



AS-SAWT

# THE VOICE

الصوت

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



## INSIDE this issue:

Principal's...Reflections  
on the Term

- p2

55 Years on,  
Harper Lee is back!

- p3

The Power of Books:  
World Book Day is back!

- p3

Sparkling Efforts for  
Spirituality Day

- p4

New Year, New You:  
5 Spiritual Tips to Guide  
Yourself to Success!

- p5

The 31st Child

- p6

Tournament Triumphs

- p6

Society's Stand-off

- p6

Media City Chronicles

- p7

Upcoming Events

- p8

## Dressing up, Dining and Dynamic Speeches – Presentation Evening 2015

Zainab Rangila, 13C

**An atmosphere of success, victory and accomplishment spread through King George's Hall on the evening of Friday 27th February, as leavers of the class of 2014 arrived to celebrate their achievements on the annual Presentation Evening.**

During this ceremony, whoops of joy arose, memories were relived and hopes for the future were ignited. Last year's deputy head girls, Bushra Islam and Aasiyah Rokad, reminisced on their time at Tauheedul, while Kam Kothia (Chair of Governors) and Mufti Hamid Patel (Principal) both extended their congratulations to the students, staff and the community.

The guest of honour was Sarah Joseph, CEO and Editor of Emel, a Muslim lifestyle magazine. She gave an inspiring speech, emphasising the mantra of never giving up, leaving everyone with her words ringing in their minds: 'nine times down, ten times up.'

Sarah Joseph herself distributed awards to the highest achieving students, where both deputy head girls returned back to the stage to accept an award for attaining an astonishing 12A\*s in their GCSEs. Recipients of special awards included those who attained 100% attendance over their five years at Tauheedul.

Councillor Kate Hollern then took the stage to present the 'Students' Choice Award' as voted by the leavers of the class of 2014. As Shakespeare wrote, 'And live to be the show and gaze o' the time,' Ms Mohamed (Director of Learning, English) definitely stole the limelight as she humbly rose to accept the award.

The Principal's awards were received by Ms Naseerah Ali and Ms Mariam Riaz, as the Sixth Form social science team and the Pastoral Team's efforts were also celebrated.

Kam Kothia, governor, commented, 'Every year I celebrate with the Leavers and every year I am astounded by the hard work put in by the staff, the parents and the students. They all deserve the rewards for their immeasurable efforts.'

The evening ended with a three-course meal and everyone got a chance to personally congratulate individuals and converse with the guest of honour. As the guests began to leave, joy and pride still lingered in the air, and now it is up to the current Year 11s to reach and surpass what the leavers of the class of 2014 achieved!



## Principal's...Reflections on the Term

(Mufti) Hamid Patel **Executive Principal**

**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.**

### The League Tables

A few weeks ago, the Government published the annual school league tables. The tables allow everyone to compare how all schools are performing. We were very grateful that they confirmed that our school is one of the most successful in the country. Now, there are lots of stats I could reel off here – how amazingly well we do with disadvantaged learners or those who leave primary school with poor results; how we have the best value-added of the 150 schools with the 150 best GCSE results and how we have the best GCSE results of the 150 schools with the best value-added.

However, the league tables are not just a collection of numbers, statistics and rankings. What they bear witness to is a story of incredible sacrifice, service and success at our school. We should pay tribute to every learner, every parent and every member of staff at the school – because, without them and what they are prepared to do and give up, we simply would not have the recognition that we do.

### Good Muslims are Good Citizens

What makes a good Muslim? And, what makes a good citizen? Can you be a good citizen and a good Muslim? It is a question that some people ask, particularly with world events at this moment in time.

Of course, good Muslims pray regularly; fast during Ramadhan, give money to charity, dress modestly and eat only Halaal food. Each of these things are very important and go to the heart of our connection with the Almighty.

However, whilst these acts of worship are crucial to a Muslim, it is also vital to have fantastic character – to speak kindly and honestly, to care for others and give generously to those who are less fortunate, to be modest and embrace virtue in all parts of life, to behave the same way in private and in public, to make a positive impression on people of all faiths and to celebrate our different identities: as a person of faith, a member of their local community, a person with a rich cultural heritage, a citizen of our great country and a part of global humanity.

And all of these actions not only make us great Muslims, but excellent citizens as well.

So, how are we asking our young women to cultivate this at school? Through our courses, enrichment opportunities and mentoring programmes, we are developing the character of our learners.

In our curriculum, we are delivering a new subject called 'Active Citizenship' where learners are being taught fundamental British Values, the risks of radicalisation and exploitation and the importance of respecting human rights. In Humanities lessons, students are developing an understanding of the commonality of the world's major faiths, learning about important festivals across the world and marking important events such as the centenary of World War 1 and the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. In Art and Nasheed lessons, students are celebrating other cultures and the different ways that creativity is expressed across the world. In ICT lessons, they have received guidance on staying safe online and approaching content on the internet as 'critical consumers' so that they don't accept everything they read or see. Each of our learners completes a GCSE in Citizenship – so that they develop a key understanding of their role as citizens and positive agents for change.

In assemblies, learners are receiving inspirational messages about those who are less fortunate, those who have transformed the world through their quiet and peaceful determination and those who have lived a life to bring people of all walks of life together. Students have participated in interfaith trails; learnt from, with and about people of other faiths; and hosted visits by people who practise each of the world's major religions. In the coming months, the school will launch the 'Tauheedul Baccalaureate', which will celebrate and reward the commitment of learners to good behaviour and community service. And, through our mentoring programmes, we are working with vulnerable learners – to help them to make sense of a world that might have hurt them and to have a hopeful view of the future that awaits them.

So, improving our character, and that of our young people, is not just something we should do because it makes good citizens. It also makes perfect Muslims.

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

*@Hamid Patel*

## 55 Years on, Harper Lee is back! Humairaa Dudhwala

**"Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."** **'To Kill a Mockingbird', Harper Lee**

**In the literary world, Harper Lee is quite the celebrity. Known as the intriguing author of the exceptional literary classic, 'To Kill a Mockingbird', Harper Lee remains as one of the most elusive famous authors of all time. Studied on numerous GCSE specifications, indeed even within our very own school, Lee's one and only novel is acknowledged as one of literature's greatest works.**

Living in Alabama, South America, Lee has always lived a very secluded lifestyle, habitually shying away from media attention. So earlier this year, when the announcement of a sequel to 'To Kill a Mockingbird' was announced, it brought with it surprise, reminiscence and slight hysteria, as everyone relished the thought of a new novel from Lee, 55 years on from her last sensation.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1961, Lee's first novel was an instant hit around the globe. Her dexterity in intertwining issues of racial

prejudice with questions surrounding judgement and morality made 'To Kill a Mockingbird' a classic - adored by young and old alike.

The novel's much-loved narrator, Scout Finch, is star of the sequel – "Go Set a Watchman" – which will see her featured as an adult. The novel, believed to have been written in the 1950's, was left unpublished by Lee until February. News of its publication was revealed on 14th July 2015.

Heinemann, the first publishers of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' in the UK, are reported to publish a colossal two million copies of the sequel when it is released in the Summer.

**So to all the Lee-lovers out there, excitedly discussing the new novel and eagerly awaiting the 14th of July, I join you in the countdown for "Go Set a Watchman"!**



## The Power of Books: World Book Day is back!

Fatimah Waghat, 10M1

**A book can be many things: it can be a portal that takes you to another world, it can be the door to someone else's life experiences or it can be a gateway to knowledge. Reading books has helped us to understand many things in life, and what better way is there to express the love of books than World Book Day?**

On 5th March, students and teachers alike rejoiced in celebration of World Book Day, a day on which many countries across the world show their appreciation and love for books.

Key Stage 3 students took part in assorted workshops themed around popular literature during their English lessons. Activities included, 'Harry Potter' themed workshops involving brewing enchanted potions and making edible broomsticks. 'Divergent' themed workshops consisted of taking the aptitude test to find out which faction they belonged to and taking part in a karate challenge in the Dauntless faction. Other

students even tried their hand at making chocolate in Willy Wonka's chocolate factory!

Aaminah Patel, 8S1, commented: **'I took part in the Divergent workshop and had the chance to take the aptitude test, just like Tris did in the book!'**

Key Stage 4 and 5 students were able to commemorate the day by donating towards the World Book Day 2015 campaign run by Tauheedul Charity. An impressive £205.00 were raised. These donations count towards sending compact book box libraries to schools on Pemba Island in Zanzibar, spreading the gift and sharing the love of books to those who are less fortunate, to have the privilege of owning a book.

**Overall, the day was very successful and the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves.**



## Sparkling Efforts for Spirituality Day Toseefa Patel, 13C

**The 13th of February brought Tauheedul a special Spirituality Day, in which students participated to help those less fortunate than themselves. Building up to the Tauheedul Fun'raiser on the 14th of March, students from Year 7 all the way to Year 13 produced intricate products to be sold on the big day.**

As Muslims, and as part of the Ummah of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), we are encouraged to donate generously to those in need. In a Hadith, the Prophet (SAW) said that the Ummah is like one body: if one part of the body is in pain, the rest of the body feels it too. Charity is one of the five pillars of Islam, and this term's Spirituality Day was designed to promote this idea in a unique and creative way.

In aid of the '31st Child' campaign, students worked to create high-quality products ready to be sold in the Fun'raiser. Year 7 enthusiastically fashioned unique handmade bookmarks, whilst Year 8 students created themed jigsaws. In an atmosphere of friendly competition and mutual enthusiasm, exclusive greeting cards and chic pincushions were crafted by the Year 9s. Years 10 and 11 created decorative scrapbooks, acrylic painted candles and some fantastic bath salts.

Not to be left out, Sixth Formers also participated through creating artistic canvases and dainty trinket boxes, which unveiled some hidden talents! All in all, it seems that the activities and products produced were a great achievement. Miss Aamena Patel, Head of Year 8 and one of the organisers, remarked:

**'I was actually very impressed by the level of hard-work and the quality of the products produced. I am very proud of all our students and their passion and efforts on the day.'**

# New Year, New You:

## 5 Spiritual Tips to Guide Yourself to Success!

Safiyah Vali, 12A

**A swift push alone can win the omnipresent battle of Failure vs. Victory. We all desire success in life – be this in the form of exams, ambitions or personal endeavours. For any situation, a warhead of almost indestructible power can be constructed, if the tools of success are utilised correctly.**

In Islam, this is where you begin:

### Repentance

The most fundamental principle of success in life is to abstain from sinning. Without admitting to our mistakes and compensating the damage, we cannot 'move on' in a contented manner. The mind will be burdened, thus reducing the chances of gaining satisfaction. Always commence by seeking forgiveness in all matters where you have hurt people or disobeyed the Almighty.

### Make a schedule – and stick to it!

"Time and tide wait for no man." Chalk out a programme for prayer, work, games, outings, rest and sleep, and adhere to it. By doing so, you achieve self discipline and complete each task effectively.

### Control the tongue

Improve your manner of communication with young and old alike and guard yourself from the harms of the tongue. While this may seem slightly irrelevant, a good character is key to every success, and respectful communication is a significant part of this.

### Go with the flow

Don't become too obsessed with what you are doing. Take some time to relax – spend time with family and friends. Not only will this help you wind down, it will refresh and replenish your energy and enthusiasm for your goal.

### Believe

Firm belief – in the idea that all good and bad is from the Almighty – is at the heart of religion. Regardless of the obstacles, continue believing and learn along the way. By the will of the Almighty, one shall become successful!



## 31st Child – a classmate across the globe Abiha Nawaz, 10M1

**The new and exciting '31st Child' initiative was launched at Tauheedul in September 2014. Through this remarkable project, each form class adopted a needy child from a less developed part of the world who then became the 31st child of their form group.**

During their five years at Tauheedul, students will have the opportunity to send letters and gifts to their 31st Child as well as raise funds for the community they live in. They will also receive regular reports on her academic progress and be able to support and encourage her learning. Her profile, progress and messages are displayed on each form class' noticeboard.

The initiative was first launched on Spirituality Day in 2014. On this day, each form was introduced to their 31st Child and students created personalised 'Form Books' to be gifted to their peer across the world. This book introduced them to their new classmate and marked the beginning of a new and very special friendship. They included thoughtful messages, heartfelt poems and drawings as well as messages of hope, encouragement and advice. Students at Tauheedul thereafter received a very special video capturing the precious moments of wonder and surprise when the Form Books were received by the 31st Child. These brought many smiles and much joy to the 31st children and this was shared by their friends at Tauheedul.

Ms Vali, Maths teacher, told us her thoughts regarding the initiative: **"The 31st Child campaign is a fantastic way of raising awareness for deprived children around the world."**

In February 2015, a second Spirituality Day was dedicated to raising funds for the children. Students worked in forms to create unique products which were then sold at the spectacular Tauheedul Fun'raiser. The event was attended by over 2,500 people and raised over £12,000 for the 31st Children.

Mrs Aziz, Deputy Director of Faith, Values & Ethos, and lead person for the project, commented: **"The 31st Child initiative is a collective and very special effort to directly impact the life of a disadvantaged child overseas. The passionate efforts of our pupils to support and connect with their 31st Children has been inspiring."**

The project shows how the hand of friendship can be extended over thousands of miles and the ties that bind us can cross continents and cultures. We hope that our shared experiences will help the friendship to bloom.

The 31st Child has now become more than a project; each child has become a true classmate - separated by a few thousand miles. All in all, the school is thrilled to have launched this new initiative and we look forward to its future development and expansion.

## Tournament Triumphs Raeesa Patel, 10M4

**Sports columnist Raeesa Patel looks over this term's sporting successes.**

As the winter months rolled in, it was safe to say everyone felt like doing nothing more than sitting inside – the idea of taking part in any physical activity was not in the slightest appealing.

Nonetheless, the Health and Fitness club started - the Year 7's participated in their very first netball league. All netball teams throughout the school took part in their individual netball tournaments.

Much to the delight of Mrs Mulla and Mrs Rob, the Health and Fitness club was a huge success. The Year 7's participated in their netball league in which they performed exceptionally; they performed even better in their tournament, beating every team they

came up against. Both Mrs Mulla and Mrs Rob were full of pride and joy for the youngest representatives of the school.

**"I am extremely proud of our students' success in the netball matches, especially considering this was their first time taking part in the tournament!"** exclaimed Mrs Mulla.

With the netball practices restarting on Mondays for the Year 10's and 11's, and Wednesdays for the Year 8's and Year 9's, the sacrifice of lunch time proved worthwhile as all teams played to the best of their ability and did the school proud.

**Finally, the GCSE PE students' hard work and effort continues as they prepare to complete the GCSE successfully by the end of the year.**

## Society's Stand-off Arifa Patel, 10M3

**Modern society is often like a papercut, with two warring sides and inevitable bloodshed. There is however, one startling difference – as in any wound, once blood flows, it is gone, never to return, whereas no person is ever truly free of human society and its conventions.**

There are obvious groups in society, with each of them given a label; people are expected to act in a particular way without any form of guidance.

We become trapped in an ever-widening web of confusion, founded on the hierarchal order of social class. In this meddling mess of social standing, each person is expected to find their place and mindlessly do as expected.

**We seem to have forgotten that expectations do not always become a reality.**

While the vast majority choose (unwittingly, perhaps) to follow these unwritten laws of society, there are some who push the boundaries

and stray from the crowd. These are the individuals, the believers of dreams and the improbable. These are the people who do not go by their expectations, but without them, content in their own way.

Sometimes, those who do not live by society's rules are often cast as the misfits and the outcasts – never conforming or surrendering. Yet we do not realise that in some instances, they are more human than we have ever been.

So what is the solution? To follow the example of the rule-breakers or to conform to society? While the terribly clichéd phrase 'be yourself' is plastered over each and every page of social media, I believe that there is a better solution. Whilst trying to be yourself, don't lose sight of the people who aim higher. Dreams aren't part of reality; they do not have to conform.

**The next time you are told to be yourself, simply smile and reply that you already are and will never be anything else. If what you are is enough, then what you follow and believe in should be more.**

## Media City Chronicles

Humairah Hanif, 13A

**MediaCityUK, a new waterfront destination for Manchester with digital creativity, leisure and learning at its heart, opened its doors to Sixth Form Social Science Ambassadors for an enriching and elevating day out. As well as being an excellent insight into the reality of media, the trip was complemented by an exhilarating mix of retail, leisure and entertainment experiences.**

Students were given a tour of the media campus, including an exclusive tour of the BBC studios and its twenty-six departments, such as Match of the Day studios and the most exciting of all – CBeebies!

The trip gave students a more realistic understanding of the role played by the media, as they saw first-hand the amount of behind-the-scene work done before news and programmes are aired on live television.

Maryam Kothia, 13B said, **“It was an incredible experience to learn about the reality of what comes on our TV screens and understanding the process of how it all really happens.”**

A stop at the Imperial War Museum gave an emotional insight into the effects of war on the lives of many individuals, with real life footage portraying how many lives and hopes were lost during and after the war. Finally, the modern art with its historical context at The Lowry Art Gallery was also appreciated, as students browsed the gallery and came up with their own musings and interpretations.

**As well as a unique learning opportunity, the trip to MediaCityUK, with its stunning waterfront views and modern architecture also gave students a brilliant chance to enhance their photography skills – all in the name of enrichment!**



# Upcoming Events

Let's take a look at all the exciting happenings at Tauheedul!



**Thursday 23rd April:** World Book Night

**Monday 27th April:** Year 8 and 9 UKMT Maths Team Challenge

**Thursday 30th April:** Years 7 and 8 (Set 1 and 2) UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

**Saturday 23rd May:** Year 11 Trip

**Sunday 24th May:** Year 10 Trip

**Thursday 11th June:** KS3 Trip

**Friday 12th June:** Year 8 Science Salters Trip

**Wednesday 24th June:** Year 11 Leavers Assembly

**Monday 29th June:** Year 10 Enterprise week starts

**Monday 13th July:** Year 7 Active Citizenship Day

**Tuesday 14th July:** Year 7 TGT

Year 8 Active Citizenship Day

Year 9 Enterprise Day

**Wednesday 15th July:** Year 7 Enterprise Day

Year 8 TGT Day

Year 9 Active Citizenship Day



Tauheedul Girls

Editor - Humairaa Dudhwala

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

