

Al-Qalam

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

As-Salaamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh

Alhamdulillah we have successfully reached the end of a very long autumn term. MashaAllaah, the term was filled with many activities that helped students learn whilst having fun. Among them include Anti Bullying week events which were successfully organised by students at AAGS. The enthusiasm and commitment they showed were extremely amazing. Reading through this issue of Al -Qalam will certainly bring you up to date with what students have been involved in.

Students in Year 11 recently made links with the nearby Care Home on Romford Road. InshaAllaah we will share more news about student involvement in the Spring Term. Something more to look forward to in the spring term, is our Annual Seerah Conference to be held on Sunday, 26th January 2014. More information will be shared closer to the conference.

We will, InshaAllaah, end the term with Parent Reporting sessions for all Year groups; we look forward to your attendance at the sessions on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th December 2013.

I make duaah that you all have a wonderful break and may you use your time wisely.

Mrs Adam
Headteacher

END OF TERM MESSAGE

By the grace of Allah as we approach the end of term, it is time to reflect on how fruitful our time has been so far and how we can move forward to achieve further.

Alhamdulillah a lot of productive activities took place in school this term.

Students have been involved in various charitable activities and social work, helping the community around them and taking their responsibility as active Muslim citizens seriously.

I hope that the blessed month of Muharram has bought a great start to a new year for everybody. I humbly request for your duaas for AAGS as we carry on striving to achieve for the pleasure of Allah. I wish everyone has a restful break for the upcoming holiday.

Apa Karima - Islamic Coordinator

Blue Friday at AAGS

Friday, 22nd November was a very significant day at our school as all students united to eradicate bullying. Our walk to the local park was a symbolic journey which we will remember and appreciate. When we reached the park, all the girls gathered in a circle with a blue balloon ready to be released into the air. Our teacher stood in the middle and announced, "From today, the girls of AAGS will not tolerate bullying at school," and on the count of three we released the balloons .

Bullying is a serious issue and must not be tolerated. . It comes in many forms such as:

- *teasing*
- *physical abuse*
- *making threats*
- *cyber bullying (social network sites, mobile phones)*

If you are being bullied or know someone who is a victim, you must inform a teacher or parent immediately!

Sumayyah Imrit & Samira Rahman 7B

AAGS INTERFAITH PROJECT – SPITALFIELDS FARM

Mitzvah Day is the Jewish Communities Global Annual Day of social action and giving where many thousands of participants give their time, making a huge difference to a range of people, causes and charities. This year, on Mitzvah day, AAGS pupils were invited to participate alongside pupils from a Jewish secondary school and a Catholic secondary school to take part in helping the environment on the common value taught by their respective faiths. We went to Spitalfields farm and helped to feed the animals and tend to the gardens. It was a fantastic opportunity to interact with people of different faiths and to learn about the similarities and differences in each other's beliefs. The girls were given an opportunity to explain how the concept of social action exists in Islam and it was interesting to see that it exists in the same way in all three faiths. It was an enjoyable day and I feel we all benefitted greatly.

Ms M Patel
Teacher



When entering the farm many thoughts ran through my mind. I was very anxious as we were the first to arrive at the farm. We were warmly invited into a cosy white tent. Soon, two other faith groups came. As we all settled down, the atmosphere felt calm. We sat outside and ate lunch together. We all conversed with one another and I learnt more about the other faith. We talked about our prayers and schools and found that we had a few similarities in our practices.

This was a wonderful opportunity and I thank AAGS for arranging this event.

Ayesha Ali - Year 11A

ILM 2 AMAL

AAGS are working to empower our young British learners to benefit the wider society by seeking to transform lives through education and practice.

We are working with the 1st Ethical Charitable Trust and have recently introduced their 'Ilm 2 Amal' initiative into our KS3 Form time Curriculum: Enriching Financial Literacy and Social Responsibility.

Students will be able to understand their deen as an all-encompassing way of life, acknowledging the rights of Allah and his creation; strengthening shared values between Islam and society by benefitting the community through organised campaigns and to recognise the need to be proactive citizens to bring about positive changes. Students will have the opportunity to work with the needy and elderly in the community.

Students will also have an opportunity to study money matters which will be highlighting the day to day financial dealings Muslims have with others.

Apa Atiya
Islamic Studies/Aalimah Teacher

Spitafields Visit

I was part of the ten girls who were chosen to go to Spitalfields City Farm in Whitechapel to work alongside Jewish and Catholic girls. We devoted our time to help the community promote community cohesion.

The common factor between our religions is that we all want to help people and indulge ourselves in good.

This opportunity has definitely broadened my mind, as well as extended my awareness and understanding of other religions.

In addition, other girls from different religions were learning more about our religion of Islam which is a form of Da'wah.

I enjoyed my participation in this project and am glad I took the opportunity to experience it.

Tahera Ali - Year 11A

QURAN AND THE PROPHETS

J	L	T	F	S	Z	M	G	I	B	R	A	H	I	M	T	A
I	C	J	H	K	L	U	A	I	Y	C	H	J	K	I	S	A
F	K	I	L	O	F	H	N	Z	U	X	C	V	B	M	C	L
Q	Z	B	E	P	U	A	Q	U	S	A	S	A	Q	C	M	B
P	X	R	E	T	S	M	T	T	U	L	D	J	U	Z	K	A
S	H	E	F	A	S	M	W	I	F	D	L	A	R	J	F	Q
U	O	E	A	A	I	A	E	L	H	H	N	I	A	R	M	A
R	L	L	R	R	L	D	R	S	M	A	I	L	N	O	O	R
A	R	F	S	U	A	Y	T	F	Q	P	S	H	N	H	Z	A
H	Y	K	I	J	T	A	Y	R	L	L	A	H	I	K	A	H
W	U	L	X	U	Z	D	U	W	A	D	L	H	I	H	Z	A
J	T	O	C	H	I	F	Z	H	Y	U	N	U	S	A	I	F
M	P	Q	U	V	O	I	A	J	S	I	N	A	N	L	K	A
N	O	D	Y	Y	P	J	L	H	U	D	A	A	P	L	M	M
W	S	U	L	A	I	M	A	N	L	O	I	S	O	A	M	F

- QURAN
- HIFZ
- NOOR
- FATIHA
- SURAH
- MUHAMMAD
- BAQARAH
- FURQAN
- DAWUD
- ALLAH
- SULAIMAN
- ISA
- JIBREEL
- QASAS
- IBRAHIM
- HUDAA
- FUSSILAT
- NISA

Math's

There was once a little letter called x. Both his friends y and z knew all about themselves, how old they were, where they came from everything. They knew who they were. But poor old x didn't know anything about him. He set out to find out what he is. He thought to himself who can help me find out what I am? He then got an idea; the mathematicians can help me find out who I am! So off he went to find the mathematicians. "Of course we will help you find out who you are." "What is your mum's name?" they asked x. "11" replied x "and dad" "4". They quickly wrote down a few things on a piece of paper and showed it to x. x understood nothing. One of the mathematicians explained, "11 + 4 = x. Because your mum + dad equals you so if your mum is 11 and your dad is 4 that means you are.....15!!!!!" "That makes so much sense! I finally understand who I am! Thank you mathematicians! you guys are the best!" and x (or 15) happily made his way back home!

Safia Imran - 10B

AAGS ART - LIFE EVENTS WAR



Fariha Zaman-



Zahra Abrar - 9c



Azra Ahmed- 9A

AAGS TRIPS DIARY

YEAR 8'S TRIP TO THE WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

On Tuesday 26th November, Year 8 students went on a Religious Education trip to a synagogue in Central London. I was curious to see what a synagogue looked like.

We left the school at 9:30am, took a bus to Stratford Centre and then hopped on to the Central Line to Marble Arch. From there, we walked to the synagogue.

The synagogue was quite large and decorated beautifully- the stained-glass windows took our breath away. The pews and pulpit looked very much like a church to me. Our tour guide was really nice and showed us a presentation whilst we sat on the pews.

After that, we were split into groups, so we took the opportunity to look at the traditional Jewish meal, a Torah Scroll as well as explored the place.

Then we prayed salah and left, eager to eat. We ate lunch outside Hyde Park. All of us shrieked when the seagulls and pigeons came close. Some girls thought feeding them would send them away, but this attracted them even more.

Tired, we headed back to school. All in all, it was an awesome adventure. The trip really helped us understand what the synagogue means to Jewish people.

Sabah Athar Year 8A

Our Trip to Regents Park Masjid

We flooded out of the train gulping down chunks full of air, It was a long journey but well worth it when we entered the courtyard of the famous mosque. Everyone was admiring the jaw dropping presence of the beautiful mosque. We lounged on seats at the visiting centre and soon after prayed dhuhr. After that we grabbed our notebooks and pens and toured the place at the heels of our guide. In the exhibition room, we were eager to seek knowledge and as soon as was over, we finally ate lunch. I enjoyed myself immensely and can't wait for the next trip!

Mariya Ahmed 7A

On Tuesday 29th October, the Year 7 students went on a trip to Regents Park Mosque, also known as London Central Mosque. This was to enhance our learning about Islam in RE; however, this trip was also very beneficial for Art, as we were learning about buildings. We had a chance to look at which materials were used; how the space was divided; the surfaces (and what they were made of) and lastly, for me, the most interesting part was the purpose of the mosque.

We were extremely excited as it was our first ever trip at AAGS! We didn't know what to expect; so, many of us were also feeling very anxious about it. The mosque was huge- larger than I presumed. We were led through a very interesting exhibition, which we couldn't take our eyes off. It was finally time to pray Zuhr salaah, so we made our way to the women's prayer hall. We performed salaah, and then finally, had our lunch before we headed back to school. We couldn't stop chatting about the trip on the bus, and we'll surely be looking forward to the coming trips in the future!

Sadia Sheikhuna Year 7B

Trip To The Globe Theatre

Macbeth, written by Shakespeare is a huge part of the English GCSE. We need to have an in –depth study of this work. To provide us with a greater understanding of Macbeth, we went to watch it at the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the 9th October.

It was a nice day out, and we caught the last few rays of the sun before winter set in. Some students found the play hard to understand and some found it very interesting and exciting. Many would love to go back to the theatre to see the play.

Khansa Mahmood Year 10A

This is clearly slander

Why the believing men and women, upon hearing this, did not think good of their people and say, "This is clearly slander?" (Surah Nur 24:12)

This verse was revealed when Aisha رضي الله عنها was accused of committing Zina and some of the companions of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم believed and spread this slander. Sadly, it seems that many Muslims have forgotten this incident and the verses revealed upon it, including the warning, "Allah admonishes you never to repeat a mistake like this if you are truly believers," (24:17) It seems slander has become loose on the tongues of some Muslims, even against righteous people.

While returning from an expedition, Aisha رضي الله عنها was searching for her necklace that she had lost whilst on her way to the bathroom and was left behind by the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and his companions. A young male companion, Safwan رضي الله عنه found her and offered her his camel so that he could take her home. The leader of the hypocrites, Abdullah Ibn Ubay رضي الله عنه saw this as an opportunity and started spreading a rumour about the two of them. A few days later, the gossip reached her and she was shocked and perplexed.

The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم did not speak to her for a few days. He did not believe the rumours but could say nothing as he was waiting for the revelation from Allah. During this period, Aisha رضي الله عنها experienced great emotional pain and went to stay with her parents. It is narrated that she could not stop crying for two nights. Finally, Aisha رضي الله عنها went with her parents to speak to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم who said, "If you have done something wrong, then tell me so that you can repent. If you have done something wrong, repent to Allah so that you can meet Him in a state of repentance." Aisha رضي الله عنها firmly stated that she did not do anything. Her parents in turn asked her this question, and she replied the same.

Finally, she said, "The only thing I am going to tell you is the same thing the father of Yusuf (Yaqoob) told his sons when Yusuf was taken away, "With good patience, Allah is the one who aids me in that which you are accusing me." After saying this, she felt at ease and put her trust in Allah. Soon after this, Allah revealed verses 11-20 of Surah Nur declaring her innocence and putting an end to the rumours and gossip. It was due to these verses that she gained the title, "Al-Mutabarrri' u Fee Kitaabillah" (The one whose innocence is declared in the book of Allah). ("Indeed, those who love to spread such slanders among the believers will have a painful punishment in this world and the next. Allah knows (the truth behind such accusations) and you do not know." (Surah Nur 24:19).

Farheen Issa & Safiya Hirad Year 11B

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 18th -22nd NOVEMBER 2013

AAGS celebrated national anti-bullying week with the slogan 'The future is ours, safe, fun and connected'. This year's anti-bullying campaign focussed on cyber bullying, exploring different forms of bullying and effective ways of dealing with it.

Form time was dedicated to anti-bullying sessions where pupils gained a better understanding on how to stay safe online and their moral and Islamic duty towards others. Islam emphasises on character building and one of the main strands of this is to show consideration to others.

During the week, students held innovative food and snacks sales competitions, ranging from mocktail stalls to hot food, desserts and nachos! Year groups competed against one another to raise the most funds for an Anti-Bullying Campaign. A portion of the funds raised has been donated to the charity Orphans In Need.

Year 10 was successful in raising £268.50, thus achieving to raise the most money for charity. The school managed to raise over £500 during the course of the week, Alhamdulillah.

To show their passion in eliminating bullying, students of AAGS went to West Ham Park to release blue helium balloons to show that AAGS has truly let go of bullying. It was great fun to see the balloons fly away into the distance. Each balloon was numbered with a request for people to contact the school once they found the balloon. A prize was given to the student whose balloon reached the furthest. To our amazement, our balloons reached as far as France!

Congratulations!

Helium Balloon race winner - Maryam Ahmed
8A

Winning year group for charity stalls - Year 10

Apa Karima

Significance of Muharram

With the sighting of the new moon, the Islamic New Year begins. The first month, Muharram, is a month of great reward and virtue. Muharram itself means 'sacred' and is from those months which have been mentioned as sacred in the Holy Quraan. Almighty Allah states in the Holy Quraan: "Four of them (Zil-Qadah, Zil-Hijjah, Muharram and Rajab) are sacred." (Surah At-Tawbah:36)

Virtues

From out of the four sacred months, Muharram has been blessed with certain specific virtues:-

The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "The best of fasts besides the month of Ramadhan is the fasting of Allah's month of Muharram." (Muslim)

In another Hadeeth, Hazrat Ibn Abbas ؓ reports: that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "The one that keeps a fast in the month of Muharram will receive the reward of thirty fasts for each fast (in this sacred month)." (Tabraani)

Although the fasts of the month of Muharram are not obligatory, the one who fasts in these days out of his own will and choice is entitled to a great reward by Almighty Allah. The Hadith cited above signifies that the fasts of the month of Muharram are the most rewardable among the Nafl fasts i.e. the fasts one observes out of his own choice without being obligatory on him. The Hadith does not mean that the reward promised for fasts of Muharram can only be attained by fasting for the whole month. On the contrary, each fast during this month has merits. Therefore, one should take advantage of this opportunity.

The Day of Ashura (10th Muharram)

Although the month of Muharram is a sacred month as a whole, the 10th of Muharram is the most sacred among all its days. The day is named 'Ashurah'. It is amongst the important and blessed days of Allah in the Islamic calendar. According to the Holy companion, Ibn Abbas ؓ, when the Holy Prophet ﷺ migrated to Madinah, he found that the Jews of Madinah used to fast on the 10th day of Muharram. They said that it was the day on which the Holy Prophet Musa Alayhis Salaam and his followers crossed the Red Sea miraculously, and the Pharaoh was drowned in its water. On hearing this from the Jews, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "We are more closely related to Musa than you." So the Prophet ﷺ directed the Muslims to fast on the day of Ashurah. (Abu Dawood)

According to another Hadith, it is more advisable that the fast of Ashurah should be either preceded or succeeded by an additional fast. It means that one should fast two days: the 9th and 10th of Muharram or the 10th and 11th. The reason of this additional fast as mentioned by the Holy Prophet ﷺ is that the Jews used to fast on the day of Ashurah alone, and the Holy Prophet ﷺ wanted to distinguish the Islamic-way of fasting from that of the Jews. Therefore, he advised the Muslims to add another fast to the day of Ashurah.

Recommended deeds on the day of Ashurah

The Prophet ﷺ has exhorted and encouraged his Ummah to fast on this day. He ﷺ said: "This fast is a compensation for the (minor) sins of the past year." (Muslim)

One should also observe the fast of the 9th Muharram to safeguard his deed from resemblance with the non-Muslims who fast only on the 10th Muharram.

Hadhrat Ibn Abbas ؓ said: "When Rasulullah ﷺ observed the fast of the day of Ashurah and ordered (his companions) to fast, they said: 'O Rasulullah ﷺ It is a day revered (glorified) by the Jews and Christians.' Thereupon Rasulullah ﷺ said: "The coming year, if Allah wills (I remain alive), I will for surely fast on the ninth (also)." (Muslim)

These Ahadeeth indicate clearly that one should fast on the 9th and 10th of Muharram. However, if one does not manage to fast on the 9th, then he/she should fast on the 11th of Muharram instead.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said: "Observe the fast of Ashurah and oppose the Jews. Fast a day before it or a day after." (Baihaqi)

Hence, it is important to either fast on the 9th and the 10th or the 10th and the 11th of Muharram. To fast only on the day of Ashurah is Makrooh as stated by Allamah Ibn Aabideen Shaami.

One should be generous on one's family and dependants and spend more on them than what is normally spent.

Rasulullah ﷺ said: "One who generously spends on his family on the day of Ashurah, Allah will increase (his provision) for the whole year." (Baihaqi)

These are the actions supported by Ahadeeth. Let us observe this great day according to the ways of Rasulullah ﷺ and the Sahabah ؓ, and refrain from all innovations which deprive us of the blessings from Almighty Allah. May Allah guide us all upon the straight path and save us from every act which brings His displeasure. Ameen.

Apa Asma

Islamic Studies/Aalimah Teacher

The Journey through Hifz

Hifz is a study in which you memorise the Quran. This takes many years, depending on one's ability. It is not easy; it requires a lot of determination and effort. The people who are able to memorise the Quran are very special because they are chosen by Allah and given a very high status of a 'Haafizah'. Full dedication and commitment are required when doing Hifz-breaks and lack in effort can lead to shaytan taking you away from this wonderful status.

For Hifz, there are three lessons a day; Dowr, Sabak and Sabak Dowr. Dowr is the revision of everything you have previously learnt. Sabak is the new lesson on which an average of 10-15 lines should be read daily. Sabak Dowr is the revision of the last seven sides, immediately before your Sabak. After completing the memorisation of the entire Quran, the beautiful status of Haafizah is granted.

This means that the Quran is in your heart and part of you. It is your duty to keep it alive in your heart till you die.

Azra Ahmed Year 9A

It has been narrated by Abu Hurairah (R.A):

That the Prophet ﷺ said: "The one who memorized the Qur'an shall come on the Day of Judgement and (the reward for reciting the Qur'an) says: 'O Lord! Decorate him.' So he is donned with a crown of nobility. Then it says: "O Lord! Give him more!" So he is donned with a suit of nobility. Then it says: "O Lord! Be pleased with him." So He is pleased with him and says: "Recite and rise up, and be increased in reward with every Ayah." Tirmidhi

