a huge life lesson - to always appreciate our blessings and there is no such thing as a 'small blessing'.

InshAllah, I hope that both teachers and students bring this lesson and learning into their lifestyle. Ameen.



# Youth Travel Ambassadors

At Azhar Academy Girls School we have a few selected individuals from each year group as Youth Travel Ambassadors who are working together with TFL(Transport for London) and have chosen to campaign on an issue regarding anti-social behaviour on buses.

Our YTA members have chosen to tackle this issue to ensure that the rest of the school and everyone in the community are safe from certain risks that they can be open to whilst on the roads and whilst using public transport. We all work as a team and with the help of our citizenship teacher Apa Atiya who has given us amazing opportunities. We were also given amazing support and help from our YTA mentor Aimee Lonsdale who came to our school and taught us about this issue. These teachers are the ones behind our success and the cause of us making a change within our school community.

As students of Azhar Academy Girls School we absolutely enjoy our roles and responsibilities that we have been provided with and try our utmost best to fulfil it. The best part of our role is that although we are students ourselves we have been given the privilege of guiding our peers and spreading the knowledge that we have gained in our journey. We are able to do this through different ways. For example we host assemblies showing what we are doing and how we can make a difference in their daily lives, whether they do or don't travel by public transport as people can also be open at risk whilst they are on the roads.

During this entire process we were also preparing for a pitch at Dragons Den. We wanted to show how we wanted to make a difference within our school community where they would provide us with a budget of £250. We were greatly successful in doing so and we had fantastic comments from the judges. With the budget that we have now been provided with, we have planned activities and a huge number of workshops and competitions for which we have large prizes for. We are currently preparing for our action and the competition that we are holding is a comic strip competition and also a short story competition for which the students will be provided with. The judges were very impressed with our board game idea which we will launch in the new academic year.

# Our Form Time in Year 8

The transition from year 7 to year 8 has not been the smoothest of journeys due to the classes being swapped around, and so the year began with unfamiliar faces but ultimately since then I strongly believe that as a year group we have pulled it together and faced the year like the sisters we are in Islam. It was a year filled with breakups and make ups, tears and tantrums. This year was a big preparation for our coming years ahead in Azhar Academy. Year 8 was most definitely a learning curve and where many lessons were experienced and taught, making us better muslimahs at the end of the journey.

Year 8 was and always will be, a favourite year of mine, as we were lucky enough to go on many trips such as the Charles Dickens museum which was an amazing replica of how life was in the 20th century. Moreover, our trip to Newham College gave us a deeper insight into the subjects we are currently studying and will be interested in studying in the future as a pathway into our career.

We cannot thank our teachers enough for putting up with us and being not only our role models but also our mentors in and out of lessons. They have truly motivated us and their continuous support and encouragement got us through the year.

***Shabiha Begum 8A***

# Our Journey Through Year 8

This year in form time we had a workshop with Javeria who educated us about many social problems including topics such as female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, domestic violence, and honour based violence mainly focusing on women's rights.

After learning and understanding the topics we discussed how to raise awareness about these issues and how it could be overcome in order to support the victims affected by them. Therefore, we organised our own stand-up in Westfield shopping centre.

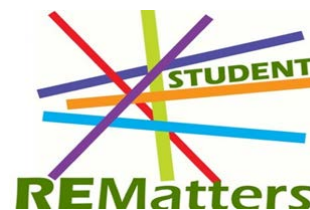
A group of us went to the stand-up and spoke to people from different backgrounds about their views on forced marriage, domestic violence and we explained these issues to the people unaware of the matter as well as informing them on types of support that are available for the people victimised in these cases.

Furthermore, within our school we also wanted to educate other classes and share the knowledge that we gained; therefore we held a campaign day where we had our own stand up in the school and a chance to talk to students from other year groups about what we learnt during our form time as well as discussing the research we conducted at the Westfield Shopping Centre.

I found the workshop very beneficial and empowering, throughout the time we spent with Javeria we have become more vocal and opinionative and with this I believe I have gained the confidence through refining my socialising skills that will surely be of use in coming years.

***Maryam Ahmed 8A***

# Student SACRE



Azhar Academy pupils have had great involvement in Student RE Matters/ Student SACRE this year.

Student SACRE consists of a group of young people who are interested in moral and religious issues from different backgrounds and cultures who get together each half term representing several Newham secondary schools.

The group is run by Mrs Clinton, Newham's Religious Education Advisor, with help from secondary schools and heads of RE.

Meetings take place once every half term at different secondary schools. A conference is also held annually. Lunch is also shared so that pupils can get to know one another.

## **Student SACRE provides schools with the opportunity to:**

- Promote dialogue between young people of differing faiths and secular backgrounds and cultures, supporting collaborative work; and
- Contribute to community benefit, as it seeks to develop young people's skills in understanding their concerns and provides a place for them to learn to become an initiator and developer of solutions.

Read on to find out about one pupil's experience of SACRE this year...



Recently I was chosen to take part in an organisation called 'Student SACRE'. It is an opportunity for a variety of schools around Newham to get together in order to address issues that may not be spoken about or are sometimes neglected. There are yearly projects which focus on certain topics; we look deeply into these topics and look at different techniques in order to tackle them.

During the course of this year, we had been discussing religious bullying and the effect it has on people in their day to day lives. I felt privileged to take part as it really helped me broaden my mind and explore other religions from a different perspective.

We had the chance to attend regular meetings held in different schools so that we could get started on new activities and share any new or interesting information.

Every school that we had visited has been extremely welcoming. At first we would settle down, have refreshments and then get straight on with our tasks.

In my opinion, attending these meetings has allowed me to develop a number of skills and I have grown more confident as a person. Also, it has helped me in terms of my religious education studies as well as in my English. We have experienced a number of exciting things such as meeting a famous poet, creating short video clips regarding our topic and making short lesson plans for younger children.

During our recent meeting, my teacher, Apa Shabana, elected me to become part of the Chief Executive. This is a huge role and a great opportunity for me to talk in front of bigger groups of people and take responsibility. I am extremely excited to take on this role and make the most of it, Insha Allah.

Considering the fact that I have been to be Chief Executive (along with four other members), it requires me to attend additional meeting known as 'adult SACRE', which are soon approaching. I am eager to find out what this role requires me to do and what differences I can make at the next meeting.

I am ever so grateful for this opportunity and Insha Allah I will make the school proud!

*Umara Khashif, Year 10*



# Student SACRE continued...

Had a great meeting today @StratfordSch where we tried out our lesson ideas for anti-religious bullying with primary schools pupils today.

Thanks @ParkPrimaryE15 @BoleynTrust for coming and helping us @NASACRE" -  
tweet/@claireclinton/



## Year 8 - Forest Gate Community Gardens Workshop

Forest Gate Community Garden is a hidden gem just 5 minutes' walk from the school. The garden was set up to create and maintain greenspaces for wildlife, plants and people. Also to support enjoyment and learning about nature and promote an inclusive community and nurture wellbeing.

Local artist and author of "The Botanical Bible", Sonya Patel Ellis set up a workshop for AAGS Year 8 pupils over 4 sessions. The first two sessions she visited the school and shared information about FGCG with students, discussing the hard work that had been put in and a little about all the different volunteers from local community who had helped to make it what it has become now. She encouraged students to discuss what they would like to do and a ceramic tile workshop was planned for the following two sessions which would be held at FGCG. This was an exciting opportunity for AAGS students as ceramic/clay work is something very new to them and for some this would be the first ever time they would be using it.

Students visited the garden and were guided to collect flowers and plant materials to use to press into clay tiles as well use mirror pieces and coloured film. It was all about bringing Islamic pattern and nature together in the form of ceramic tile work.

They enjoyed learning outside of the class and school and really appreciated the effort the volunteers have put into FGCG. The students especially enjoyed making and designing the clay tiles which will eventually be put together into an art installation and displayed at the gardens.

Working at the gardens and with Sonya was a great experience and gave our students an opportunity to not only learn away from the class room, but also try out new art and craft techniques. It was also a fantastic way for them to get that little bit closer to nature and appreciate it! We hope to take students there again to try different workshops and use the gardens for future observational drawings and projects.

If you would like to visit the gardens please visit the following link for further information and opening times:

[www.fgcommunitygarden.org](http://www.fgcommunitygarden.org)





# Year 8 - Forest Gate Community Gardens Workshop







# Aalimaah/ Islamic Studies & Hifz

Assalaamualaikum,

Alhamdulillah, the academic year 2017-2018 has been a successful year.

During the year, the Alimah, Islamic and Hifz department planned and presented numerous projects from exhibiting the Life of Imaam Bukhaari r.a (may Allah have mercy on him) to the recent practical-Hajj-guide, which took place at the end of the summer term.

Year 10 students also prepared spiritually engaging assemblies for their fellow peers and parents too; whereby students had the opportunity to build on their presentation skills, resulting in the girls being able to build up their confidence, whilst presenting to a large audience. The assemblies also allowed students to showcase the spiritual and contextual lessons they have learnt throughout the course of their current year.

Furthermore, Year 9 students prepared and presented the Hajj exhibition to students, parents and external visitors. The exhibition consisted of practical demonstration of each day of hajj with rulings pertaining to each day. Here are some testimonials from our students and parents.

*'Very Well explained and delivered.'*

*'The practical demonstration enabled better understanding of the hajj rituals.'*

*'I liked how interactive the hajj programme was.'*

*'The girls performed all the action very well, Masha Allah.'*

Finally, we would like to congratulate our Aalimah, Islamic and Hifz Studies' students who have passed their annual exams. Collectively, alhamdulillah our Aalimah students have attained an overall pass of 90%.

We would like to commend the following girls for achieving A\* in their annual exam;

Shabiha Begum 96% (Year 8)  
Amina Haskic 97% (Year 9)  
Syeda Jannah Ahmad 96% (Year 9)  
Aisha Yunus Jasat 96% (Year 9)  
Mohammadi Hanifah Anwar 95% (Year 9)  
Aisha Shahab 95% (Year 10)

We hope that Allah accepts all our efforts and gives us the ability to make our students the shining stars of our ummah. We also pray that Allah grants all our students and staff success in this world and the hereafter.

***Apa Roshan Master***



## The Prospect of Unity - Sisterhood Day

With support from teachers and each other, the Tarbiyyah mentors worked cohesively to organise, prepare and present the anticipated Sisterhood Day. The purpose of this annual celebration is to build companionship, as well as reinforce the love, unity and of course sisterhood between our peers at Azhar Academy. Alhamdulillah, the mentors, with assistance from a few classmates, successfully fulfilled their responsibility in achieving this motive.

The cheerful day commenced with various activities, ranging from creating sweet cones to role plays to painted handprints. Each event held a specific significance, particularly the handprints. Different colours, shapes and sizes placed side by side together and undivided represents equality, despite our individual and unique distinctions. The decorative banner currently hangs on display in our school, as a memory and a constant visible reminder of the cherished sisterhood within Azhar. Another example being the role play activities, which consolidates teamwork with each other.



Furthermore, our objective was to amalgamate friendship and values, as well as enjoyment and fun. Our purpose was to hopefully distinguish any resentment and hostility and rather integrate hospitality and harmony. It is essential to incorporate the fact that we are all sisters in Islam who love each other for the sake of Allah (SWT). In order to do so, an environment of warmth and boundless vivacity is frequently encouraged in our school, alhamdulillah.

When the effects of Sisterhood Day are visible through small changes in the way we interact and feel, it can be outlined that the experience produced by the Tarbiyyah mentors was productive and beneficial. We must continually support and wish the best for our sisters, following the hadith of Muhammad (SAW), "love for your brother what you love for yourself". Not only do we strengthen bonds and community in this world, but also pile our rewards for the hereafter, where we pray to be united again in Jannah, inshaaAllah.

**Zainab Abdulalim - Year 11G**



## Testimonies from Azhar Academy students

*This year of Aalimah was difficult yet fun. We've learnt many new things from the start to the end of 2nd Year. Our amazing Apas helped us reach 3rd Year which we wouldn't have been able to do without them. In Aalimah, we learnt, through hadiths, how to change our character. We also studied multiple subjects which have prepared us for later years in our Aalimah journey. Overall we have had a very beneficial and fantastic year ALHAMDULILAH.*

***By 2nd year B (Tanisha A&C AND Balqisa)***

2nd year was a challenging year for all of us but what got us through was the determination and support of the Apas; especially the head of Alimah, Apa Roshan.

***By 2nd year A***

*I found Aalimah this year very fun, Alhamdulillah. The teachers were amazing and they taught me a lot, not just about our subjects but about life in general. They have also always been there for us, giving us advice when needed; they were so nice to us. I enjoyed our subjects and hope I will enjoy it in the coming years, Inshallah.*

*Honestly, 3rd year was the BEST year I had in Azhar. From the teachers to the education, everything was well planned and thought out. I really enjoyed this year Alhamdulillah. I would only wake up in the mornings knowing that I would have 3 hours of quality education. I am grateful for all the teachers and proud of myself knowing I made the most out of this year.*

*I enjoyed 3rd year because the teachers taught their subjects with such a burning passion and interest. The subjects themselves were really stimulating; take Riyadh-us-Saliheen as an example. I loved learning about hadiths and their commentaries- knowing the actual stories behind the hadiths that were narrated by the Sahabahs was fascinating and, honestly, we could take many things away from the stories and learn so much from them. Qudoori, likewise, is a really attention-grabbing subject. It helps you in the long run. We learnt about Hajj and its rulings, Zakaat and about Sawm. Also, Quran Translation was very beneficial as I learnt how to translate the Quran and understand the meaning behind the ayaats; the commentary was very interesting. As a result, we can now understand as well as translate Quraan. Alimah as a whole was a really fun experience.*



# Hajj Exhibition

**“Keep yourself in the shoes of a haji and follow this journey...**

You have worn your ihram, read the talbiyah and started your journey...

Whilst on your journey you are making sure, you are continuously reading the talbiyah and you have read your dos and donts handbook...

You are on the plane, approaching the meeqats. You have already worn your ihram, so now you can just check through again to see if everything is ok.

Brace yourselves; you are entering the BLESSED CITY OF MAKKAH!”

On 17th July 2018, students from Year 9 held an exhibition regarding the rituals of Hajj and Madinah. We intended on giving the audience a real life experience and taste of this exceptional time of the year. Each group of students were allocated a specific place of hajj – Arafat, Mina, Muzdalifah, Makkah and Madinah.

This event was inclusive of architectural props, interesting Powerpoints and speeches, made by the students. The journey started with a plane stimulation outlining the method of wearing ihram and its rulings. The journey then continued to Makkah where they carried out Tawaaf, Sa’ee and drank Zamzam water.

The most significant events of hajj in Mina were remarkably demonstrated by role play of sacrifice, pelting and shaving, and then the journey was preceded to the merciful lands of Arafat where prayer and supplication took place.

There were imitations of the night of Muzdalifah, where they spent the night in worship. After this sacred tiring journey, the students, teachers and guests proceeded to the final part of the exhibition, the illuminated lands of Madinah where the travellers rested and visited masjid e nabawi, the blessed rawdha and mount Uhud.

Throughout the course of the exhibition, all participants gained an extensive insight into the hajj rituals and questions that arose were diligently answered.





# Azhar Academy Iftaari Event

On Sunday 10th June, Azhar Academy Girls School held an annual iftaari event, inviting students, teachers, parents and carers, as well as some influential people to come and watch and listen to spiritual reminder performances. The day was full of answered questions and entertaining activities but most important the food service provided was fantastic.

Students from Azhar Academy Girls School participated in this event by putting on nasheed performances and Qur'aan recitation. Teachers of the Azhar's Alimiyyah Department also contributed to the event by giving talks on Islam, particularly on the rewards and bounties of paradise in the afterlife especially as we correctly perform our duties (e.g. fasting in the holy month of Ramadhan) as Muslims in the current worldly society. These talks greatly moved the audience who graciously attended this beautiful all-women gathering, and hearts were filled with renewed piety and a sight of Islam in the modern society that may have been blinded before by worldly affairs. The event concluded with food being served to the attendees which was inclusive of the following specially-made dishes: Biryani, grilled chicken, pastries, drinks, cakes, fruits, dates and water.

The attendees of the annual event responded with enthusiasm, giving wonderful reviews and critically acclaimed feedback. A student who attended the event described the beautiful gathering as thus: "The event was so heart warming!"

Another responded by saying: "The event was really beneficial and I was really impressed by the service provided by the staff that had organised the wonderful evening."

***Tafhima Khatun,  
Student at Azhar Academy Girls' School***





# Imam Bukhari (R.A) Day

Imam Bukhari (R.A) Day was on the 22nd February 2018. It was eventful as the students learnt about one of the most authentic scholars of all time. Since a young age, Imam Bukhari (R.A) was known to have a very sharp memory. He memorised thousands of hadiths (sayings of the Prophet (S.A.W) and from this, there are 7,275 hadiths mentioned in his noble book: Sahih Al-Bukhari.

Students learned some of the most amazing miracles that were performed in Imam Bukhari (R.A)'s lifetime; for example, being cured from blindness because of a truly heart-warming supplication by his mother. The students also learned about Imam Bukhari (R.A)'s arduous journey to compile the Sahih Al-Bukhari along with many other books.

Imam Bukhari (R.A) was a true inspiration through his patience, compassion and determination to those who seek to find knowledge. He was known to have the best of characters which could even turn resistant hearts soft through his passion for Islam.

Overall, the event was thoroughly successful the students acquired the knowledge to implement some of these remarkable characteristics into their lives.

*Nanziba Chowdhury & Suweybah Ahmed*

## Ilm to Amal

This year in form time we focused on Ilm to Amal, how to apply knowledge we learnt into actions. It was interesting and a different pace to what we did in form times in the previous two years. We spend a lot of time learning theory and putting it into practise is beneficial.

### This year we focused on:

- Building an identity, particularly how we identify as a Muslimah
- Developing presentational skills which are vital in our national curriculum as well
- Our rights as British citizens and Muslims

These are all topics that have helped us grow and give us confidence in all aspects, both in school and out of school.

*Fatima Abasheikh 9G*



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