

AS-SAWT

THE VOICE



Tauheedul Girls

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

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Results' Day 2017: Smashing Expectations

Amirah Chati, 12B3

Another year has passed and once again the Tauheedul Honours' Board will be adorned with outstanding results.

The first year of GCSE and A level education reforms were initially met with uncertainty and worry, but, in the Tauheedul spirit, they were greeted with unprecedented levels of enthusiasm and perseverance from both teachers and pupils. And the results reflect this spectacularly.

GCSE students celebrated on Results' Day when 81% of pupils achieved a 'strong pass' in GCSE English and Maths and 76% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate. **Ayesha Master - an ex-Year 11 student - said:** 'It was good to see all our hard work pay off!'

And it wasn't just the GCSEs, the Tauheedul Sixth Form rejoiced after having 99% of A Levels completed at A*-C grade, with 38% at the top A*-A grades. To top it off - 86% of vocational courses were completed at 'DDD' Distinction grade or better.

Following these incredible results, we take a moment to give a message on behalf of all the students:

Thank you for all our teachers who sacrificed time to make Results' Day as joyous as it was. And most importantly, we thank the Almighty, for it was only with His help.





Chief Executive's...Reflections on the Term

(Mufti) Hamid Patel

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.

A Beautiful Mind....

Sometimes, life is hard.

We get through the day, often with insufficient sleep, unhealthy meals, rushed prayers and neglected relationships. Our minds are bombarded with more and more worries, we work to achieve ever challenging targets and we have become slaves to the very technology that was designed to liberate us.

And, all of this can place an incredible strain – on our bodies, our minds and our souls.

The stresses and strains of daily life are all the more difficult for our young people growing up in an ever-changing world with so many new pressures that did not exist just a few years ago. They are told so much about them is not good enough – their bodies, their grades, their ideas and the way they talk or think. They have a complex relationship with technology, often benefitting from the interaction it provides with a diverse world, but sometimes unable to maintain a healthy detachment and perspective.

This is why it is more important today than ever before to look after the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our young men and women.

When someone breaks a leg, catches the flu or suffers a heart attack, we show incredible sensitivity and understanding. We visit the ailing person, say kind words, offer our prayers and think of ways to help them get better. So, if a family member, friend, neighbour or colleague is suffering from a mental illness, why should we not consider it our religious and personal duty to do the same?

At Tauheedul, we are working hard to raise awareness of mental health. During this term, our students and staff have listened to talks from mental health experts, learnt new ways to manage stress and strengthen their emotional wellbeing and been trained in how to support the mental health of others. We provide regular drop-in sessions with a nurse and mentors for students and teachers if they feel unable to cope with the daily stresses of life. We are delivering lessons in mental health and changing some of the routines in school to promote the wellbeing of our learners and staff.

However, mental health is not just the responsibility of our schools and our health professionals. It is an issue for our families, our community and our wider society. In our homes, we need to make more time for each other, discuss the pressures that we feel and be open about stress and mental illness. And, as a community and a society, we need more love, empathy and understanding for those who are suffering in this way – make time for people, be kind to each other and not judge or stigmatise someone if they feel unable to cope with the daily pressures of life.

Above all, for those who are struggling with a mental illness, we need to show that they are not alone.

Achieving Great Things....

The summer saw a new era in GCSE and A Level exams. We now have longer exams testing much more content and with much tougher questions. The Government introduced a new grading system at GCSE, with 9 being the best grade and 1 being the lowest. And, A Level exams now assess students' learning after two years of study, instead of at the end of each year.

All of these changes – and the fact that many of these exams were

completed whilst students fasted during the month of Ramadhaan – made this summer tougher than ever before.

So, we were really grateful and delighted with this year's results.

At GCSE, our school achieved a Progress 8 score of +1.82. 'Progress 8' is the Government's main performance measure and reflects the value that schools add to the progress of students compared to their peers of similar prior ability across the country. So, our Progress 8 value means that our students make almost two grades' more progress on average than students nationally.

In our Sixth Form, all of our academic students left with 3A*-Cs at A Level and almost all of our vocational students achieved at least the higher Distinction (DDD) grade in the Extended Diploma. These were our best results ever and helped many of our students to progress to fantastic degree programmes at excellent universities across the country.

Such achievements do not happen by accident. The incredible efforts and talents of our students and teachers, the prayers and loyal support of our parents and – most importantly – the Grace of the Almighty are crucial to our success.

We wish each of our school and college leavers the very best and will miss them dearly. But, in the summer of 2017, they left a wonderful legacy to remember them by.

In Need Of Heroes....

It is a time in need of heroes.

During troubled times, we need someone to study, to follow, to believe, to trust, to draw comfort and inspiration from.

At the end of November, we will once again mark the birth date of that ultimate hero for many of us – our noble Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Once the noble Prophet said to his followers, "I wish I could meet my brothers."

The Prophet's companions were surprised and said, "Are we not your brothers?"

The Prophet replied, "You are my companions, but my brothers are those who have faith in me, though they never saw me."

Our noble Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) yearned to meet us, referring to us as close family and urging us to believe in him.

So, the coming weeks will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the life of our noble Prophet and re-connect with the lessons from his life that can guide us to success even today.

In his childhood, he taught us the importance of loving orphans and those who have little. In his business dealings, our noble Prophet was known as honest and trustworthy. Towards his family and his friends, he was loving and gentle. And, to his adversaries and those who hurt him, he was merciful and forgiving. During times of grief and sadness, he turned to prayer and showed great patience and faith. He lived a simple and modest life, and did not care for wealth or power.

All of this – and so much more – make him the ultimate hero of our time.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of the As-Sawt magazine and will remember the school in your prayers.

The Voice

Learning Success at KPMG

Following a successful week of enterprise, the eleven winning students of Enterprise Week took a trip to the busy, bustling - and fairly new - offices of KPMG in Manchester. The day began with an introductory tour around the vast office spaces, spiralling stairs and stunning views of the city. Having seen the pods for work, the meeting rooms and even receiving a special visitor badge, the students managed to gain an insight into what it is like to be an employee for a Big Four accounting firm.

During the course of the day, they met many employees, who talked about their experience at KPMG, and put the students through mock interviews in order to show them the process of employment in a workplace. The questions required an intricate thought-process and the students were taught how to manipulate and answer difficult questions. They were asked about their experience, hopes and dreams and the students pondered with well thought out answers.

Aaliyah Musa, 11S2



All in all, the day was extremely educational and student Aisha Ghiwala recalls: 'The experience was incredible. We managed to learn a lot about the firm and learnt many skills during our stay at the office.'

Firms like KPMG are just as attainable for our students as they are for any other. If you aspire to be an accountant and want to become a successful asset to a large business, then work hard and dream big, because it could very well soon be you.

The Pilgrimage of a Lifetime: Hajj 2017

Huma Ahmed, 11S3

Monday 4th September marked the end of the Muslim's annual pilgrimage to Makkah. After an exhausting five days of withstanding the harsh Arabian heat, those taking part in the annual pilgrimage, were finally reunited with their loved ones having just undergone the most spiritual journey of their lives.

We all know that the pilgrimage is one of the pillars of Islam and one of the key themes is submission to their Lord, yet there are aspects of the pilgrimage that are just as defining, but not as well known.

Ms Bux, Teacher of English, who took part in the pilgrimage said:
'I met lots of people from various cultures and races - I made some friends for life.'

One of the main ideas of the pilgrimage is unity. A person's race, language or background simply ceases to matter on an open plain, clothed in a plain, white, two pieced attire. Wealth, status or any

differentiation is invisible as they stand in the open areas of Makkah, where faces meet, hands shake, greetings are exchanged, tongues communicate, and hearts reconcile. There's no other time in the year, other than during the time of the pilgrimage, where people from so many different places come together, leaving behind their daily lives, families and jobs to prostrate in humility to the same God.

'All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black, nor a black has any superiority over a white - except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood.'

This was said by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah) is surely a manifestation of this ideal.

Reaching for the Bronze: Duke of Edinburgh

Zainab Karbhari, 11S4

"We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort." - Jesse Owens



And it was these same qualities that, 61 years after the start of the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award, allowed approximately 30 students from Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form to put their strengths to the test by completing the DofE Bronze Award.

Compared to the practice expedition they undertook in April, from trudging through swamp-like areas of mud and occasionally losing a boot here or there, the qualifying expedition in July was definitely new terrain.

Swamped under the exhausting heat and a full kit on their backs, the teams lugged themselves from start to camp and back, with smiles on their faces right until the very end. They experienced sleeping in the great outdoors under the stars, cooking on a stove

and guiding themselves forward with only a paper map and thoroughly skilled team members. Through fields of cows, sheep and ponies, and footpaths forking off into all different directions, not one participant forgot their purpose and strived to reach their goal.

It was, no doubt, a great learning curve for all the participants, who gained highly valuable skills related to teamwork, determination and self-belief.

Aazima Vali, Year 11, remarked: 'It was a challenging experience, but well worth it, as we learnt many new skills.'

Now the bronze award has been conquered, who amongst them is brave enough to work for the silver?



Enterprise with a Twist!

Enterprise Day came with a surprise this year.

Annually, year 10 create a unique product during 'Enterprise Day'. However, this year's theme was a little different: social enterprise. The task's focal point was to create a social enterprise that would help working women. In order to inspire exceptional social enterprises, three valuable and stimulating speeches were dispersed throughout the day.

As aspiring working women, the topic was particularly close at heart. So this activity gave us time to reflect on our time ahead and rethink our options for the future. We discovered that there are endless possibilities far into our horizons, both academic and otherwise.

Mubarak Chati - Managing Director at 1 Events Media Ltd - was one of the professionals who spoke to Year 10. He said: 'During enterprise week, I found the Tauheedul Girls' enthusiasm relating to entrepreneurship very encouraging and reassuring. The importance of sowing the seeds of commerce at such a young age should not be underestimated as these children are the future.'

Hadiqa Ali, 10H3

Throughout the day, there was a buzz of excitement and sparks of creativity as everybody got to work in their groups to make their presentations the best they could possibly be, and to impress the judges in the afternoon. When presenting, each group brought something new to the table and - accompanying the great presentations - there was also a real sense of teamwork.

In the end, it was a close call, but the two runners-up and winners were well deserved. However, being part of something bigger as a team, feeling inspired and creating something you are passionate about is what Enterprise Day has taught us is truly important.



Nickname Notoriety

Whilst many people would perhaps prefer to be called by their full names, evading a nickname is no simple task. Whether it begins as a contraction of one's own name or as a constant, deep-seated reminder of an embarrassing encounter.

Nicknames tend to catch on. The British certainly do seem to have a knack for nicknames.

And that isn't necessarily a problem. After all, nicknames are often used as a term of endearment; they provide an informal way of communicating with someone else - unless, of course, they simply have an inexorably long and complex name which requires contracting. The point that I am attempting to convey here is that throughout our lives - perhaps in our infancy, childhood, adolescence or even adulthood (unlikely as it is) we will be given a nickname. Perhaps by someone we have always known. Perhaps not. It's more of a question of "when" as opposed to "if".

As obvious as this may seem to any of you, my conjecture is not of the event but rather its impact. Contrary to the names assigned to us at birth, nicknames are far more intimate vocatives and often give a small insight into us as people. Whether or not they started out with a meaning, the significance of nicknames in themselves grows, until their original meaning is lost and they take on a new one - the association of the nickname. Say, for example, a nickname is given to someone by their family. Any mention of it and the word would immediately be associated

Arifa Patel, 13B8

with home and comfort. Or in a less fortunate way, nicknames given to people by classmates on account of their clothes, mannerisms or behaviour, often meant to offend and hurt their addressee would only result in a cold rush of bad memories and would be associated with such torment.

And the solution? Ask people to call you by your full name? Grin and bear it? It seems the best bet would be to take the situation into your control. Next time you're given a nickname that you're not particularly fond of, defy all expectations and rise above the odds, proud of your flaws and flaunting your insecurities declare it OK that you are not without fault and that a nickname really makes no difference to your life, leaving your fellow wordsmiths somewhat disheartened. Or, just overuse it yourself until they become bored. That could work too.

Einstein
Queen Stellar
Pumpkin
Bee Angel Flash
Chipmunk Joker
Muffin Munchkin
Wildcat

The Voice

Inner and Outer Purity: Spirituality Day 2017

Yasira Salim, 10H4

When the school year drew to a close in July, students were given the opportunity to learn more about their faith through the annual 'Spirituality Day'. Traditionally, the day is used as a way of bettering one's outer and inner self through a variety of themes.

This year, Spirituality Day was focussed on physical and spiritual cleanliness. In terms of inner purity, the day started with a discussion on the correct way to treat parents and how to show them respect. Respecting parents is a vital part of becoming spiritually cleansed and improving your character.

The students also learnt how to become physically clean when performing wudhu - a ritual washing performed before prayer. In Islam, being clean, while praying, is especially important as prayer is a way of communicating with God and being clean whilst doing so is a way to show respect and reverence. A demonstration of wudhu was carried out, where pupils learnt how to become clean for prayer without wasting water, therefore, helping the environment and conserving water whilst doing so. A win win!

Year 7 and 8 students had fun creating a beautiful display of the 99 names of God. A spectacular vision when grouped together and it reminded everybody on the importance of

being pure for God.



Siddiqah Chati of 9E3 remarked:

'It was great to be able to use our creative side!'

Spirituality Day was a success this year and we look forward to the next. Students are already anticipating what next year's theme may be!

Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School & Sixth Form College Wins SSAT Exceptional Outcomes Award! Alisha Alli, 10H3

Alisha Alli, 10H3

Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School & Sixth Form College is already known for its high-flying achievers with the school having had an excellent track record of fantastic exam results. But now it has excelled itself. The school has been nationally recognised for its exceptional 2016 performance by the Schools, Students and Teachers network (SSAT).

SSAT is committed to celebrating the work that happens every day in schools, and to recognise the teachers who are working hard for students to receive the rich, challenging education they need.

Educational Outcomes data analysis from SSAT has shown that Tauheedul is in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally grades achieved by students and the top 10% nationally for progress made by pupils between their Key Stage 2 results at primary school and their Key Stage 4 results.



These spectacular figures were celebrated, at a regional event, held to draw attention to the work of high-achieving, pioneering and innovative methods of TIGHS and its teachers.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said: 'It's my great pleasure to commend Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School on their excellent 2016 performance, and to have the opportunity to highlight and share their great work at a SSAT Educational Outcomes celebration event. We know how hard teachers work to ensure professionalism, commitment and hard work of the leaders, teachers and students at Tauheedul Islam.'

(Mufti) Hamid Patel, Chief Executive of Tauheedul Education Trust, said: ‘This is a fantastic honour – and testament to the sincere efforts of our amazing students, parents and staff.’



Welcoming the New Additions of Tauheedul

NoorulAnne Younis, 10H4

On Wednesday 5th July, Tauheedul welcomed the latest edition to the school: the soon to be Year 7 pupils. The Induction Day had a prominent travel theme, and the day proved to be jam-packed and fun-filled.

The Year 6 students began the day with a briefing and, from there, were guided throughout the day by Year 9 leaders who helped make the transition from primary to secondary school all the easier. During their time at Tauheedul, students met their Learning Coordinators, who welcomed them again in September, as well as their Head of Year, Mrs Farhana Patel. After receiving a tour of the school, pupils received Tauheedul taster sessions in a variety of subjects in order to be inspired by the action-packed lessons.

In addition, Year 6 students participated in a series of team-building activities. From crossing shark infested waters to navigating across an island, the tasks proved to be rather difficult, but the form classes stuck together and they all emerged victorious!

But it seems that there was one more surprise: the students ended the day with a sweet treat. Ice-creams in hand, it was a befitting ending to a rather '**sweet**' and '**cool**' day!

Alayna Alli, a Year Six student who attended Induction Day, commented: "It was amazing, I made lots of new friends as well as finding out more about the school, I look forward to coming back in September."

We all look forward to welcoming the latest edition to our Tauheedul family.



A Queen of the People

Maryam Sharief, 13B9

With her powerful voice and high standing in society, mother-of-four and humanitarian, Queen Rania of Jordan strikes as an impressive figure.

Born Rania Al-Yassin to Palestinian parents, she was forced to flee from Kuwait to Jordan during the first Gulf War in 1991. Here, she completed her university studies and accepted a job at Apple's office in Amman.

While in Amman, she met Prince Abdulla bin Al-Hussain in January 1993 at a dinner party and the pair were married six months later. This unlikely cross-cultural marriage itself – between a Palestinian 'commoner' and a Hashemite Jordanian prince – was a symbol of unity between the conflicting Arab nations. Little did she know that she would soon, aged 29, become the youngest and most admired queen alive at the time.

As Queen of Jordan, Rania uses her influential position to advocate for education, health and women's rights. In 1995, she chaired the Jordan River Foundation, an organisation which works to empower women and children, and established The Queen Rania Centre for Entrepreneurship. She has also spoken out against the practice of 'honour crimes' and fights for victims of domestic abuse.

Her work promoting children's rights earned her the titles of the (first) Eminent Advocate for Children and an Honorary Chairperson for the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative – only two amongst a dozen international positions.

Despite the many challenges Queen Rania inevitably faces as a Muslim and a woman, she continues to break cultural boundaries and fight as a philanthropist, a human rights' champion, a campaigner for health reform and a devoted advocate of the message of global peace and unity.

Queen Rania, however, as she says, **'At the end of the day, the position is just a position, a title is just a title, and those things come and go. It's really your essence and your values that are important.'**

Anyone can make a change - all it requires is dedication, perseverance and a voice.



The Voice

A Memorial to be Remembered for Eternity

Munira Khanjra, 9E2

On 11th July 2017, in Blackburn Cathedral, both Tauheedul students and staff heard about the harrowing deaths of the Srebrenica massacre in July of 1995.

For the many who are unaware of this deadly massacre, below is what Saliha Osmanovic, a real-life survivor at the cathedral had explained:

"July of 1995 should be remembered by all races, not only Muslims. It had all begun with the Bosnian Muslims flaring at the Bosnian served army who were under siege in Srebrenica (a town in Eastern Bosnia). We all thought that this area was a UN safe zone as it was protected by 600 lightly armed Dutch peacemakers. On the 6th of July, the Bosnian army began advancing and they took some Dutch soldiers hostage. They entered in Srebrenica soon afterwards and instantly demanded the Bosnian Muslims to hand over all their weaponry in exchange for protection.

But the army began to kill just two days later.

They killed over 8000 Bosnian Muslims, mainly boys and men and over 23,000 women were deported."

Approximately 8000 Bosnians died. Even now, twenty long years on, many victims are still being identified and reburied.



Hence, a memorial takes place annually on the 11th of July so both victims and the public can say "never again" to such horrific atrocities.

Hence, in commemoration of this ghastly massacre, students present at the cathedral, lit candles, recited prayers and sent messages of hope to the brave men and women who experienced this brutal incident.

Never again.

"What Would you do to Change the World?"

Wajeeha Ahmed, 10H2

On Friday 14th July, Year 9 began expanding the study of GCSE Citizenship in the form of active citizenship. The day enabled the students to develop the predominant principle of making a difference to society, which is the overall aim of the specification.

In preparation for Citizenship Day, students were assigned a task to promote a pressure group. Pupils strove to ensure they were addressing an issue which they thought would deliver a change to benefit society. Once they had researched their issue, students used teamwork - a pivotal part of this process - to plan for their promotion.

Fatimah Patel, Year 9, remarked on the impact of this activity:
'The skills I have learnt from this has proven to be very useful as I can apply it to a range of things.'

Students then promoted their issue before presenting their findings in the form of a presentation. Later that day, once pupils had presented their presentations, pupils assessed the wider impact of their actions. They reflected upon their approach to the investigation, the methods they used and any outcome achieved through questionnaires.



'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it is the only thing that ever has.'

- Margaret Mead -

And hopefully, it'll be some students of Tauheedul that will.

Upcoming Events

Monday 6th November

School Re-opens

Tuesday 7th November

Y12-Y13 UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Thursday 9th November

Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday 10th November

Y7 and Y8 Winter Sports Day

Friday 17th November

Y10 Bronte Parsonage Trip

KS3 Maths Night

Monday 20th November

Y13 A2 Social Sciences Trip to Crown Court and People's History Museum

Thursday 23rd November

Y7 Parents' Evening

Friday 24th November

Y12 and Y13 Psychology Super Learning Seminar

Y12 University of Liverpool Trip

Monday 27th November

Y12 BTEC H&SC Work Experience

Thursday 30th November

6th Form Parents' Evening

Friday 1st December

Y12 & Y13 Social Sciences Pre Exam Super Learning Month

Wednesday 6th December

Tauheedul Sixth Form Admission Application Deadline

Friday 8th December

Y12 & Y13 Sociology Super Learning Day

Y10 French Mock Speaking Exam Day 1

Saturday 9th December

Y10 French Mock Speaking Exam Day 2

Sunday 10th December

Y10 French Mock Speaking Exam Day 3

Monday 11th December

Y10 & Y11 GCSE Mock Exams Commence

Friday 15th December

Y12 & Y13 History Super Learning Day

Friday 22nd December

Spirituality Day 1

Monday 25th December

End of Term Holiday Christmas Day

Monday 8th January

Y11 BTEC Level 2 Health & Social Care Unit 1 Exam

Tuesday 9th January

School Re-opens

GCSE Mock Results Day

Y10 BTEC Creative Media Unit 1 Exam

AS & A Level Formal Mock Exams Start

Thursday 11th January

Y11 BTEC Level 2 Health & Social Care Unit 9 Exam

Friday 12th January

Y12 BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care Unit 2 Exam

Tuesday 16th January

Y13 BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care Unit 3 Exam

Thursday 18th January

Y11 Parents' Evening

Y9 Maths Roadshow

Monday 22nd January

GCSE & A Level Revision Starts

Y13 BTEC H&SC Work Experience

Tuesday 23rd January

BTEC Applied Science Unit 1 Exam

Wednesday 24th January

Y13 Nowgen trip

Thursday 25th January

Y13 BTEC Applied Science Unit 5 Exam

Y10 Parents' Evening

Friday 26th January

A Level Mock Results Day

Monday 29th January

Y13 BTEC H&SC Work Experience

Monday 5th February

Y12 Edgehill University Trip

Thursday 8th February

Y12 AS & Y13 A Level Parents' Evening

Monday 12th February

Half-Term Holiday (1 Week)

Monday 19th February

School Re-opens



Tauheedul Girls



Part of Tauheedul Education Trust



SERVICE

Being a responsible citizen in our community



TEAMWORK

Working together for excellence



AMBITION

Aspiring to be our best



RESPECT

Treating others as we wish to be treated