

Al-Qalam

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As-Salaamu'alaikum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh

As we approach the end of the academic year I would like to take this opportunity to thank Parents, Staff & Pupils for your support and contributions throughout the year. It has been a wonderful first year as Headteacher at AAGS Alhamdulillah; together we have achieved much success.

InshaAllaah I look forward to meeting you at the Parent Information session on 10th July 2013, where you will have an opportunity to meet with your daughters' subject teachers. This will be a wonderful opportunity to set targets for the 2013-2014 academic year.

As we prepare for the summer holidays I would like to encourage you to spend as much quality time with your daughters as possible and continue to provide opportunities for them to extend their learning.

Please make dua for the school to succeed in pleasing Allah (SWT) and encourage your friends and family to donate towards the Masjid & Library Project.

Mrs Adam - Headteacher

In preparation for Ramadhaan ...

As the month of Ramadhaan approaches us, the flurry of Ramadhaan preparation that comes with it has already started. 'Have we stocked up on enough flour?' or 'Where can we get the best price for a bulk of chick pea tins?' are some of the questions being asked.

A lot of preparation rightfully goes into organising the home so that Ramadhaan is worry-free and one can focus on the more important aspects of this month. But how many of us have considered that the spiritual nourishment of Ramadhaan also needs preparation? Just the way we carefully plan and buy the right ingredients for Iftaar and Suhoor so we can enjoy Ramadhaan with ease, the same way we need to prepare our souls to have a fulfilling time of worship during Ramadhaan. Before working out a fitness instructor will always encourage adequate warm up routines to ensure the muscles are flexible so that the body is ready for working out and no harm is caused. We too need to 'warm up' our souls for the spiritual work out if we are to maintain its benefits after Ramadhaan. So how early should the preparation start? The Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to wait in anticipation two months prior to Ramadhaan. He ﷺ would recite the following dua abundantly as soon as the Moon of Rajab had been sighted.

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَغُنَابًا رَمَضَانَ

Allahumma barik lana fi Rajab wa Sha'ban wa ballighna Ramadan. "O Allah! Make the months of Rajab and Sha'ban blessed for us, and let us reach the month of Ramadhaan."

The blessed companion Anas, رضي الله عنه reports that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was asked, "Which fast is the most meritorious after the fasts of Ramadhaan?" He replied, "The fasts of Sha'ban in honour of Ramadhaan." In order to derive maximum rewards from the very beginning of Ramadhaan, it is crucial that the amount of worship is gradually increased and built into our routines in the months running up to so that we can do exceedingly more during the actual month of Ramadhaan. As many professions dictate rigid schedules even throughout Ramadhaan, it is good practice to work out a plan for Qur'an tilawaah and Dhikr in between breaks and other available moments to ensure that Ramadhaan is fruitful. Once the soul is spiritually cleansed, one will yearn to be engaged in worship which then becomes easy and enjoyable as the yearning is from within.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ would fast abundantly in the month of Sha'baan therefore, those of us with the capability should follow suit or at least engage in other extra acts of worship. The blessed companion Usama ibn Zaid رضي الله عنه, reports that he asked the Messenger of Allah ﷺ: "Oh Messenger of Allah ﷺ I have seen you fasting in the month of Sha'ban so frequently that I have never seen you fasting in any other month." The Messenger of Allah ﷺ replied: "That (Sha'ban) is a month between Rajab and Ramadhaan which is neglected by many people. It is a month in which an account of the deeds (of human beings) is presented before the Lord of the universe, so, I wish that my deeds be presented at a time when I am in a state of fasting." May Allah grant us the ability to prepare and plan wisely for the forthcoming Ramadhaan. May Allah accept the fast of every believer and make it a means of our easy reckoning. Ameen

Apa Karima

Islamic Co-Ordinator

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY

On Thursday, 25th April 2013, Year 9 students went on a trip to the Royal Observatory and Planetarium to study stars & light. We travelled by bus and DLR. We had to go on what seemed an extremely long walk before we actually reached the observatory. On our walk we passed a little hill and park together with some amazing building and sites. Quite a few of us removed our shoes to walk up the hill (apparently that helps).

Our trip included a workshop, lunch time, and a visit to the Peter Harrison Planetarium. This was by far the best part of the trip and also the best place to have a viewing screen as we watched images on a spherical roof. We then went for a quick visit to the gift shop.

Overall, a lot of students say that it's the best educational trip we've been on so far.

By Hafiza Ahmed – Year 9 A

THE Big BANG Fair

The Big Bang Fair is the largest celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths for young people all across the UK. The event is aimed at showing young people just how many exciting and rewarding opportunities there are out there with the right experience and qualifications.

Year 10 students attended this inspiring exhibition. We had the chance to join different schools in the UK to experience and celebrate science. Various activities and shows were held even Prime minister, David Cameron made an appearance. This stimulating Fair, which has been promoted by famous physicist, Professor Brian Cox had a great effect on us. Mohima Firdaus, 10A said *"The exhibition was spectacular. It was an unforgettable experience. It has definitely broadened my career options and it has in fact encouraged me to take up a career in the science field."*

I would thoroughly recommend every one of all ages to experience the Big Bang Fair.

By Tahera Ali – 10 A

On the 18th June 2013 we visited Thorpe Park, a theme park situated in Surrey. Students had been waiting with growing anticipation throughout the last half-term for this annual trip.

Throughout the two hour long coach ride we had plenty of things to talk about with friends and shared lots of snacks. It was a truly wonderful atmosphere on the coach.

Once at Thorpe Park we enjoyed the many thrills and scares along the way. Short queues made our visit even more enjoyable as we had several opportunities to ride our favourite rides. Some of the rides we enjoyed included The Swarm, Stealth, Detonator, Nemesis Inferno, Saw and X No way out.

As the day passed by group leaders along with students had a relaxing lunch to calm their uneven heart rates. Students ate at the Restaurants scattered around the park and enjoyed refuelling themselves for another terror-filled afternoon.

The journey back amazingly was not the sleepy quiet travel some girls expected but was even more 'lively' than the journey to the park. We spent our return journey in mere relaxation and with lightened moods.

Aalia Saleem 8B

Our Visit to the British Museum

The British Museum has been Britain's number one museum for a long time. It was the country's most popular museum dating back to the 1750's and was in fact the one and only museum in Britain! The British museum is a renowned and remarkable institution which is recommended to any person of various ages. Year 10 GCSE Art students recently travelled to the British museum to search for inspiration for their Art project.

We visited various exhibitions within the museum, such as the Islamic, South-East Asian, African & South American exhibitions. Khadija Kothia, 10 B said *"This trip was very motivating and assisted with my art developments. I had an amazing time and it flew by incredibly fast. No matter how many visits you make, you will never complete your trip as there is so much to see and do"*.

By Najma Begum – Year 10 B

Science & Engineering

On Tuesday 19th March 2013, 9A presented an assembly on National Science & Engineering week which was held, between 15 - 24 March. National Science & Engineering Week shines the spotlight each March on how the sciences, technology, engineering and maths relate to our everyday lives, and helps to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers with fun and participative events and activities. We informed the school about what STEM is and, how much it affects our lives. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

STEM has changed our lives a lot. Without STEM we would be lost and clueless. How would we tell the time? How would you know how old you are? How would you know about anything in life? We use STEM every day. STEM is a big part of our life and sometimes we forget how much it affects us. Most of us use one of the things in STEM all the time which is TECHNOLOGY! We cannot survive the day without using our phones and laptops. 9A enjoyed doing this assembly as we taught the school something new but, at the same time we learnt something as well. We are very thankful to Ms Muna for letting us do this.

By Aneeqa Yasmin & Muhini Chowdhury - 9 A

YEAR 10 G&T MATHS CHALLENGE

In February 2013, four of our best Year 10 mathematicians participated in a Maths Challenge event in King Edwards Grammar School, Chelmsford. Unphased by the challenge of snow and a long train journey, they battled out against other schools from the local area testing themselves on a variety of Maths Problems including a topic from outside the GCSE syllabus! A teacher from the host school praised our girls for their teamwork and excellent manners. A big thanks and well done to Fahmida Yasmin, Hafsa Mufti, Aysha Rahman, Sarah Uddin, for representing AAGS so well, MashaAllah.

YEAR 9 G&T MATHS CHALLENGE

In March 2013, some of our best KS3 mathematicians, two from Year 8 and two from Year 9 represented AAGS in a Maths Challenge event at Plashet School, Eastham. They competed against other schools from the London area, testing themselves on Maths Problems using a variety of techniques including running in a Maths relay race! A big well done and thanks to Basma Islam, Hafiza Ahmed, Maha Al-Haddad and Sumiya Firdaus MashaAllah.

UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

Year 11 students took part in the nationally held UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge in February 2013. MashaAllah both Nimo Dhudi and Samiya Haque achieved high enough scores to be awarded the Bronze certificate when compared to other entrants around the country, so congratulations to them both. Nimo Dhudi achieved the highest AAGS scores overall.

CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT **ADVICE**

Controlled assessment is when you choose a chosen question and based on that, you write a 1,000 – 2,000 word essay. For the actual assessment, you can only take notes in the examination hall. Here are some useful tips to help you get through your controlled assessment.

- Decide on which question/topic you are doing and be confident working on it
- Plan exactly what you are doing
- Make sure you have the background knowledge of the question/topic
- Do not leave your work until the last minute
- If you get a chance to do a draft, make THE MOST out of it !

By Nimra Iqbal Year 10

GCSE MATHS REVISION CONFERENCE

In January 2013 AAGS GCSE students attended an 'Achieving an A/A* grade at GCSE' Mathematics revision conference at the Rock Tower, Islington. The conference was arranged by experienced GCSE examiners and moderators. Students spent the whole day learning valuable examination tips from experts in the field. The day was broken up with a range of activities to ensure students stayed on task and motivated, including some comedy sketches!

WORLD MATHS DAY AT AAGS

Students participated in two dedicated World Maths Day assemblies. Year 7-10 students at AAGS also celebrated World Maths Day by taking part in the World Education Games where they competed against similar aged students around the world in real time, answering mathematics questions. MashaAllah, 8B were the overall class winners. A massive well done to Syeda Fariha Zaman for achieving the AAGS highest score. Congratulations to the following students for achieving the Distinction Award, Maryam Rashid, Yasmin Ouni, Rahima Uddin, Fabiha Rahman, Maha Al-Haddad, Maryam Islam, Syeda Farah Zaman, Nusaybah Molvi, Muna Omer, Samirun Nessa, Zainab Master and Mariam Ouni.

Mrs F. Aslam - Mathematics Department

ADVICE FROM STUDENTS AT AAGS...

- Exercise regularly - not only does it keep you fit but it takes your mind of your worries for a while and can be fun! Try jumping on a trampoline or going to the park with your friends.
- Ever had trouble remembering all your dates and events for history? Well, here is a tip: All you need to do is make a small timeline with plenty of colour. If possible, think of a fun rhyme to help remember all the facts too.
- How often do you actually perform your Salaah with good concentration? Just because exams and school are at the back of your mind, it doesn't mean you are excused from your prayers. Take a small amount of time out every day and praise the one who helped you succeed in all the exams you have previously passed and the one who made you fortunate enough to attend school.
- Do your clothes get muddled and mixed up a lot? Then here's a small tip for you. Organise your clothes so that a certain category is in a certain place; you can even make labels for each category.

Artists at AAGS



Our students work was recently selected to be displayed at the NIDA Education Fair 2013.

Alhamdulillah we received kind words and praises for the students work.

We look forward to exhibiting more of our students work at future events InshaAllaah.

Mrs F. Mahmud
Art Teacher



WORDSEARCH

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

Blessings
Patience
Dates
Preparation
Drink
Fasting
Food
Iftar
Obligatory
Fasting
Reward
Suhoor
Taraweeh
Ramadan

REMINDERS

4th July - Sports Day at Blake Hall Sports Ground - 9.00 am - 1.30 pm
7th July - Azhar Fun Day at AAGS
9th July - School Closes at 12.10 for students
10th July - Parent Information Session - 10.30 am - 4.30 pm

CHANGE YOUR LIFE BY CHANGING YOU HABITS THIS RAMADHAN .

In order to change our life to make ourselves closer to Allah (swt), we must first change our habits. Habits are what starts us off and make us become who we are now, but we can change them, and we will together this Ramadan.

Changing our habits during Ramadan us the easiest time of the year as this is the month where the evil is locked up and all good is dispersed.

Here are 8 easy to how we can change our bad habits

- **Identify your bad habits and pick one good habit for the month:** List all the bad habits that you may have, e.g. listening to music, and then pick a habits that is good and will help get rid of your bad habit, e.g. reading the Quran instead of listening to music.
- **Making intentions and plans:** Plan a timetable and write out a good habit that you will do each day. If you do make mistakes then repent for Allah's forgiveness because He loves those who make mistakes and ask for forgiveness. Try hard and think about the positive side.
- **Exercise your new habits:** Start practising them in and out of school. If you're bad habit was listening to music then always listen to the Quran, not just in lessons. Even if it means to read one ayah as the most beloved deed to Allah (swt) is the continuous one even if it is little.
- **Seek help:** Get help from your teachers, parents and friends who can help you to become a better person. Don't feel embarrassed to change and start good habits. Take better individuals as role models.
- **Teach others:** When you teach others about what you have learnt you will be more successful. You will receive reward for every letter that you teach someone.
- **Remember:** Remind yourself about why you are doing the good actions. Who is it for, to seek the pleasure of Allah (SWT) or the pleasure of your peers? Remember that you will face struggles in this world; however the reward is far greater and heavy on your scale in the hereafter.
- **Continue:** Try to continue your new developed good habits so that they become your actions. Once they have become a part of you, no one can take it away from you as you will be stronger than them.
- **Always ask Allah for help:** If you feel as though you going astray then ask Allah (swt) for His help, and He will surely help you.

"And whosoever is conscious of Allah (swt) and keeps his duty to Him. He (Allah) will make a way for him to get out (from) every (difficulty), and he will provide him from (sources) he could never imagine."

[Quran 65:2-3]

Changing your habits is hard and requires patience. You must become stronger and not give up straight away. Remember Allah is always by your side and will help you all the time. Whatever struggle you go through, Allah will reward you in the hereafter.

Fahima Islam & Fahmida Yasmin (10B) – Extract from Ramadhaan Tarbiya Circle