

Al-Qalam

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 3 | FEBRUARY 2014 | RABI UL-AWWAL/ RABI UL-THANI 1435

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

As-Salaamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh

Alhamdulillah we have reached the end of the Spring first half term and once again it is time for us to share with you articles put together by our students. MashaAllaah, they have been involved in many activities this past half term, the highlight being their visit to the old age home which you will find very interesting to read about.

More good news is that our school has been placed in 1st position on the Department of Education league table for the London Borough of Newham. I request your duas that InshaAllaah we maintain this position and also improve our percentages in the forthcoming examinations.

Mrs R. Adam
Headteacher

REWARDING SPRING FIRST HALF TERM 2014

A man came to the Prophet ﷺ and said: "O Messenger of Allah, I love you more than my family and my possessions. I remember you and I cannot wait until I can come and look at you. I remember that I will die and you will die and I know that when you enter the Garden, you will be raised up high with the Prophets. When I enter it, I will not see you." Allah then revealed:

"Whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger, they are with those whom He has favoured: the Prophets (peace be upon them all), the True Saints, the Martyrs, and the Righteous. Ah! What an excellent company." (4:69)

The Prophet ﷺ called the man and recited the verse to him.

Alhamdulillah this half term has certainly been very eventful. Our Annual Seerah conference was held on 26th January 2014. Students and teachers delivered inspiring and motivational speeches and presentations. Pictures of the event have been included in this issue of Al-Qalam.

AAGS Year 9 students have also been busy in emulating the Prophet's example of taking care of the elderly.

Abu Hurayra رضي الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Anyone who does not show mercy to our children nor acknowledge the right of our old people is not one of us." (Adabul Mufrad)

Year 9 students are presently involved in visiting Folkstone Nursing Home to give the elderly residents company and engage them in activities. The experience is proving to be a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding one for both the residents and our students.

May Allah grant us all the ability to follow the footsteps of our Beloved Messenger ﷺ

Apa Karima
Islamic Co-ordinator

SEERAH CONFERENCE

AAGS held its Annual Seerah Conference on Sunday, 26th January 2014. Alhamdulillah the Conference was very inspirational and moving with over 100 guests.

Lectures and presentations were delivered by AAGS teachers and students. The topics were very insightful, some of which explored the relationship that Fatima رضي الله عنها had with the Prophet ﷺ; how the Prophet ﷺ united people from different ethnic backgrounds under the umbrella of Islam and the beautiful personality of our Prophet ﷺ. The atmosphere around the school was very peaceful and serene. Nasheeds were sung by students and the conference ended with recitation of 40 Salaat and Salam on our Beloved Nabi Mohammed ﷺ.

We are taught in the Qur'aan:

"Say to them: If you love Allah, follow me, and Allah will love you" (3:31).

We cannot truly achieve this until we make ourselves familiar with our Prophet ﷺ and his teachings. Alhamdulillah occasions such as these are very beneficial to help us move closer to this goal.

An exotic food workshop was prepared by our 7th Year Aalimah students. The workshop exhibited mouth-watering foods that were favoured by the Prophet ﷺ. Visitors were able to eat the sunnah foods and learn the benefits of each type of food that have been found in authentic narrations.

May Allah make us from amongst those who uphold the sunnah.

Apa Karima
Islamic Co-ordinator



GLIMPSES INTO THE CHARACTER OF RASULULLAH ﷺ

Rasulullah ﷺ not only had the appearance and the illumination of the moon, but he had the ability to illuminate the hearts of many. His outer complexion, full of beauty and moderation, was filled with an inner beauty so strong, so exuberant, so profound that Aisha رضي الله عنها said that had the women of Zulayka رضي الله عنها seen Rasulullah ﷺ, they wouldn't have cut their hands, rather, they would have cut open their hearts. This is our Rasulullah ﷺ. An orphan born many hundreds of years ago, who has left such a legacy behind, the countless narrations and biographies that have been written of our Rasulullah ﷺ have spread the masses. SubhanaAllah, truly, it was his character, his mannerisms and his personality that would grasp the threshold of our Ummah, and it is He ﷺ whom Allah SWT chose to be our messenger, our leader and our saviour. In this article, I hope to encompass glimpses or an insight into the character of our Rasulullah ﷺ, and although he was sent to perfect noble character, it was he who possessed the most intricate and magnificent of characters, and all that is relayed

to you, henceforth, is not even an atoms worth of Rasulallah's ﷺ etiquettes, his Adaab and his Akhlaaq. Truly, our Rasulallah's ﷺ acts and qualities are endless, but Insha'Allah with the mercy of Allah, I hope it to be of benefit to many.

Rasulallah ﷺ always had a smile on his face

Rasulallah ﷺ exhibited an aura of such positivity, that he would naturally always make people feel happy. His speech combined with his permanent smile and laughter would touch the hearts of the young and the old, the rich and the poor. His tongue was enriched with sweetness, his words were clean, his tongue free from all fault and sin. His speech was of utmost beauty. Rasulallah ﷺ spoke calmly- the pronunciation of each word etched from his beloved lips was so clear and peaceful. The words he chose were always carefully selected, and the articulation of his speech was to the degree of utmost eloquence. His words were comprehensive, never too less nor excess; he refrained from unnecessary talk and all that he discussed with his companions were mubaah. Despite this,

Rasulullah ﷺ was still known for projecting a humorous side. In many narrations, it has been said that Rasulullah ﷺ would joke with his dear companions. Narrated in Tirmidhi: once, an old woman approached Nabi ﷺ and requested that he made dua for her to enter Jannah. Rasulullah ﷺ immediately turned around and exclaimed “O Mother of so and so! No old woman shall enter Jannah!” Thereafter, the old woman turned and began to weep. It was then that Rasulullah ﷺ said “tell the old women that she will not enter Jannah as an old woman, but rather she will enter it as a young woman”. This was the loving nature of our dear Nabi Karim ﷺ. This was the love, the happiness he enlightened within our Ummah. It was once said to him “Ya Nabi ﷺ, you joke?!” and to this Rasulullah ﷺ responded by saying “I joke, but I do not lie.” SubhanAllah, look at the true tongue of Rasulullah ﷺ. Often we involve ourselves in jest, and yet lies escape our tongue; however, Rasulullah ﷺ whether joking or not, always ensured that he obeyed the commands of our dear Allah. Rasulullah ﷺ had the most beautiful of smiles, he never enjoined in laughter, however it was his smile that was always of readiness and his teeth would be seen, and SubhanAllah, the joyful manner, the smile and the heart-warming speech of Rasulullah ﷺ would clasp the attention of so many, and upon seeing such a sight, many were endured in happiness.

Rasulullah ﷺ loved to make people happy, and happy is an understatement for the extent of happiness he allowed others around him, his Ummah to reach! Whenever a blessing descended from the skies, however minute this blessing may have been, however small, Rasulullah ﷺ would always elevate its status. This was not only the extreme love he had for Allah, and the Yaqeen he had for his faith, but this was also the love and care he had for others. Rasulullah ﷺ was so helpful, so caring to his fellows. He would always ask about the people around him. If he had noticed someone absent or someone missing, he would be the first to ask of the whereabouts and their condition. Once, there was an old woman who would sweep the masjid. She was always sweeping the masjid and one day, she passed away and the people thus proceeded as needed. Sometime later, Rasulullah ﷺ recognised that she was not present in the masjid and when he asked of where she was, he ﷺ was informed that she had passed away. He was shocked by such revelation and said, “Why did you not tell me? Surely I could’ve made dua for her!” This was Rasulullah’s ﷺ nature. He always wanted to give to his people, and he had true compassion and affection for his ummah. He always informed his companions, “If you ever see anyone needy or poor or in need of assistance, bring them forth to me.” Many a time, he would tell his companions this. There was once an occasion, where Rasulullah ﷺ saw an old woman carrying lots of shopping, thus immediately he approached her to attend her needs. “Ya Ummi”, he would address her with such respect, and he asked if he may help her with her shopping. Rasulullah ﷺ thus carried her shopping and on route to her house,

throughout the journey, the woman was constantly using abusive language towards the ‘new prophet’ that has come, not realising that it was the Prophet ﷺ standing beside her! She continued with harsh language and hurling such words throughout, and when he reached her home, he helped her clean up. Upon departure, she stopped Rasulullah ﷺ and asked, “Sorry I never asked for your name?” Rasulullah ﷺ said, “I am that Muhammad whom you were talking of,” and it was at that moment, stunned by his patience, his helpful character and his soft heartedness that she took the shahadah and proclaimed her faith in the wonderful deen of Islam. Rasulullah’s ﷺ helpfulness and care was of great help to others, but also it coherently extended the tree of Islam and caused many to turn to Islam.

And this exemplifies another characteristic of our dear Nabi ﷺ – patience. Rasulullah ﷺ had to endure difficulty after difficulty, hardship after hardship and this rollercoaster ride. Despite the extent of it, it never left Rasulullah ﷺ crawling back. Never was Rasulullah ﷺ seen to be losing faith in Allah. Never did Rasulullah ﷺ doubt Allah’s plans and works. His childhood, where the most beloved of his family members were taken away from him, then the whole abuse, both physical and verbal he faced when his Prophethood was revealed, the loss of his dear uncle Abu Taalib who had not accepted Islam, etc, all were major milestones, and such difficulties were prominent and continuous throughout the life of our Rasulullah ﷺ, yet he was never staggered by it. Rasulullah ﷺ went to the city of Ta’if, in hope to spread the message of Islam. His intention was to spread the word of Allah, to spread the true essence of our deen. Yet, the people of Ta’if threw stones in his path, pushed him to the ground and picked him up again just so that they could see him fall once more. They said the worst of things to him, called him a sorcerer, a liar, a poet and a madman, and they hurt him, to the extent once it was said that his feet were bleeding that his toes were sticky with blood. At this moment during Ta’if where Rasulullah ﷺ had to ask of Allah, Angel Jibra’il AS descended saying that Allah has heard his calls and he has sent down the angel of the mountains to speak with you. The angel of the mountains then came, and he said “Ya Nabi ﷺ I am at your service. If you wish, I can cause the mountains overlooking the town on both sides to collide with each other, so that all the people will be crushed”. Despite being humiliated, Rasulullah ﷺ responded to this angel by saying “NO.” Rasulullah ﷺ had the power to get these people punished, to teach them a lesson for all that they had done. But, Rasulullah ﷺ rejected with the hope that Insha’Allah one day, someone from within Ta’if will become muslim and that the progeny of Taif will Insha’Allah find Islam. And Alhamdulillah, the likes of Abu Hurayrah ﷺ came from Ta’if, and despite only knowing Rasulullah ﷺ for 2 years, it is said that he narrated the most ahadith. Rasulullah ﷺ was both patient, and merciful, and this was in all aspects of his life.

Tasnim Khan - 7th Year Aalimah

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

ACROSS

3. The night journey where the prophet was taken to the heavens
4. The Last Prophet
10. City where the prophet died
11. The age Muhammad first got married
14. Nickname of the Muhammad, meaning

DOWN

1. Muhammad's first wife
2. Relation of Abdul Muttalib to the Prophet
5. The cave in which the prophet received his first revelation
6. Where the prophet (saw) was born
7. The age of Muhammad when Abdul Muttalib passed away
8. Nickname of the Muhammad, meaning 'trustworthy'
9. Foster mother of Muhammad
12. Tribe of the prophet (saw)

Farha Zaman
Year 10A

Tajweed Poem

*Muhammad bin Al-Jazaree mentioned:
"And applying Tajweed is an issue of absolute necessity,
whoever doesn't apply Tajweed to the Qur'an, then a sinner is he."*

Tajweed is full of benefits when learning,
it also has many meanings.

Gaining closeness to Allah,

And comes from the Arabic word "jawadda."

Madd is to stretch, Nunnation is Tanween,

Tarqeeq is empty mouth and full mouth is Tafkheem.

Central incisors are Thanaya, Lateral incisors are

Ruba'iyah,

Premolars are Dhawaahik and Wisdoms are

Nawaajid.

Al Lisaan is the tongue; empty space is Al Jawf,
Shafatayn are the lips, and Al Halq is the throat.

Major mistakes are Lahne Jalee,

Minor mistakes are Lahne Khafee.

Reciting the Quran is our aim,

Pleasing Allah is our gain.

Faheemah Ali-Yr 7B, Sumaiya Raja – Yr 8A
& Homaira Patel Yr 9A

EXAM TIPS

Year 11s will be starting their exams very soon. Here are some tips to help you succeed

- **Revise**
- **Rest well**
- **Eat well**
- **Practice past papers**
- **Research**
- **Spread out all revision**
- **Use a timetable**

Hafsa Mufti - Yr 11B

Education

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

Nelson Mandela

"The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim."

Al-Tirmidhi

FUNDRAISING FOR THE LIBRARY/MASJID PROJECT

Year 10 & 11 students were given the opportunity to fundraise for the Library project. This was done by holding food sales between 27th- 30th February. Each class was allocated one lunchtime in which to sell food.

As a class, we immediately began to plan ways to raise as much money as possible. It was really nice because the whole class participated and worked together for a good cause. The event allowed us a chance to bond and helped us become stronger as a form class. It also helped with our communication and persuasive skills.

We all had to advertise and promote our food sale and persuade our teachers and peers to buy from us. With less than a week left to organise the entire sale, the pressure was on. After days of consulting with one another, we finally agreed on an amazing idea of '10B's Meal Deals'. Orders had to be taken before hand for this. In addition to this, we had the normal food sale, where we all brought in food items to sell. Our meal deal idea was a huge success as we managed to get lots of orders.

All the classes had a variety of foods and snacks- both sweet and savoury. There were cakes, cookies, samosas, seekh rolls, milkshakes, drinks, crisps and many more yummy items to tempt students and teachers.

Overall, the food sales proved to be very productive and truly successful as we were able to raise a large amount for the library, Alhamdulillah.

It was a great way to start the year and we all look forward to seeing the new library and masjid, InshaAllaah.

JazakAllaahu khair for supporting us. May Allah reward you all. Ameen

Fatima Sheikhuna - Year 10 B

| Amounts Raised | | GRAND TOTAL RAISED FROM FOODSALES £922 |
|----------------|---------|---|
| 10 A | £60.00 | |
| 10 B | £260.00 | |
| 11A | £190.00 | |
| 11 B | £412.00 | |

Horniman Museum Visit

On 17th January, Year 10 & 11 students who are currently taking their Art GCSE were fortunate to visit the Horniman Museum located in Forest Hill.

The Horniman Museum was established over 113 years ago and specialises in Anthropology (the study of human nature and their culture, natural history and musical instruments). The museum owns a vast selection of highlighted artefacts including a long standing make of the European instrument: the French horn, an incised coffin lid- straight from Egypt and **'torture chair'**; its origin is unknown.

We were privileged to tour this exhibition because the theme **for our current art project is 'Hidden Treasures'**. What is the first thing that comes to your mind at that? **To some, it's the obvious-** the prized possession of the luminous, ornamental gems of Asia, or perhaps the flamboyant pearls and fish that paint the sapphire canvas of the ocean; **but to me, it's** past the glitz of all the bulk. Instead my concepts root way back to when a new civilisation was born- The Red Indians.

The Horniman Museum contains a number of artefacts **attributed to all of the above mentioned definitions of 'Hidden Treasures'**. **An aquarium depicting all sorts of water creatures** has been noted for its unique layout of tanks and to add to that, the museum is surrounded by a lavish garden consisting of a nature trail, a small animal enclosure and even a sound plot with large musical instruments for playing during the summer.

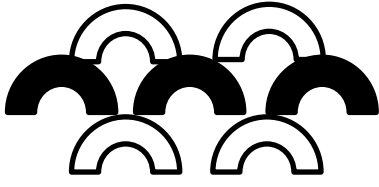
Overall, I believe that this trip was very beneficial. It not only credited research for our project but also allowed us to have an insight of distinctive ancient generations and their manual of a surprising and different lifestyle.



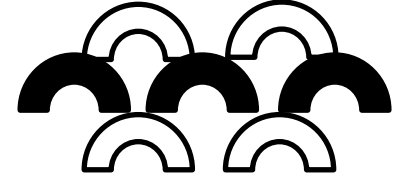
"The believer's shade on the Day of Resurrection will be his charity."

- Al-Tirmidhi





BUILDING BRIDGES



At AAGS we are working in collaboration with the organisation, Three Faith Forum, to give our pupils the opportunity to meet and work with people from different backgrounds. AAGS students from Year 9 are working with Year 9 students from St Ursula Girls School, situated in Greenwich. Three link days have been planned across the year where students will be set tasks to complete by the end of the day. Tasks have been designed to help students positively engage and develop their communication skills with people of different faiths.

This experience will empower students to have discussions around identity and faith and also allow students to feel confident in speaking about their own identity, faith and background in a diverse setting. MashaAllah the first link day was an immense success.

At AAGS we feel that it is important to prepare our students to learn how to positively engage with the community around them to help them become positive Muslim citizens in whichever capacity they can.

Alhamdulillah, opportunities such as these prove to be great learning experiences for our students.

Apa Karima
Islamic Co-ordinator

My Three Faith Forum Experience

On 10th December 2013, we went to Magpie Lodge, for a jewellery making workshop. This was part of our linking experience with students from a Catholic school in Greenwich called St Ursula. The workshop was a good opportunity for students of both schools to work together and achieve the aim of the 3FF which is to learn and understand about different faiths.

Prior to the workshop, we made identity boxes to share with the students of St Ursula. They were also asked to make identity boxes for us so that we had an idea of who we were going to meet. When their boxes arrived we were given boxes made by the students we were going to meet at the workshop.

When we arrived at the lodge we had a variety of ice breaker activities. After this, we were asked to find the person whose boxes we had been given and to form pairs.

Once in pairs we started the jewellery workshop; the tutors taught us how to make necklaces and what sort of questions to ask someone if we were to making a necklace for them.

Eventually we started making our own necklaces. As we were making them, we got to know each other by asking questions and chatting to one another. We were asked many questions, like why we pray, wear a hijab, etc. We explained our practices to them in the best way possible so that they would understand the reasons and the importance behind our practices. One of the girls even said that 'I find Islam an interesting religion'.

At 12:45pm we stopped for our lunch and then at 1:30 pm we prayed our Dhuhr prayer. The students from St Ursula had never seen people pray before so they had lots of questions to ask. We did our very best to answer their questions.

We continued to make our necklaces and when the time was up, we split into two groups to present our necklaces to everyone and explained why we put certain pieces in making them. When the jewellery workshop finished, we bid farewell to each other and made our way back to the school.

Khayrat Jama - 9B



YEAR 9 SERVING THE COMMUNITY

As part of the Year 9 PSHE program, we are working on projects to serve the society. Students will be fortunate to visit a local care home and serve our community.

The care home is called Folkestone Nursing Home and is based in East Ham. Most of the residents in the home are from the local and surrounding areas.

The care home has a large number of elderly people that suffer from dementia. This is a disease mostly found in people over the age of 65, which causes memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language. Often, those suffering from dementia will recall their past life and memories but have no recollection of their day to day activities and have difficulty recalling events that happened recently.

Each form class has been split into smaller groups and will be visiting on a weekly basis. Girls will have the opportunity to meet the residents at the care home and talk to them about their past. They will also have some activities that they will carry out with the residents.

The visits have already begun and will continue in the spring term. 9C have already visited the care home in the past few weeks.

Year 9A and 9B are eagerly looking forward to their visits next term.

Mrs S Makki – Year 9B Form Tutor

Folkestone Nursing Home Visit

Visiting the care home was an extremely beneficial experience for the girls. They enjoyed listening to the stories of the residents' youth and their past; it was an interesting way for the girls to learn about how life was in East London before.

For most of our girls it was the first time they had personally and physically come across the delicate and fragile nature of old age. Their human minds were forced to think about appreciating their youth and good health and thanking Allah.

There was one resident who doesn't speak any English and none of the staff spoke her native language and she has no family and friends to visit her. Some of our girls were able to speak her language and communicated with her. She was so happy and really appreciated their presence.

Speaking to residents who spoke about feeling lonely affected the girls the most; they found this very upsetting. Some of the girls realised and mentioned that we should spend more time with our older relatives and friends and also make more of an effort with all those around us.

Miss M Patel – Year 9C Form Tutor

"I thought the elderly home was a good experience, but I felt sad to see some of the elderly not able to speak."
Salma Ali -9C

"When I went to the care home, I thought it was quite sad that elderly people had lost most of their happy memories and that they couldn't always live with their families".
Maryam Butt -9C

"When I went to the care home, I felt very sorry for the people because their children and relatives left them there to be alone. I enjoyed it because I got to spend time with other old people with different stories to tell." Khadija Khatun -9C

"I had an amazing time at the care home. I met lots of new people and met the cutest old lady ever! It was very nice speaking to these people and I hope I can see them again."
Zaynab Hayat -9C



"I enjoyed the visit to the old people's home. It was a little emotional but fun and I would visit again if I could."
Tahmena Joyan -9C

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE FOLKESTONE NURSING HOME

I had a lovely experience at the care home, alhamdulillah. I was very captivated and interested in their lives but felt sad at the same time that our lovely elderly people were going through so much hardship and loneliness, nevertheless still had a beautiful smile on their faces. They showed us old items of their childhood and we learnt about how it was like back in their time and how they did things. We spoke to them and absorbed a lot from them; some of us even began to get emotional. It was an amazing feeling to know that they were so glad we had visited them. It was a valuable and rewarding trip. I would definitely visit again inshaAllah.

Jakia Ullah - Year 9C

**"If a young man honours an elderly on account of his age,
Allah appoints someone to honour him in his old age."**

Tirmidhi

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

At AAGS we readily welcome volunteers such as parent helpers, adults from the local community and people from organizations such as schools, colleges and universities that will be able to provide much needed support. Your help will be beneficial to our students and will also be a great opportunity for interested person/s to gain experience.

I am presently looking for support on Friday afternoons between 12.30 pm – 3.00 pm and on Saturday mornings between 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. I am also eager to hear from you should you be able to volunteer during school hours between 8.00 am – 4.00 pm.

Should you know of anyone that is suitable to fulfil the role or if you are interested in this position, then please contact the school or email me at girls.school@azharacademy.org

Mrs R. Adam