

# Al-Qalam

THE AZHAR ACADEMY GIRLS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## AAGS DIARY

Yr. 7 & 6th Form  
Open Day:  
29th February 2008

Sisters' Session: 5-7 pm  
Brothers' Session: 8-9 pm

Year 7 Entrance Exam:  
28th March 2008  
4-7.30 pm

Half Term:  
18th-22nd February 2008

## AAGS HOUSES Credits

Daar-ul-Ilm	140
Daar-ul-Hikmah	130
Daar-ut-Taqwa	180
Daar-ul-Haqq	130

## EDITOR'S WELCOME

*Assalamu alaykum*

*Alhamdulillah*, since the last edition life at AAGS has been busier and more productive than ever. Both Eids and the Hajj have passed, as have the A Level Winter Examinations and finally so has AAGS's first full three-day Ofsted inspection!

The inspection took place in mid-December just when everything seemed to have settled down in the new academic year. Whilst it was a nerve-wracking experience for

many people, it was a rewarding event as AAGS' policies, procedures, teaching and pupils were given an official stamp of approval (as can be seen on page 8).

Whilst parents were invited to give their feedback to the school, pupils also got their chance to share their views with the inspectors. In the space below, you can read the experiences of two Year 7 pupils who volunteered to be interviewed privately by the inspectors.

Once the inspection was over, things didn't necessarily slow down at AAGS as pupils then became engaged in other activities such as raising funds for the victims of Cyclone Sidr. The Science Department took Years 7, 9, 12 & 13 on a series of educational trips and seminars to expand both their scientific knowledge and horizons. Read all about these events and more in this issue.

## INTERVIEW WITH AN OFSTED INSPECTOR

*This is how it began...*

Ms Raja, the Deputy Head of Azhar Academy, came to 7A on Tuesday afternoon and said "I need two girls to speak to the inspectors on Thursday. Would anyone be interested in doing this?" Everyone was excited and nervous at the same time. Yet, nearly all the class put our hands up to volunteer. When Ms Raja saw how many of us wanted to do this, she turned to our art teacher and asked "What topic are they studying now?" Our teacher Miss S Begum, replied "Buildings".

The two teachers started talking together quietly. Then Miss Begum stood up and said "If you want to speak to the inspectors, you should describe three buildings and their ap-

pearance but not facts about their usage." Ms Raja chose three or two girls but their descriptions turned out to be too factual.

*"Discussions with younger pupils and the questionnaire responses of older ones confirmed overwhelmingly their enjoyment of school.*

*(AAGS Ofsted Report 2007)*

Eshe put up her hand straight away but I (Sawzan) did not put my hand up because I was scared. Then she said "I will go around tables and see who wants to do it."

Sawzan's table was second and by now she was the only

person on it who wished to volunteer as the other girls had become increasingly nervous but *alhamdulillah* she spoke clearly and confidently. Soon afterwards, it was my turn. I took a deep breath and began to talk about the Gherkin building. I was nervous but managed to get my views across although all my thoughts seemed to dry up after a minute. Ms Raja then nodded but she did not say anything. She carried on listening to all the other girls in the class. After that Ms Raja said "I will tell you tomorrow who the chosen pupils are."

Tomorrow soon came but by the afternoon we still had no word about who had been chosen. It was a Wednesday

## INTERVIEW WITH AN OFSTED INSPECTOR

*Younger pupils recognise the maturity of older pupils and trust them to give advice and help them if they have any problems.*

*(AAGS Ofsted Report)*

and everyone kept saying 'I wonder who will be selected'.

In the afternoon, we went to P.E and finished and then came back. That was when Ms Raja stopped me as I was going to class and said "Sawzan, we have chosen you and Eshe to speak to the inspectors" I said "Ok." which didn't seem much but inside I was really happy. I then went to tell Eshe the

news and she seemed just as excited as me. Our friends came and asked us "What did Miss say to you?" I told them and they were also happy for both of us.

The next day the inspectors had finally arrived and girls from different year groups were taken to see them at break. We spoke to the lead inspector who asked us a few questions like "What do you like about your school? And what is the best thing about it." We both had a turn to answer but most of our answers were the same, e.g. we like the school because we can understand the teachers and their lessons perfectly. We also talked about the prefects and how we could turn to them for advice if we had a

problem.

The interview lasted for almost half an hour. We were free to say whatever we felt about the school as the inspector told us that our comments would be confidential.

After we had finished the interview, we went back to our classroom and everyone rushed to ask us what the inspector said to us and what we said. We wondered what the inspector had thought of us but we did not hear anything about the inspectors until the report came out. Alhamdulillah, the school passed the inspection with flying colours and the inspectors seemed to

take into account all that we said and commented on our "good behaviour".

Looking back, the whole experience was a big thing for both of us. We feel honoured to have represented the school. We also feel more confident about speaking in public or to 'outsiders' again in the future.

Sawzan Al-Haddad &  
Eshe Rowlands Yr.7A

*Younger pupils believe they make good progress which will help them as they grow up.*

*(AAGS Ofsted Report  
December 2007)*

## SALAH

Salaah is the one of the five pillars of Islam. After shahadah, it is the pillar that is most emphasised. Unlike sawm, hajj and zakah, it also something that is part of each Muslim's daily life.

Despite the importance of salaah, it can sometimes be taken lightly by Muslims who either neglect it or think they

*Surely no one wants to lose out on the opportunity of entering paradise?*

are fulfilling their duties just by standing on a prayer mat and carrying out a few movements or muttering a few words. They seem to forget that when we are praying, we are in front of Allah, and should give our full concentration.

During prayer time Allah is asking you to come and

stand before him. Hence we should see it as an opportunity to get closer to our Lord.

Once, in our Prophet saw's lifetime, a sahabah was injured whilst praying by an arrow which entered his leg. He was so busy in the indulgence of the worship of Allah that he failed to respond to this immense pain. Whilst this is an exceptional example of devotion to prayer, it is also a striking example of how we should show love and sincerity towards our prayers.

Sadly, this level of sincerity now seems to have become a thing of the past or myth as only too often when we pray our mind is on other things or we are rushing to get back to other 'fun' or 'worldly' activities. Yet, we must bear in mind that praying your salaah very quickly or without concentrating could mean that we are

more likely to have made a mistake and therefore risk our salaah not being accepted by Allah (SWT)..

The consequences of neglecting or enjoining our prayers will be seen on the Day of Judgment when we will all be questioned on how we performed them. No one will be spared an

*If the Almighty is calling how can you refuse to answer His call?*

excuse for not doing them. Rasulullah (saw) said, "The first act that the slave will be accountable for on the Day of Judgment will be salaah. If it is good, then the rest of his acts will be good. And if it is evil, then the rest of his acts will be evil." (at-Tabaraani)

If we bear these and the

following points in mind insh'Allah performing salaah properly will be come much easier:

Salaah sets the rhythm to our day, and makes it more structured. It is a universal ritual which binds the ummah; when we pray, there are millions of people all over the world praying with us.

Salaah is of such vital importance that the Prophet (saw) said: "Verily, between man and between polytheism and unbelief is the negligence of prayer." (Muslim)

"Whenever a Muslim prays seeking the pleasure of Allah, his sins start falling like the leaves of this tree." (Ahmad)

Thania Chowdhury, Yr. 8A

## SEERAH

In the last issue we looked at the youth of the Prophet (saw), this issue takes us into our beloved Rasool's early years of manhood

### The War of Fijaar (The Sacrilegious War)

In Arabia, the people fought many tribal wars, which would start over trivial matters, but would go on for many years, and which lead to the loss of many lives.

When the Prophet (saw) was twenty years old, the war of Fijaar broke out between tribes. This war was known as the sacrilegious war as it had started in one of the sacred months when fighting was not permitted. Quraish and Banu Kinanah were on one side and Qais Ailan tribe on the other.

Rasulallah (saw) participated in this battle by handing arrows to his uncles. Years after his commission to prophethood, Muhammad (saw) said: I had witnessed that war with my uncle and shot a few arrows therein. How I wish I had never done so!

### Halful Fudhul (The alliance of Fudhul)

At the conclusion of these wars, during the sacred month of Dhul Qa'dah, many people felt the need for forming a confederation at Makkah, which would stop the injustice and violence, and protect the rights of the weak, poor and travellers.

Representatives of Banu Hashim, Zuhrah and Taym gathered at the house of Abdullah bin Jad'aan. Zubayr bin Abdul Muttalib one of the founders of this agreement brought along his nephew Muhammad (saw) who also took part in the oath.

All the men discussed the situation and felt a great need of peace in Makkah. Having discussed this, they all went to the Ka'bah where they poured water over the Black Stone, letting it fall into a vessel. Each man drank the water, thereafter vowed that they would stand together to support the oppressed, whichever tribe he may be from.

*Muhammad (saw) was already well known throughout Makkah as Al Saadiq (the truthful), and Al Amin (the trustworthy).*

Nabi Sallallahu Alayhi Wasalam loved peace and spoke highly and positively about this incident. He (saw) said: I witnessed a confederacy in the house of Abdullah bin Jad'aan. It was more appealing to me than herds of cattle. Even now in the period of Islam, I would respond positively to attending such a meeting if I were invited."

### A Young Shepherd

Muhammad (saw) worked as a shepherd for Bani Sa'ad during his youth for a wage, as he wanted to help his uncle financially and did not want to burden him. This gave him plenty of time to contemplate and ponder over the creation of Allah. Nabi (saw) would say, "God sent no Prophet who was not a herdsman, Musa was a herdsman, Dawud AS was also a herdsman, and I too was commissioned to Prophethood while I grazed my family's cattle at Ajjad".

At the age of twenty five, Abu

Talib advised his nephew to start trading in order to earn a better wage. At that time, a businesswoman named Khadijah lived in Makkah, who employed men to work for her, for a certain percentage of profits.

### A Female Employer

Rasulallah (saw) was already well known throughout Makkah as Al Saadiq (the truthful), and Al Amin (the trustworthy), and so Khadijah (raa) sent a business proposal to Muhammad (saw) Khadijah (raa) promised Muhammad (saw) double pay due to his good reputation and character, and also sent her slave Maysarah with him to Syria for trade.

### A Trustworthy Employee

The Prophet's (saw) trip to Syria proved to be very profitable; and received a lot of barakah (blessings). Maysarah also told Khadijah (raa) that he had never seen such an honest businessmen, and described his good manners, sincerity and faith.

Khadijah (raa) was pretty, intelligent, rich and had

*Maysarah also told Khadijah (r.a.a) that he had never seen such an honest businessmen, and described his good manners, sincerity and faith.*

good manners, for which she was given the title Tahirah (the pure one). Many prominent men asked for her hand in marriage, but she always refused. Khadijah (raa) was very impressed by Muhammad saw's character and now decided to send him a marriage proposal.

Apa Nilufar Patel



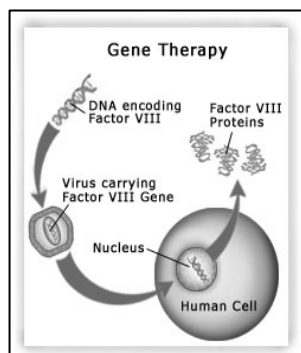
## FORTHCOMING EVENT

**AZHAR ACADEMY**  
presents  
a series of lectures on  
**The SEERAH of the Beloved Prophet (SAW)**  
on  
**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008**  
(2-5 pm)  
**A SISTERS EVENT**  
(No boys over the age of 7)

## GENE THERAPY AT BIRKBECK COLLEGE

Studying Human Biology as an A level can be a chore at times. The experiments in lessons may seem almost pointless, and at times it can also be hard to relate the very tedious topics in our textbooks to the real world of medicine. For AAGS A level students such problem were solved during a seminar in Birkbeck College (part of the University of London) where we got to meet some of the country's top gene therapy scientists.

The day was structured around a series of lectures by the gene therapy scientists explaining what their work involves and what they had achieved through it. The scientists were specialised in different aspects of gene therapy and each one



gave a presentation in their own areas.

The morning session mainly consisted of presentations which were all specifically targeted for the A level and GCSE students. The presentations showed how gene therapy is involved with curing certain diseases such as cancer, retinal degeneration

(disease involved with the eye), cystic fibrosis, cardiovascular disease and immuno-deficiencies. The scientists answered difficult and debatable questions at the end of each presentation.

After the first session everyone was allowed to meet the scientists personally during a lunch break. Lunch with the scientists was very interesting as they outlined plans for further research in gene therapy in hopes of curing more diseases.

After lunch came the second session in which the scientists talked more of social and ethical considerations of gene therapy and also what the future is

for gene therapy. The event finished after a 1hr lab tour at the end. Everyone was split into groups and the scientists showed everyone the labs and gave them task in which everyone had to prepare their own slides using hi tech equipment.

The day at Birkbeck was a nice change from trying to cram every detail and complicated procedure into your head just to get through the summer exams. The scientists weren't boring and had managed to give presentations that made everyone learn and laugh at the same time. Hence, it wasn't just very educational but also very fun.

*Tabassum Patel, Yr. 13*

## BARKING POWER STATION

A while back, Year 9 went on a trip to Barking Power Station, where we found out how electricity is made. We also found out about the technology behind it, its environmental impact and how it travels to our houses. It was a very educational trip and we learnt a lot from it. So here is the fascinating info!

### Caring for the Environment

Barking power station tries hard to minimise the impact that they have on the environment. They do this by turning more of their energy into electricity compared to most of the other power stations across the country, which only turn 35% of energy into electricity. Without this happening, the energy would be wasted.

Carbon dioxide, also known as the 'greenhouse' gas

causes global warming. The amount of carbon dioxide being emitted into the environment by Barking power station is only one third and the amount of sulphur dioxide, which causes acid rain, being emitted into the environment is zero.

The power station's technology makes sure that only low levels of nitrous oxide are produced when the station is using gas for fuel.

The station uses combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) technology and has a lower environmental impact than other stations. CCGT technology is one of the cleanest and most efficient forms of power generation. Barking power station is able to generate more than 50% thermal efficiency and produces low levels of emissions.

Barking power stations use

the ICT department to control the steam generators. As it is too hot inside the steam generator so a computer is used to control it instead. The control unit furnishes electric power directly from the surrounding energy accumulator to level power lasting several seconds in the network and the control unit and at the same time adjust the value to increase steam available to the steam turbine.

### Electricity through Water

The second method of making electricity is to pump water from the river. They use the water to condense steam, which is then used to generate electricity. Before they can do anything with the river water, it has to be filtered to take out the fish and rubbish. The fish are returned to the river and the rubbish disposed of. Be-

ause some fish, especially salmon, don't like hot water, once it's reached 21.5° a closed circuit standby cooling system is used instead.

### Energy Efficiency

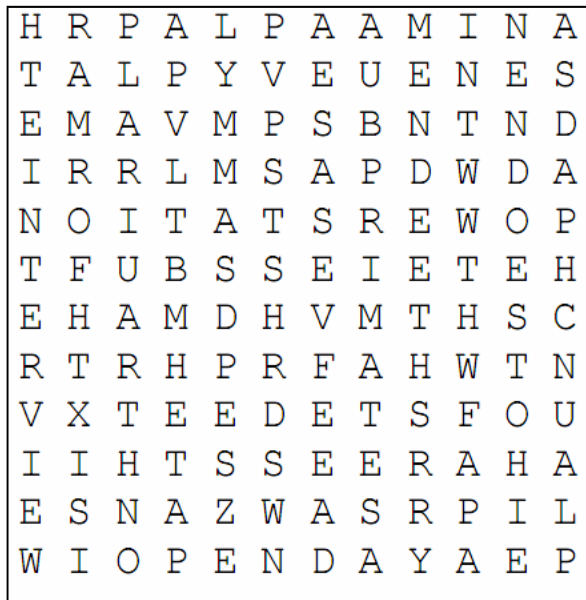
Overall, Barking power station is the most efficient power station factory producing electricity in the UK, through its use of ICT and river water. To top this, it is also one of the most environmentally friendly power station as well.

To sum up this article, we would like to say that the trip to the power station was very educational and very interesting. In short, we enjoyed it very much!

*Nazneen Mayet, Tasnim Hussain, Safiya Farah, Humyraa Aziz and Rahma Mohammed. Year 9B*

**WORDSEARCH**

See if you can find the 14 words which appear elsewhere in the newsletter in the wordsearch square above. It's not easy!



- |               |           |            |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| SALAH         | THERAPY   | SIXTH FORM |
| INTERVIEW     | LAUNCHPAD | TABASSUM   |
| SHEPHERD      | SAWZAN    | SEERAH     |
| OFSTED        | OPEN DAY  |            |
| POWER STATION | PRIMATES  |            |

The first pupil to hand in all three solved puzzles to the School Office will get 30 points for her House!

**YEAR 7'S FIRST TRIP**

Year 7's visit to the science museum was extraordinary and exhilarating. We travelled by bus to Stratford Station. From there we got on a train to South Kensington.

When we arrived, the Science Museum staff greeted us with friendly faces and directed us to the information room. There, we came across a huge range of innovative, engaging and interactive exhibits that provide visitors with lots of opportunities to explore and experiment with real-life scientific phenomena.

The 'relocated and reinvented' Launchpad exhibition was full of amazing activities such as building a bridge out of blocks, a grain machine and much, much more". My absolute favour-

ites were the shadow room, heat panel and a stand which you held with your hand whilst is spun round and round. All that spinning made us hungry so we went off to lunch!

Later on, we went to watch a show about nitrogen and how it can damage your skin, plasticine and food. The presenter even made vanilla ice cream out of nitrogen!

After that, we proceeded to the museum store which was filled with inspiring games, gadgets and goodies. Some people bought four-pointed pencils, others bought torches and many other things.

Sadly the day had to come to an end but we had seen and taken in many interesting facts and memories so we didn't feel too bad as we began our journey back to school. Furthermore, as it was my first trip at Azhar Academy, many of us felt that insh'Allah we would never forget it.

*(Amina Khatun Ali Yr. 7B)*



**SIXTH FORM LIFE**

**Life as an AAGS Sixth former**

Prior to coming to joining AAGS sixth form I had many negative impressions and misconceptions about Muslim schools. I expected small classrooms with no windows, unqualified teachers and few decent resources at AAGS. It turned out that I was wrong.

One of the main things why I was so scared of was being able to fit in with my class. I was scared of making new friends and afraid that I wouldn't be able to relax with them as well I could with my old friends. I missed them a lot. But as it so happened, I had

nothing to be afraid of. All of my new classmates were very friendly.

**A New Class**

Due to majority of us being completely new to the school, we were all rather quiet. Apparently, I was so quiet on the first day that one of my classmates, doesn't even remember me being there. On the second day, she asked me why I had started later than the rest of them?!

The great thing now is that I'm so used to them and so comfortable and relaxed with them, that I can be

myself around them without being the slightest bit self-conscious.

**A Different Approach**

The teachers at AAGS are actually a lot more fun than a normal state school. They try their very best to make our lessons active so that we don't fall asleep in them, but there is only so much a human can do!

The teachers here are qualified, friendly and relaxed around the students and know what they are talking about. Can you imagine if all our teachers were so moody that they never

smiled, they forced us to copy all our notes out of our textbooks and never, ever, ever organised any trips? Alhamdulillah, at AAGS it's nothing like that!

*Rumana Patel, Yr. 12*



**An external picture of our new Sixth Form building**

## CYCLONE SIDR

In December 2007, AAGS students took part in a day of fundraising for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh. Alhamdulillah they were able to raise almost £700 through a range of activities from food stalls, henna, bag making and sponsorships.

Whilst many of us were made aware of the devastating effects of the cyclone through the media as well as family and friends, not all of us understand its cause or frequency. Insh'Allah this article hopes to provide answers to some key questions about the cyclone.

### What is a cyclone?

A tropical cyclone is a general description given to

storms that have formed in the tropics with sustained winds of at least 74 mph. Both hurricanes and typhoons are local names given to these storms in specific parts of the world.

### Why do cyclones and floods hit Bangladesh so often?

Bangladesh is made largely of low-lying floodplains and deltas. Around one-third of the country lies less than 20 feet above sea level.

### When and how fast did Sidr strike?

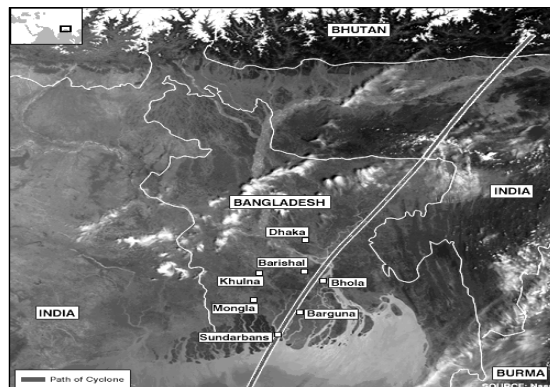
The storm hit Bangladesh late on Thursday, 15th November 2007, with winds rising to 240km/h (150mph). It passed through the capital Dhaka hours later, before dying down in the north-east of the country

### How much damage did it do?

Sidr wiped out villages, infrastructure and crops, killed more than 3,300 people and left millions homeless and dependent on food aid. Overall the number of people estimated to have been affected is 8 million.

### What can be done to help?

We can help by donating money, supporting relief projects and making dua for Sidr's victims alongside raising awareness about the disaster.



## ASK AN AAPA: ISLAMIC Q & A

### Are women allowed to shape or pluck their eyebrows?

It has been narrated by Abdullah Bin Masud (RA, who says that: "I heard Rasulullah (saw) say Allah has cursed the woman who does tattoos and who has them done, the woman who plucks eyebrows and the one who has them done, the woman who files her teeth for the purpose of beauty, altering the creation of Allah" (Narrated by Bukhari & Muslim)

It is evident from the hadith that it is haraam (forbidden) to pluck one's eyebrows as Allah's curse is upon those women who remove eyebrows regardless of what method is used threading, waxing, shaving etc.



### Is one allowed to use hair dye to colour one's hair?

In shariah one is allowed to dye their hair any colour besides black. However before one uses any brand of hair dye colour one needs to ensure the dye contains non alcoholic ingredients. One should also make sure the dye does not contain ingredients which prevent water reaching the hair or the roots of the hair. As if the ingredients are such which prevent water from reaching the hair or the roots of the hair than the Ghusl or Wudhu will not be complete and one will not be in a state of purity.

The dying of hair must be merely for oneself or hus-

band not for fashion or to be seen by strangers.



### When are supplications most likely to be accepted?

Dua at the time of sahoor  
Dua after fardh salah  
Dua at the time of zawwal  
Dua on the day of Arafat  
Dua made after adhaan  
Dua between adhaan and iqaamah  
Dua in the month of Ramadan  
Dua on the 15<sup>th</sup> of shawwal  
Dua on the completion of the Quran  
Dua when drinking zam zam  
Dua on a Friday made between asar and maghrib and made at salatul jumaah time  
Dua during a journey  
Dua when experiencing illness.



### In shariah is it permissible to celebrate one's birthday or attend a birthday party?

Islam only approves of two feasts, there is no 3<sup>rd</sup> feast. No evidence is found from the Qur'an or the sunnah of Rasulullah SaW regarding the celebration of birthdays hence, the majority of scholars do not consider them permissible. If celebrating one's own birthday is not permissible then how would it be permissible to attend the parties of others?

Got a question for the next edition? Just hand it in to any of the AAGS Aalimahs.

## ANAGRAMS

Unscramble the words below to reveal the names of twelve famous cities in the Muslim world.

KAHAMK	TISUBNAL
DSUACMSA	ABDAHDG
DHEMIAN	IEBTUR
HAKTUROM	ACOIR
ASLEIRG	SARAMRKEH
AUBLK	MEESRLJAU

The first pupil to hand in all three solved puzzles to the School Office will get 30 points for her House!

## POETRY

## في المدرسة

في الصباح نذهب الى المدرسة  
من الساعة السابعة الى الساعة الرابعة  
نتعلم دروسنا  
و نقرا كتبنا  
نتكلم مع صديقاتنا  
و ناكل طعامنا  
و ندرس اللغة العربية  
نحن نحب مدرستنا

(Zainab K, Tayabbah, Sharmin, Afifa, Lina, 9A)

## 'MONKEYING' AROUND AT LONDON ZOO

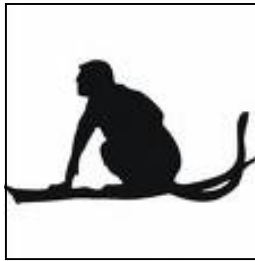
When most people think of a trip to the zoo, the image that they get is a bunch of kids cooing at the cute animals and awed at the large and mighty ones. However, as a sixth former, we attended the zoo for a few different purposes. Part of our trip was spent admiring the beauty of the animals, but the main point of our trip was to learn about primates. I will briefly explain what we learnt about them, as personally, I didn't have much knowledge about them whatsoever before attending this trip.

Primates are mammals such as apes and monkeys and even us humans. We were taught about these primates according to their chronological order beginning from the Old World primates to the New World primates and how they have adapted to the environment over time.

## New v's Old World

Primates are divided into two categories: the old world and new world pri-

mates. The primates can be identified by the structure of their noses which is quite interesting, because just like we humans have different features that identify where we come from, animals have it too. The New World monkeys, which are mostly in the western side, have flatter noses, with nostrils facing the sides, whereas the Old World monkeys



which are mainly based near Africa, have narrow, downward facing noses.

## Fingerprints on Tails!

During our visit, we were lectured on primates and we were then sent on a task to help us identify different types of primates and it was interesting to see the different personalities that were observed. The spider monkey was an exceptionally amazing creature that actually used its tail as an extra arm or leg to swing from the

branches. The tail even had its own fingerprint!

Among the New World monkeys are the black capped squirrel monkeys whom we closely observed, particularly their behavioural characteristics. They were the most friendly, cheeky, social and active. And not to forget they were very colourful and cute. It is believed that the squirrel monkeys have the largest brain in relation to their body size compared to any

other primate.

## Mobiles and Mustard

On normal days, the zoo keeper informed us, the squirrel monkeys were able to roam free and actually stole people's mobile phones and had to be trained not to. They actually did this by zoo workers holding dummy mobile phones with mustard on it. The squirrel monkeys, although it is not harmful for them, dislike the mustard. Two of them also once es-

caped the zoo.

## Jealousy and Heartbreak

We also learnt that jealousy and heartbreak isn't an emotion suffered only by humans, but it seems by gorillas too. Bobby the only male gorilla at the zoo had a mate for many years called Susie. However, she was too old to reproduce or breed any offspring. Therefore, the zoo keepers decided to get Bobby a new partner to mate with. The gorillas in the zoo are now very depressed. Susie has to be separated from the new mate who is only 7 years old, as the zoo keepers fear that things could get messy with the two females fighting within the enclosure. Bobby himself looked very distraught and it was quite depressing to watch him in the cage just sitting there alone.

Overall, the trip was a highly informative and enjoyable event which taught all of us that there is more to monkeys than meets the eye.

Aishah Mulla Yr. 12



### OFSTED HIGHLIGHTS

*A brief summary of AAGS' Ofsted Report (Dec. 2007)*

#### Quality of education

The school provides a **good** curriculum. The curriculum is well planned and well resourced. Schemes of work are clearly outlined. Citizenship, Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education add a strong dimension to AAGS's provision.

AAGS teachers' subject knowledge is secure. Their planning is **good** and they are confident in planning clear learning objectives which can be assessed in lessons. Teacher's planning contributes to pupil's enjoyment of school and helps motivate them to try hard at their work. Teachers use a variety of approaches to maintain pupil's interest and to give them opportunities to explore different ways of thinking.

AAGS after school classes/

clubs enable its pupils to develop further. AAGS school trips are consistent and enjoyed by pupils. AAGS management's procedures for monitoring lessons contribute to teacher's professional development.

End of topic assessments, targets and self assessments are valued by pupils and encourage them to work hard and reflect on their own learning. Twice yearly written reports and parental consultations help ensure that parents are well informed about their children's progress.

#### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Provision for pupil's spiritual, moral and cultural development is **good** and is strongly fostered through the curriculum. AAGS has a distinctive and well established ethos which creates a strong

sense of community. AAGS classroom rules and policies support **good** behaviour and reinforce pupils understanding of right and wrong.

Pupil's behaviour is consistently **good**. Pupils are well known to staff and feel safe in their care. Pupils feel they have made **good** progress and enjoy taking part in the different events and programmes that AAGS offer. Attendance is consistently high.

#### Welfare, health and safety of the pupils

Provision for the welfare, health and safety of the pupils is **good**. AAGS's staff

and pupils have a positive relationship which creates an ethos in which pupils feel cared for and secure. AAGS main school building has been remodelled with sensitivity and imagination to provide **good** quality accommodation designed well for its purpose. Available space is used to maximise potential and create interesting learning environments.

#### Provision of information for parents, carers and others

AAGS provides parents with clear and useful information through its prospectus and parents' handbook. Parents believe that they are kept well informed about their children's progress.

### AAGS OPEN DAY




**AZHAR ACADEMY GIRLS SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 2008**

AAGS invites pupils and parents wishing to enrol their children in Year 7 and A-level\* classes in September 2008 to attend this event. On the day, you will be able to:

- View the school and sixth form buildings
- View our facilities and resources
- Meet and talk to our teaching staff
- Learn more about our curriculum (including the Islamic Studies and Aalimah Course curricula)
- Obtain sample entrance test papers (The test will be held on Friday, 28th March.)

\* At present, our A-level subjects include English Literature, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, General Studies and Urdu.

**FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Ladies' Session 5pm - 7pm** | **Mens' Session 8pm - 9pm**

235a Romford Road | Forest Gate | London E7 9HL  
020 8555 5959 | girls.school@azharacademy.org

For more details or to download application forms, please visit our website at [www.azharacademy.org](http://www.azharacademy.org)





### SUDOKU

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