



AS-SAWT

# THE VOICE

# الصوت

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

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## Commemorating the Heroes of WWI

Sanaa Naveed, 11L2

**During the week of November 11th – the annual date for the remembrance of all those who lost their lives-a number of projects were orchestrated by various teachers.**

These included students acting as soldiers participating in WW1, writing letters to their families back at home in Arabic, Urdu and French. Students learnt to appreciate the trauma felt by thousands of soldiers torn from their families during this devastating time.

In PE students practised the military marching "drill," whilst in Science students studied how infections affected the body. They researched different conditions suffered by soldiers in the war, such as trench foot. For Year 7 pupils, WW1 Science commemorations meant some very exciting demonstrations and experiments of explosions using gases.

A Year 11 pupil, Hana Yusuf, commented on the Maths lesson where she learned about the history of code breaking and the mathematical skills

required to master it. 'We also did a code breaking activity, which really opened my eyes to the perils of war, and how communication meant the difference between life and death.'

Lastly, our weekly Friday assembly was honoured with an inspiring talk by Major Bob Smethers, the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Fulwood Barracks, Preston and his colleague Owen Powell, who works as a volunteer with the Lancashire County Council Museum Service. They talked about how 400,000 Muslim soldiers including 1.2 million soldiers from India were involved in the First World War. They displayed the kit which soldiers carried around with them during the war. Powell also spoke passionately about how almost all of our ancestors have someone who fought in the First World War.

**WWI has left an everlasting mark on the world. The echoes of the struggles and pain felt by soldiers and families still remain with us today. 100 years, and the soldiers remain as pioneers of undeniable courage and selflessness.**



## 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.**

### Remembering the Great War...

Exactly 100 years ago, the world saw the first global conflict of the industrial age. Launched on a tide of fervent patriotism and optimism, World War 1 became a by-word for a senseless slaughter and brutal devastation that cost the lives of 16 million people and maimed countless others. Millions of men fought and perished through the mud, barbed wire and stench in the hundreds of miles of trenches that stretched from the Belgian coast to the Swiss mountains – giving their lives for the gain of a few yards, soon to be lost again. It was a conflict which changed the world forever; inspiring revolutions, dismantling centuries-old empires and destroying the old certainties of the world.

And, this was not a war which only affected early 20th Century Europeans. Around 400,000 Muslim soldiers, with 1.2 million from pre-partition India, fought in the Great War to secure peace and freedom for our generation. Tens of thousands of these Muslim soldiers are buried in cemeteries in mainland Europe, several thousand miles away from their homes.

Such is the magnitude of World War 1 on our consciences, it is vital for all of us, including our learners, to have an appreciation of its abject horror, the sacrifice of millions in the cause of liberty and the impact that it has had on the making of our modern world.

At Tauheedul, we are commemorating the centenary of World War 1 through tens of activities during each of the next four years. Through the study of the harrowing poetry of Wilfred Owen during English lessons, penning letters in French and Arabic to soldiers on the front line during Languages classes, learning about code-breaking in Computing studies, making 3-D 'World War 1 in a matchbox' Art or practising a military drill in PE, students are beginning to get a deeper appreciation of the war and those 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians who perished in it.

### Improving our Character...

During this year, we are introducing different programmes and activities to help our learners to improve their character in five ways.

Firstly, we are asking students to develop a healthy mind and a healthy body. They are asked to reflect on how healthily they eat, how much they sleep, the amount of exercise they do and how they avoid harmful substances.

Secondly, we ask learners to consider if they are committed to prayer and reflection. Do learners have a growing commitment to prayer or reflection? Do they reflect on their errors during the day and make small improvements to their approach towards others? And, do they show emotional maturity and resilience when faced with the trials and tribulations of life?

Thirdly, students are working to sustain safe relationships and interact positively with others. They are learning about the importance of good language, exemplary manners and making safe decisions when online. They are also considering the harms of bullying, abusive language when using the internet and unsafe relationships.

Fourthly, we are encouraging learners to strive to serve others. Through fundraising for charities, supporting efforts in their local community or just committing to small deeds that make others happy during the day, our students develop an understanding of how helping others can bring such joy and meaning to their own life.

Finally, we are helping learners to appreciate the world around them and commit to conserving our environment. By considering our time on the planet as short, and our role as trustees of the amazing resources that we have, our students will be better citizens and better human beings.

Many of the activities relating to improving character are quiet, discreet and regular. But, through these initiatives and over time, our young women can develop a character and an approach to life which is safe, successful and sincere.

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

*Hamid Patel*

## Leading the Way: Barbara Castle Humairaa Dudhwala, 13C

In a time of ground breaking inventions, satellites being launched successfully into space and breath-taking discoveries around every corner, we are certainly not short of inspirational individuals whom we may respect and admire. Such individuals come from far and wide all over the world, and Blackburn is no stranger to being the home of inspirational people. One such individual is Barbara Castle, the lady who gives her name to a famous road in Blackburn, Barbara Castle Way.

Barbara Anne Castle, who later became Baroness Castle of Blackburn, was born and bred in Bradford. She was interested in politics from an early age, and went on to graduate with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University, before joining the Labour party as a councillor at the age of 27.

An articulate and dedicated individual, in 1945 she became the youngest woman in the House of Commons when she was elected as Labour MP for Blackburn. She held this seat for over 30 years, one of the longest periods in history.

Her intellect, dynamism and ambition meant that Castle's opinions and campaigns were always very powerful and influential. Her success in the world of politics was enhanced when she was made the Minister of Overseas Development. This was followed by being honoured with the position of Minister of Transport and eventually, the Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity. Excelling in each of these posts, some of Castle's greatest innovations lay in the introduction of breathalyser tests for drivers and necessitating the wearing of seat-belts. These were only some of her visionary ideas, which have benefitted people in at least the past five decades, and are still in use today.

Described as 'Labour's greatest hero,' Baroness Castle left a legacy of conquering traditional customs, accomplishing her aspirations and transforming the face of women in politics. Her character is one we can all aspire to in our lives today, as we endeavour to overcome our individual obstacles, achieve our ambitions and soar in our successes.

## Coffee Morning Merriness Humairah Hanif, 13A

Wouldn't mornings be a lot more tolerable, if each consisted of a coffee and cake extravaganza - all in the name of charity?

On Friday 26th September, Tauheedul joined two million others as they took part in Macmillan's National Coffee Morning. Money was raised in aid of medical, emotional and financial support to cancer-sufferers around the world.

In the midst of chaos, (and with the help of Ms Ali's premium coffee machine), the sweet aroma of success was brewed and poured as sixth formers piled into the common room at 7:30am. High school students in the social space caused a cake-astrophic stir when cakes were served to them at break-time. Maariyah Arshad, 13A, said: "The Coffee Morning was a great way to show off some baking skills to my teachers and friends, and bake for a good cause."

As well as the satisfaction of raising money for charity, there really is nothing more enjoyable than putting studies aside and catching up with your fellow classmates over a cup of coffee and a slice (or two) of cake.

**With your amazing support and talents in cake-consuming, Tauheedul School and Sixth Form raised over £300 in under three hours!**





## Crazy Clubs and Stimulating Societies Fatimah Waghat, 10M1

**Bored? Then look no further...**

**The first term of the academic year has come to a close. For some it has flown by; for others it seems to have taken forever. Either way, this term has been enough to establish some intriguing enrichment clubs that are held after school and at lunchtimes for any interested student.**

Come down to the Art room if you're feeling creative and join in with the 'Art Attack' society where students are currently working on the project 'Social Space Murals'. Or you could try your hand at designing objects

on a computer, at the 3D Printing Club in T3, during Monday lunch time – invent your own creations and print them as physical objects, in any colour you like!

Think you're up to the test? Practice your problem-solving skills at the Maths enrichment by finding solutions to various puzzles in the lead up to the UKMT Maths Challenge. "The Maths enrichment inspires our students to solve puzzles using their logical thinking skills," says Ms Yunus, Maths teacher.

These are but a few of the exciting range of extra-curricular activities to choose from. Others include the Debating Society, P.E. Enrichment and Spanish Club. To find out more about an after-school activity, visit the relevant subject department office or consult one of the many posters on display around school!

**With such promising activities to wash away those high school blues, it's no wonder that students are looking forward to future enrichments for more excitement after school!**

## The Passing of Time Arifa Patel, 10M3

**Dust filters through the air, circulating in a never-ending cycle of eternity. The ticking of a clock can be heard, filling the air with its laborious sound. The remaining survivors of the classroom fall into a deep sleep, only to be awakened by the bell at the end of the hour.**

**We have all experienced these days.**

Each and every one of us is accountable for at least a day's worth of moments when

everything seems pointless, and lessons seem endless. Be it a particularly difficult Maths lesson spent staring out of the window, or the Nitrogen Cycle of boredom we all have to try to understand in Science.

Imagine a classroom with no teacher. Imagine students without rules, or a day without lessons. What may be conceived as bliss slowly fades away, as the feeling of boredom sinks in, and what to do next becomes more of a challenge than a mere question.

While the solution: aimlessly gazing out of the window may seem tempting, there are some simple tips to make your boredom less, well, boring.

**Divide the day into: time for school, homework, extra-curricular activities and at least ten minutes of relaxation each day. Although it may be tempting, always do your work before relaxation - this makes your relaxing time more worthwhile, as you won't have the constant worry of completing another task. With any great amount of luck, time spent in relaxation and work can be balanced.**

**So while we may wish away the hours, pause to remember the force that holds us in its silent grasp, draining the life out of us with each weary tick of the clock - boredom. And try to defeat it.**



## Sporting Spirits in Sixth Form

Toseefa Patel, 13C

**During an exhilarating week of enjoyable activities, an intense competition arose between the Sixth Form societies. The annual inter-society competition was back!**

Unique ideas and plans were thought up, as each society competed to raise money for Tauheedul Charity's 'Food For All' project in the UK.

At first, the efforts seemed disastrous. Only one person turned up at the Mad Science Society's rat and frog dissection, and a meagre seventy pence was raised. Umaira Iqbal, president of the Mad

**We are so excited to have won this challenge! Our competitive and incredibly determined team successfully worked together to raise money, and more importantly, helped this fantastic charity to make a long-term contribution in giving back to the community.**

**Shamima Khonat, Chair of the Sports Society**

Science Society, expressed relief and said, "a lot more was raised on Tuesday," when they held a vast confectionary stall in the Social Space at lunch.

The Literature Society promoted a school-wide appeal through selling pink scarves to be worn in unison on a particular day. The Debating Society conducted a thrilling Spelling Bee in the main school, as well as setting up a treasure hunt.

The Sports Society, however, were the worthy winners. Their campaign, 'S'porting Food For All,' was executed with perfection. They raised over nine hundred pounds, through activities like human table football and a teacher's netball tournament. Ms Ali, Director of Learning (Science), quite comically participated in this, forgetting the fact that she was helping out her rival society. When questioned as to how she felt on narrowly losing out, she responded: "Watch this space for next year, but I am pleased for the Sports Society."

Shamima Khonat, Chair of the Sports Society, jubilantly expressed: "We are so excited to have won this challenge! Our competitive and incredibly determined team successfully worked together to raise money, and more importantly, helped this fantastic charity to make a long-term contribution in giving back to the community."

**Well done to all the societies for raising a brilliant £3300 for the charity, and the fun they provided to all our students!**

## Tauheedul Sports – Football Victory

Raeesa Patel, 10M4



**The Tauheedul girls' football team made it 5 wins in 7 after beating Our Our Lady & St John, Darwen Vale and St Bedes A, B, C and D teams.**

It all kick-started on 19th November, when the Tauheedul team were set up for a string of four matches. The 7 girl squad were up against Darwen Vale first, and after two halves of battling it out, they came out victorious, winning 2-0 with Safiya Bax and Marriyah Khan hitting the back of the net.

Unfortunately, in the second fixture the team then went on to lose to St Bede's A team 1-0.

However, the spirits were then uplifted as Safiya Bax, with two remarkable goals, and Marriyah Khan, with one sensational strike, ensured the Tauheedul team were back to their winning ways against St Bede's B team, with a 3-0 win.

Just as they thought their work for the day was complete, they then went on to play Our Lady & St John. With momentum solidly situated in the team, Marriyah Khan finished neatly 4 times – totalling her tally to 6 for the night. Khalisa Master also managed to coolly slip the ball into the back of the net as Tauheedul went on to celebrate a 5-0 memorable victory.

After a week of training and hard work, the girls came back ready to carry on their streak of triumph.

The first game of the night was up against St Wilfred's, but unfortunately it resulted in a 3-0 defeat.

Nonetheless, they did not let this set them back and they came back stronger to give the St Bede's C team a thrashing, seizing 5 goals in just the first five minutes. Marriyah Khan bagged a wonderful hat trick, and Safiya Bax secured a double in a game which left the Tauheedul team feeling delighted and proud of what they had managed to accomplish together.

Finally, the last game of the night saw the team capture an outstanding win, defeating the St Bede's D team, 2-0.

Mrs Mulla, P.E teacher, was particularly happy with the girls.

**"The girls have been fantastic in both practice and matches. They were great ambassadors for the school."**

The team's top-scorer, Marriyah Khan was also thrilled for the team, saying: "All of the games went really well. We played as a team and won as a team."

**This placed the Tauheedul team top of the football league table with 5 wins in 7, dropping only 6 points along the way.**



## Children's Book Week 2014 Maryam Sharief, 10M2

What do you think makes an impressive story?  
The concept? The characters?  
Or maybe the lesson it teaches you?



Children today with their incredibly 'busy' lives have little time to enjoy a good story. However, this year, our Key Stage 3 pupils took on the challenge to create their own children's story to celebrate Children's Book Week 2014. For over 80 years, Children's Book Week has been an annual celebration to encourage children around the nation to enjoy reading for pleasure and even start writing themselves.

During the week beginning October 6th, Years 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to share their favourite childhood book with each other. Using their writing skills, they

then accomplished the task of creating their own illustrated story by placing a character they had studied in class into their favourite childhood book. Each tale was drawn on the classroom tables, transforming their English classroom into an imaginative storyboard for the day! In each class, the trio with the best-illustrated story was awarded with a prestigious, well-deserved prize.

With C. S. Lewis' fantasy novel, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' for Year 7, 'Harry Potter' for Year 8 and 'Sherlock Holmes' for Year 9, delightful childhood memories were recalled as students

transported themselves into the world of stories. Abida Ali, 9T5, expressed her joy exclaiming that it was "a wonderful day. We really enjoyed the activities and hope to do similar things in the future."

**It was an incredibly enjoyable day and, hopefully, taught students that words bring much more pleasure and joy than they may have thought. So the next time you're bored with nothing to do, put down the remote and move your hand away from the fridge; pick up a book, select a pen and get creating and writing instead.**

## Breakfast Gatherings and Reflection Circles Safiyyah Vali, 12A

**This world has been designed as a trial. Our souls are often torn finding the balance of striving for worldly success, whilst also seeking the fruits of the hereafter.**

Yet, there are various ways to incorporate the two. One of these methods is the Breakfast Gatherings and Reflection Circles offered by the school, introduced to enlighten students' understanding of religion, and bring benefit to their day-to-day lives.

Following its success last year, the daily Breakfast Gatherings are once again being led by Ms Amina, head of year, who explores a different quality of the Almighty each morning. Aysha Patel, a participant, explains: **"The early-morning gatherings are really enlightening – It's a really refreshing start to my day!"**

In the Reflection Circles, which take place at Thursday lunchtimes, a different verse of the Qur'aan is explored each week. Students sacrifice social time to gain substantial rewards and restore inner tranquillity. With contented minds, they return to their daily tasks, each time having learnt something new, beneficial, and pure. This year, Sixth Form students are leading some of the circles - an exciting opportunity for them to share their knowledge.

With each session being resourceful and astoundingly popular, it is no wonder that there is a high demand each year for them to continue.

**This passion and drive for seeking knowledge seen in the students who attend is truly heart-warming, and in favour of such people, we have been taught that, "The Almighty makes the way to Jannah easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge." [Muslim]**



# Rābi'a al-'Adawiyya - A Role Model for all Muslim Women

Zainab Ibrahim, 11E2

**Known as the 'queen amongst women',  
Rābi'a had many admirable qualities -  
generosity and selflessness.**

A unique story that gives an insight into her noteworthy character is that once a beggar asked Rābi'a for food and she instantly gave the two loaves that she had prepared for her evening meal. She now had no food. After a while, her maid came with eighteen loaves of warm bread but Rābi'a refused to accept them. The maid revealed that she had taken two loaves of bread for herself - which meant there had been twenty loaves altogether. Upon hearing this, Rābi'a accepted them happily. She explained that since the Lord had promised that He would bless His servants ten times more than what

they had donated, the eighteen loaves of bread were not for her. However, after she realised that there were twenty altogether, she knew they were from her Creator in return for the two she had given in charity.

Ibn Al-Jawzi relates that at the time of her death, she called Abda Bint Abi Showal and told her that no one was to be informed of her death and that she should be shrouded only in her old robe for burial. "All people are afraid of the reckoning of the Day of Judgment, whereas I long for it. At last my Lord will address me as 'O, My servant!'"

**Rābi'a al-'Adawiyya is and will always remain  
a truly inspirational role model for all Muslim women.**



Tauheedul Girls

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