



AS-SAWT

THE VOICE

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The Newsletter for Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School
and Sixth Form College

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Three in a row from Ofsted

Humairaa Dudhwala, 12C

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single Office for Standards in Education in possession of coveted power must be in want of dishing out an imposing inspection. And yet, the horror expected upon receiving the dreaded phone call from Ofsted on Monday 11th March was (almost) non-existent, as the school braced itself for their third inspection in five years.

This year the sixth form was also inspected for the first time. Disregarding the frenzy which overtook the very brief period of time before the inspectors marched in, with the last-second displays and hesitant tiptoes, staff and students alike once again demonstrated the 'outstanding' nature of the institution.

Following a two day inspection in which lessons were meticulously observed, parents asked and governors consulted, the inspectors admitted how the school would be rated beyond outstanding if it were possible. In their report, inspectors revealed that, '**Highly effective teaching ensures that students' learning is outstanding. Students are ambitious and have high expectations of**

themselves. Their excellent attitudes make a significant contribution to their many accomplishments. They are happy, mature, confident, caring individuals.' The inspectors concluded that all areas, including achievement of pupils, behaviour and safety, leadership and management and quality of teaching were '**outstanding**', as well as the sixth form itself being 'outstanding' too.

Mufti Abdul Hamid, Principal, commented, '**The inspection report is wonderful. It reflects the amazing efforts of our hardworking and committed students, teachers and parents. We are all delighted and very grateful.'**

To achieve this feat alone is something to be proud of. To repeat this a second time is awe-inspiring. To maintain this standard three times in a row is nothing short of a phenomenon. We thank the Almighty for the grace He has bestowed upon us and pray for many more successes to come.



Principal's...Reflections on the Term

(Mufti) Hamid Patel **Principal & Chief Executive**

All praises to the Almighty, Lord of the Worlds and the Master of our fortunes and salutations to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the Seal of the Prophets and the guide for all our actions.

Teaching British Values

Recently, there has been concern that schools may not be fully preparing learners for life in a country where there are many cultures, faiths and practices. The worry has been that students might only learn about one particular faith or culture, or taught values that do not encourage them to play a full and positive role in modern Britain.

As a result, the Government announced that all schools should teach 'British values'. These values include democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

At Tauheedul, we have been teaching such values for many years. As a school with a Muslim ethos, each of these values are not just 'British' values, but principles that Islam teaches. We ask our students to oppose all forms of discrimination and prejudice – not just because it's the British thing to do, but because it's the Islamic thing to do and the right thing to do.

Each of our students completes a GCSE qualification in Citizenship – learning about democracy, human rights and public institutions such as parliament, courts of justice and a free media which are the bulwarks that protect these values. In Religious Studies, they learn about the beauty of mainstream Islamic teachings – with its emphasis on peace, love for others and self-discipline – but also of the tenets of other faiths and cultures. In Politics and History at A Level, our students learn about the different ways that rulers are elected and countries are governed – and about the major events that have shaped our modern world. Later this year, our students will commemorate the sacrifice of 10 million people in World War 1 and how people of all faiths and cultures came together during two World Wars to defeat fascism and secure freedom. In English lessons, our students are exposed to literature by a range of authors – from the literary masterpieces of Shakespeare and Dickens to the modern fiction of J.K. Rowling and Khaled Hosseini. And, in our Life Skills lessons, we prepare our daughters for their future lives – as confident and independent women, making informed and positive choices about their relationships, careers and leisure.

All of these – and so many more experiences – expose our students to 'British' values and norms in a setting that is sensitive to their faith and culture. As a faith school, we

ensure that our students are able to learn 'British values' whilst being able to practise their faith in a way that they wish to do so. So, students are able to wear a uniform which is consistent with their faith, eat a meal prepared in a manner that is sensitive to their beliefs and be able to pray when and if they wish to do so.

In doing so, we want our daughters to appreciate that there is no reason why they, or anyone else, cannot be both an exemplary British citizen and a pious and faithful believer.

This is a lesson that all of us; parents, school teachers, members of the community; should be teaching to each young person in the country – regardless of the faith they might have, the heritage with which they were born and the type of school in which they are educated.

Ramadhaan

By the time that you read this, around two thirds of the holy month of Ramadhaan will have passed. For Muslims, the month of Ramadhaan is full of challenges – lengthy fasts, a lack of adequate sleep, late evening prayers and balancing work whilst tired and hungry. However, that is precisely the point of Ramadhaan – to feel weak, realise the limits of our power, appreciate the Mercies of the Lord and feel empathy for those who are far less fortunate than us.

It is also a beautiful month – full of blessings and a chance to re-connect with our Lord, come closer as a family and realise our true purpose in life. It is also an opportunity to curb the excesses of our lives – in how much we eat and throw away, in the pace of our lives as we strive to earn more and more money and in the consumerism with which we slavishly chase the latest fashions and technological 'must-haves'.

I wish everyone a peaceful, blessed and spiritual few weeks and request your prayers for the school and everyone who serves it.

I hope that you enjoy this latest edition of the As-Sawt magazine.

@Hamid Patel

Hayat Sindi: Inspiration and Role Model

Humeirah Ougradar

Leaders, athletes, scientists, lawyers, political activists, creatives, writers and poets. Lengthening the list of notable and inspirational role models are the names of undoubtedly talented, influential and strong Muslim women. One such woman is Hayat Sindi, whose work and strength of character is an inspiration to us all.

Saudi born Sindi left her home in Mecca to pursue her passion for science in England. After adopting a new tongue and completing her A Levels, she was accepted at the prestigious King's College University of London, where she graduated with a degree in Pharmacology. While at King's College, she was a recipient of Princess Anne's Award for her undergraduate work on allergy and proceeded to complete a doctorate at Cambridge in 2001 - the first woman of her background to accomplish such a feat.

Her further achievements in the field include co-founding a technology at Harvard to develop a new technique of using tiny, cheap slips of paper and a drop of blood or saliva to diagnose liver disease, and perhaps other ailments also – replacing costly lab tests. The creation, while still being tested, has the potential to save thousands of lives across the developing world.

Noted for her innovative and creative stance in an otherwise serious occupation, Sindi expresses her devotion: **'Scientists need to think about society, they need to think outside the box.'** Other such accolades include winning the Mekkah Al Mukaram prize for scientific innovation, given by HRH Prince Khalid bin Faisal Al Saud in 2010. She was also named a 2011 Emerging Explorer by the National Geographic Society. In 2012, she was labelled one of Newsweek's **'150 Women Who Shake the World.'**

Hayat utilises her influence to promote the education of science to improve the possibilities and opportunities for girls to potentially develop a career in science.

Through sticking to her convictions and spiritual morals, her success is all the more notable. Hayat's accomplishments go to show that influence extends so far as you let it, and remaining true to yourself and values will surely bring you the fruits of your toils.

The Joys of Teaching

Zainab Ibrahim, 10E2

Enthusiasm, organisation and tolerance were a few of the skills that prevailed in each and every pupil taking part in the Year 9 Sports Leadership Programme. The mission was: to coach, to deliver, and (of course) to have fun! Each Friday afternoon, whilst most went home and sought respite, a very courageous group of girls took on a troop of eager Year 1s. The girls motivated, entertained and inspired the Olive School primary children, who used every ounce of energy the girls had.

I can understand how teachers feel. It's hard work!
Naeema Desai, Year 9

Naeema Desai, 9M2, said: **'I can understand how teachers feel. It's hard work!'** There was no one more pleased with the girls than P.E teacher, Mrs Mulla. She elaborated: **'They had to plan all the lessons. It was a true teaching experience. And the girls were excellent ambassadors of Tauheedul!'**

Liyaa Patel, 9M1, described: **'It was fun organising the lessons but most of all, it was a productive way to make use of a Friday!'**

Transforming Beardwood

Zainab Rangila, 12C

On entering the school building for the first time at the beginning of this year, everyone was amazed at the huge transformation of the building. However, queries were floating around in the air: 'Why are the walls so bare?' 'Why is the lunch queue never ending?' 'Why is the pond water always changing colour?' Slowly but surely, all these comments reached the staff members, who tried to make the school building as attractive as possible.

Miss Bashira chased after free students to help her with the notice boards. Dr Bashir taught her science class in the social space because the labs still being refurbished, and empty shelves slowly filled the void behind the reception desk. Experiments were carried out to test different designs. What would display Tauheedul at its best? A bunch of roses in the middle of a purple pond, portraying the caring face and soft side of Tauheedul? Or a fountain in natural water, depicting a serene atmosphere with a hint of sophistication?

Although some ideas were simply bizarre, others were downright remarkable. Books were added to the empty shelves, transforming the empty space into a fully-fledged library. Bean bags were later

brought in along with round tables, making it the perfect place for some peaceful and quiet independent revision. The notice boards were filled with impressive work produced by the students and wall stickers were pasted onto the science lab walls. Gym equipment was also placed in the fitness studio, finally fulfilling the promise of providing a gym for the college students.

Lubna Mulla, 13E, commented on these facilities: **'I am upset that I will not have the chance to fully experience using these facilities everyday as I will be leaving soon. However, I am excited for the other students who will have a chance to make use of them.'** A fountain, a library, a gym. All in the span of a year. But this isn't the end for Tauheedul. Next year, Tauheedul are hoping to build the garden that the college students have planned out.

All in all, the new Tauheedul will just keep getting better and better. As time evolves, the building will become more sophisticated, up-to-date and futuristic. Maybe the school buses will be replaced with personalised helicopters with designated chauffeurs. Who knows?



Maths Mayhem and Scientific Pursuits Ayesha Musa, 10L2



Last term, Tauheedul saw KS3 students diligently take part in many a math and science related activities, proving how the two subjects really can be used in everyday life! Similarly, the UKMT challenge celebrated the number crunching skills of students across the school.

Going back to the week commencing 14th March, Year 7 celebrated the much anticipated National Science and Engineering Week with a series of fun filled

science lessons. Teachers of the subject conducted experiments to teach the use of alkalis and acids in everyday items such as bath soap and creating bubbles. Humayra Namazi, 7S2, said, **'The experiments were really enjoyable! Especially making rainbow fish with baking soda.'**

The UKMT challenge tests also took place in maths classrooms across Tauheedul. Many of our students received bronze and silver awards, showing their potential to study

maths further. A team of 4 Year 8 and 9 students, who represented Tauheedul at the UKMT junior team challenge, also displayed this potential. Miss Kamal told how the students were excellent ambassadors for the school and did very well against stiff competition.

It was a tremendous term of activities put on by the math and science departments which will surely be returning next year.

Exams and Leavers' Assembly Raeesah S Ismail, 11H3

The hard-working students of Year 11 laboriously battled the term of despair as they strenuously worked their way through countless exams. Nonetheless, it ended with the entertaining yet emotional Leavers' Assembly that the girls put into play, where treasured memories were amusingly recalled.

Alongside lengthy hours of tedious revision and sleepless nights, came weeks of tension, tears and trauma for Year 11s. Years of hard work were being put to the

test in the space of a month. However, with the help of the Almighty, they managed to complete their examinations with ease.

Once exams had been completed, Year 11s faced a huge amount of pressure to create a marvellous assembly to present to the rest of the school.

Nevertheless, our girls managed to produce a remarkably gripping and thoroughly entertaining assembly that had the entire school on the edge of their seats. Teachers and students alike found themselves

laughing to the humorous retellings of classroom occurrences.

Samira Patel, Year 11, recounted, **'Although the assembly was an emotional rollercoaster, I will remember it for the rest of my life. The sensation that was present at that time was overwhelming and it will stay with me for years to come!'**

Undeniably, Year 11s ended their year with tears of relief, sadness and joy. We hope the girls secure success in all of their future endeavours.

A Cause for Commemoration

Arifa Patel, 9M3

Exactly 70 years ago, on 6th June 1944, a group of weary and wizened soldiers landed on the beaches of Normandy in France. With gritted teeth and heavy footsteps, they began the long hard push to Germany, to justice and to freedom. 70 years on, the day, known as 'D-Day', is a cause for commemoration. It is a day to celebrate the courage and valour of the heroic soldiers who fought for our country.

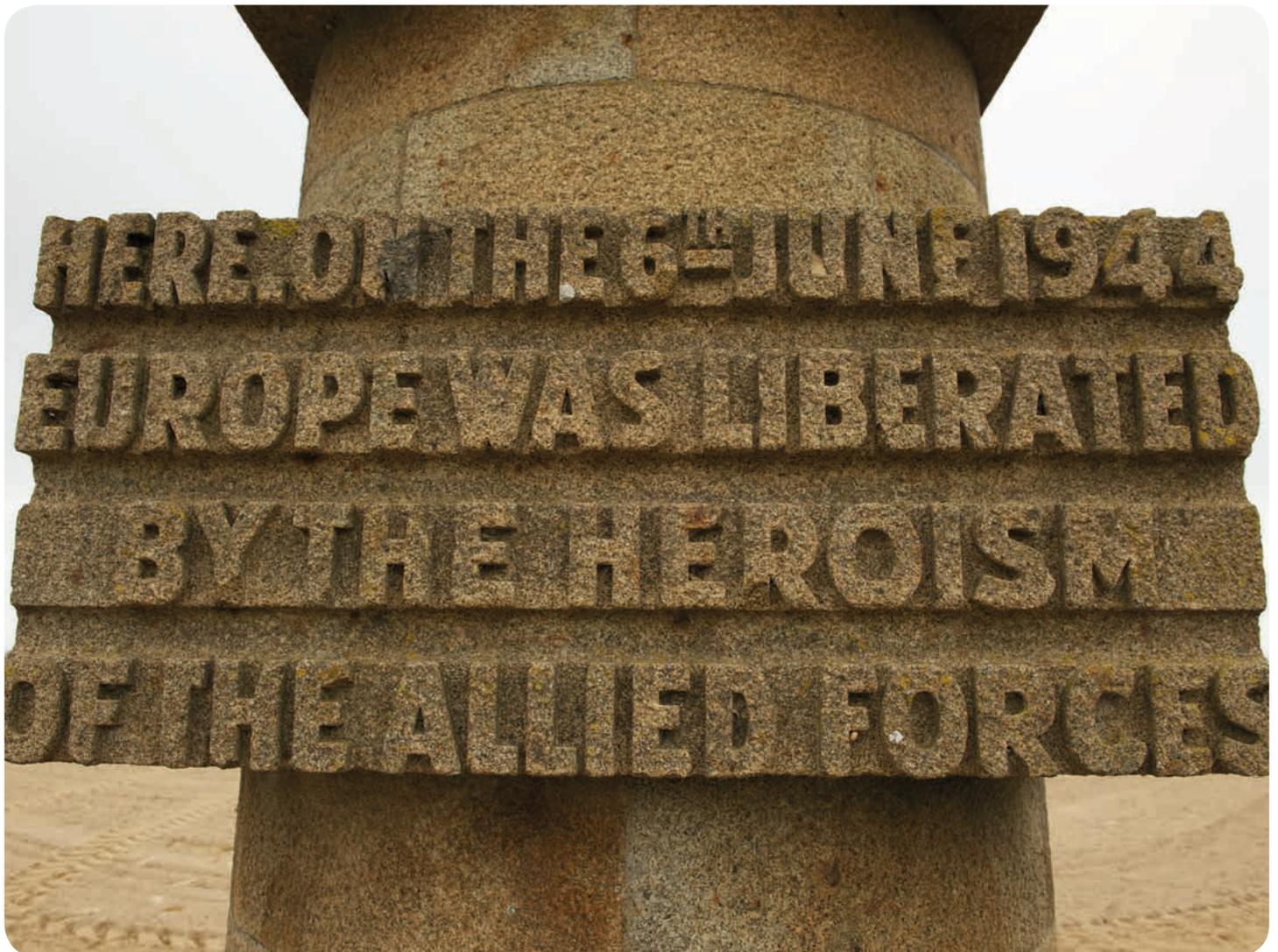
It was from here, a small beach on the coast of war ridden France that the soldiers trudged onwards, fighting for liberty, justice and freedom. It was the beginning of an operation that had been planned for months beforehand to overthrow Hitler. The invasion of Normandy was the largest ever assault of land and water, with over 7,000 ships and 11,000 aircraft. Prime Minister at the time, Winston Churchill, said the landing was **'on a scale far larger than anything there has been so far in the world.'** So vital it was that the plan run smoothly, that King George IV broadcast a message the night before warning of the 'supreme test' the armies faced and called on the nation to pray for success and freedom.

**They weren't just any soldiers,
they weren't just fighters
for the country,
they fought for all of us –
for the future generation.**

Khadeejah Abdullah, Year 9

Khadeejah Abdullah, Year 9, said, **'They weren't just any soldiers, they weren't just fighters for the country, they fought for all of us – for the future generation. And that's what matters most. I think there's a message of unity to be learnt here.'**

Thus, one of the greatest events in British history was marked by celebrations across Europe and was commemorated by the war veterans still alive today.





World Book Night Aasiyah Suleman, 9M2



Compared to the advanced technology of today, reading a book can seem like a dated task. It is surprising how many teenagers are reluctant to open a book and immerse themselves into a whole new world. But, on 23rd April, Tauheedul took up the challenge to change this mind-set and set up an exciting action packed adventure in celebration of World Book Night.

Around 40 students arrived at the library in the evening, unsure of what was in store for them. They were not disappointed, as the evening started off with an exciting reading by Miss Salma of Robert Muchamore's, 'The Recruit' – a novel from his famous 'Cherub' series.

Students participated in fun activities, which also involved some MI5 agent style fieldwork out on the school grounds in the pouring rain. Clues were set for the students to decode using different passages from the book and they thoroughly enjoyed the detective work. Miss Mohamed, English teacher, explained, **'We tried to replicate the conditions and some of the challenges that MI5 agents go through. The decoding was particularly challenging and the lashings of rain just made for the perfect conditions for spy work.'**

At the end of the night, each student was given a copy of 'The Recruit', courtesy of World Book Night giver, Miss Mohamed.

It was an inspiring day, and hopefully, eyes were opened to the joys of reading.

Salters' Festival 2014

Maryam Sharief, 9M2

Competitiveness, enthusiasm and perseverance – these are the things that made the students of Tauheedul achieve first place in the annual Salter's Challenge. The Salter's Challenge is a national competition chosen by the University of Manchester for students in Year 7 and 8.

This year, the festival took place on Monday 9th June and our team consisted of Ayesha Vali, Aazima Vali, Namira Patel and Aamaani Moress, who all had the opportunity to spend the day at the University. They took part in challenging chemistry activities and used their skills and knowledge to complete the given tasks.

Over eighteen schools, including top grammar schools took part in the event, and our students gained the much-coveted first position for the second time running in the 'University Challenge', winning three molecular kits for the school.

They used their investigative skills to identify an unknown chemical using test tube reactions and chromatography. Miss Ali, Science teacher expressed her excitement at achieving first place: **'Brilliant! The girls had a fantastic time and everybody was very welcoming and helpful.'**

We hope to achieve such success for years to come!



"Brilliant! The girls had a fantastic time and everybody was very welcoming and helpful."

Miss Ali, Science teacher

The Excellence of Ramadhaan

Zainab Ismail, 11H1

The blessed month of Ramadhaan brings happiness, goodness and benefits for all of us. Ramadhaan brings out a special feeling of excitement and spirituality amongst the worldwide Muslim Ummah. As much as we look forward to the excitement of sighting the moon and eating special meals with our families, we should all appreciate the opportunity to double our rewards and seek forgiveness for past sins.

As time passes, our perseverance and determination is strengthened throughout the month - qualities that we then hope to carry through with us for the rest of the year. Fasting has been prescribed for us so that we may become better people, so that we can better our characters. Yes, our stomachs are supposed to get a break too – but most of us tend to over-compensate at iftar when we come face to face with deep-fried golden brown samosas and their co-conspirators.

However, achieving a better spiritual state is the most challenging. We abstain from giving in to our physical desires so that our hearts and spirits are strengthened, arming us with the ability to fortify our faith and spirituality. In many ways this month is a celebration for Muslims around the world because the Quran was first revealed in this month.

What better way to celebrate than bring about a significant and much-needed positive change within ourselves? Certainly, there is only one reason why a believer would put himself or herself through this tremendous task - it is only to seek the pleasure of the Almighty.

Fasting is the single most important device to test the Imaan of the believer and the depth of his sincerity and commitment to the concept of Tawheed - the Oneness of the Almighty.

So this Ramadhaan, give yourself the time to isolate yourself for self-contemplation, to remember the Almighty through His remembrance and we will all be lifted spiritually and will enjoy life tremendously.



Tauheedul Girls

Editor - Humeirah Ougradar, Year 13

Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School and Sixth Form College,
Preston New Road, Blackburn BB2 7AD T: 01254 54021

Newsletter design: Source Creative T: 01254 729063

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