



AS-SAWT

# THE VOICE

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

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## One Year On –

## What has changed at Tauheedul? Zainab Rangila, 13C

**Exams, enrichment, and emotional rollercoasters: another year has passed, and it is time once again to close the doors of Tauheedul for the Summer holidays.**

The academic year 2014-15 started out with students' demands (ranging from escalators to ice-cream vans) echoing through the hallways, and as the year progressed, we witnessed the students' suggestions come into fruition in one way or another.

Firstly, inspiring quotes were hung around the school, ranging from playwright Shakespeare, to the famous explorer Ibn Battuta, meaning crossing the corridors is now a whole lot more motivational! The complaint of the sixth-formers' common room looking "like an office" was finally resolved with new comfortable beanbag chairs scattered around, making it match the standard of Hogwarts (almost!)

A fully equipped gym has also been created, available to students and staff, which has been a favourite with the sixth-formers. The pleasant arrival of hot weather after the Easter holidays brought with it the purchase of a cooling slush machine – students became quite giddy to learn that slush was available at both break-times and lunch!

Naseerah Valli, 13D, commented: **"I'm delighted we have a slush machine - it's very refreshing to have a cool drink whilst revising for exams!"**

The outside environment has not been devoid of improvement either: the new playground to the rear of the school provides an improved surface for the PE students to play on; therapeutic sounds of the fountain continue to provide a serene backdrop to the school and heart-warming furrows of rabbits in the front lawn are occasionally spotted, much to the delight of the students!

Student satisfaction has been high this year, with the changes impacting learning in different ways, and it is satisfying to note that pupil contributions have been implemented.

With the academic year coming to an end, it leaves us with a moment to reflect and reminisce on our time together at Tauheedul. For some, it is time to depart from the Tauheedul family and embark on our own journey into the wider world. We wish Tauheedul all the best for **infinity and beyond!**



## 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.**

### Exams: A Summer of Stress

During the final term, each of our 778 students completed end-of-year exams. For around half of our students, there were GCSE and A level examinations to complete over a period of five weeks. With over 3500 examination scripts completed collectively at Tauheedul, it has been a particularly stressful time for learners, staff and parents.

Sometimes, people who do not really know the school or are not kind towards it, explain away the fantastic results our students have achieved over the years with all sorts of excuses. They say that we only take bright students or that they have been spoon-fed everything they need to know. Now, this is obviously untrue, but it is also quite hurtful – especially when you see the tears of students who feel that they might have had a bad paper, tired faces from sleep-deprived nights of revision and the many hours of lessons that students attend during and outside of school hours.

It is also a massive team effort from all sorts of people to ensure that exams go well. All of us know the role that parents and teachers will play in preparing students for exams. However, there are so many other people involved. Our exams officer has to ensure that each exam is organised properly, everyone knows where to go and that the papers are kept securely. Our site supervisors have to get the exam tables and chairs ready for each exam – putting out water for each student and checking everything is working in the exam halls. The Heads of Year run around looking after stressed or poorly students, encouraging each and consoling them after a difficult exam - or calling home to reassure worried parents. And, our support staff will read or scribe for learners with particular needs so that they are not disadvantaged. I am really grateful to everyone for their hard work over the past few months. With so many people playing their part in the exams' success, we can only pray to the Almighty to reward their efforts with a fantastic set of results when they are published in August.

### A Faith Inspection

A few weeks ago, just as the exams were in full flow, we were inspected by the Association of Muslim Schools to check how well the school is delivering its Islamic ethos. This is a routine inspection that happens every two or three years. The three inspectors, accompanied by officials from the Department for Education, visited lessons in Religious Studies, Arabic and Citizenship. They spoke to students, parents and staff, looked around the school and viewed our plans for the future. Once again, thanks to the Almighty and everyone's prayers and efforts, the school received the highest rating for 'spirituality'.

I would like to thank all parents and members of the community for their positive support during the inspection and your prayers throughout this testing time.

### Marking Ramadhan at Tauheedul

Ramadhan is such a special and blessed month – and our students and staff have been marking it at Tauheedul. There have

been lots of activities to reflect the importance of prayer, reflection and worship during the holy month.

During the past few weeks, students have been reciting the Qur'aan in their form classes – so that the whole Qur'aan has been fully completed several times by our learners over the past few weeks. Students have also taken part in reflective circles in the mornings and at lunchtimes – completing I'tikaaf (short periods of spiritual seclusion) so that they can take part in quiet contemplation and Dhikr (remembrance of the Lord). Our learners have also been donating their lunch money, so that their form class can buy Eid gift packs for impoverished children across the world. And, Year 9 students have been preparing Iftaar food packs so that students can give them to each other or a family member as a good deed. All of our students have also been taking part in special assemblies and lessons to learn more about the meaning and importance of Ramadhan.

Amongst the innumerable verses and prayers recited, thousands of pounds raised and tens of hours spent in quiet contemplation and remembrance of the Lord...our learners have developed a greater understanding of the meaning of Ramadhan. They have also come closer to our Lord and learnt about selflessness, suffering and service.

### Celebrating Eid

By the time that you read this, almost all of the month of Ramadhan will have passed and preparations will be in earnest for the festival of Eid.

After a month of hunger, sombre reflection and fatigue, Eid is a chance for joy, celebration and colour. There is an opportunity to dress in the finest clothes, eat scrumptious food and exchange gifts with family and friends.

However, Eid is also about expressing gratitude and renewing our vows to each other. It is an opportunity to say 'Thank you' to the Lord for all of the many bounties and favours that He does for us each day; for the food that we enjoy, the homes that shelter us, the clothes that comfort us and for the people that bring such purpose and meaning to our lives. Eid is also an opportunity to renew our promises to each other – to build bridges between different people, to dismantle walls of distrust that we have built between us and to cement the love and affection that we feel for each other.

So, I wish everyone a peaceful, blessed and spiritual Eid celebration and request your prayers for the school and everyone who serves it.

### An Honour for Our Community

Finally, you might be aware that I was recently awarded a CBE as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours. The award is in recognition for services to education but reflects the achievements of our Girls' School over many years. I am grateful to the Lord without whom none of our successes would be possible and none of the awards we have received would be deserved.

Although delighted and surprised by the award, I know that this is an award that belongs to so many other more deserving people in our school and our wider community.

So many people have worked tirelessly, selflessly and behind the scenes over the years. They are more worthy of acknowledgment than myself. This is not really an award for me – but a recognition of the efforts and achievements of lots of people working together. The CBE is an award for the hundreds of teachers and support staff who have quietly fulfilled their responsibilities with so much dedication and professionalism over many years...for the thousands of students who have worked so hard to achieve something in their studies and develop themselves into amazing young women... for each of our parents who are so passionate and committed in their support of the school...for each of our Governors and Trustees who have selflessly guided the school with care and concern through so many challenges...and for everyone in our

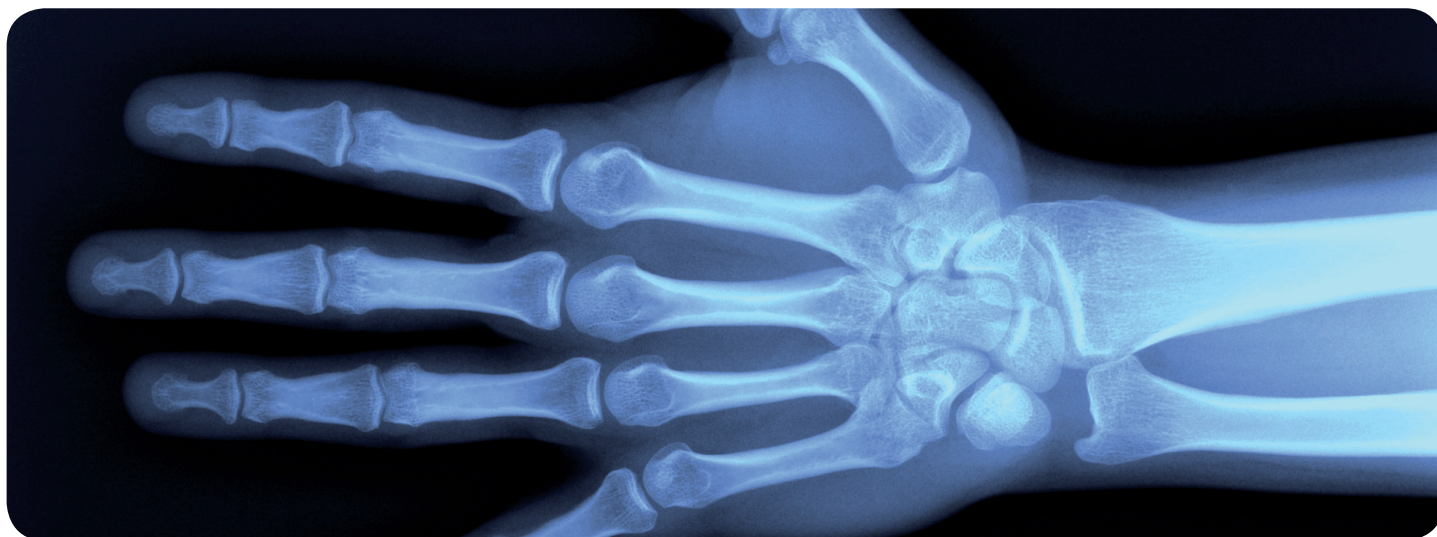
community who believes in the school, and what we are trying to achieve, and who offer their prayers and support to us in good times and bad. This award is for everyone – and my eternal gratitude is to each and every one of you.

May the Almighty continue to guide us on this journey; may He illuminate our path with wisdom and good judgement; and may He inspire us with the sincerity of endeavour, unity of purpose and clarity of thought needed to sustain growth and achieve His pleasure. Ameen.

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

*@Haniid Patel*

## Marie Curie: Contributing to Cure Humairaa Dudhwala, 13C



**Imagine breaking a delicate bone somewhere in your arm. You cannot write. You cannot eat. You are completely dependent on others. You swiftly travel to the hospital, expecting something to be done, but alas - there is nothing the doctors can do. They can neither see nor feel what has happened. You are helpless.**

Enter Marie Curie. Famous chemist, physicist and twice a Nobel Prize winner, Marie Curie was a renowned scientist who greatly contributed to the field of medicine through her ground-breaking discoveries in radioactivity.

Born in 1867 in Poland, Curie developed a passion for the sciences from an early age. Aiming to educate herself the best she could, she bore harsh and trying living conditions to eventually graduate with a degree in Physics and Mathematics from the Sorbonne University in Paris. This was where she met her husband - the scientist, Pierre Curie - and together they investigated radioactivity.

In pursuit of scientific illumination, they discovered the element Polonium, named in honour of Marie's home country Poland, and then another element, Radium - which was promoted by Curie to be used in alleviating suffering.

In 1903, the Curies were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for their pioneering discoveries, and in 1911, Marie received a second Nobel Prize, this time for Chemistry, in recognition of her work in radioactivity.

Such discoveries were vital to developing x-rays for surgery. X-rays are now a key procedure in hospitals used to identify fractures and bone breakages, and a life without this is utterly unimaginable.

**Marie's brilliance lay in the fact that she was not daunted by the male-dominated society she lived in - she was the first woman to teach at the Sorbonne, which was not only extremely prestigious, but also unheard of in the 1900s. Despite the opposition she faced from male scientists at the time, she was always valiant in her efforts. Arguably the first woman to make such an outstanding contribution to science, Marie Curie remains as a timeless reminder of what is achieved with perseverance and determination.**





## A Beautiful Patience Humairah Hanif, 13A

**In the Qur'an, we are commanded to endure patiently with  
"a beautiful patience."**

It is often unimaginable to be patient during a time of hardship.

It is difficult, fraught with pain, and often draining.

Patience is a constant state of effort.

Patience is feeling alone.

Patience is swallowing insults.

Patience is smiles covering tears.

Patience is taxing.

Patience is exhausting.

We all know patience isn't passive. However, this doesn't mean that you should do nothing and let everything wash over you. In time, it means striving and not frequently complaining. It means that you constantly control yourself in regards to your words and actions.

Throughout our lives, we all experience some form of suffering. We all have our challenges. Our problems are entirely subjective, and often we find that nobody truly understands us, despite their endearing words and practical advice.

No one can understand your pain, because they're not you.

No one can understand you better than The One who created you.

So when your heart becomes heavy, use prayer and contemplation to help you through. The Almighty created every cell in your body, and already knows what's bothering you, yet He will still listen to you. He knows your fears, your tears and your fight. The Almighty knows and He understands. He sees, He hears and He responds. And if the response isn't according to your expected and uniformed man-made schedule, then know He has something better planned.

So patience, in all its essence, is simply trust. It's about trusting the Almighty despite the pain. It's reminding yourself that there is always an ease after the hardship. Patience is giving up everything you love for The One who loves you the most.

**And what could be more beautiful than that?**

## Year 9 Faith Trail Amaani Moress, 9T5

**Over the course of the spring term the Year 9s have participated in the interfaith trip and have had the opportunity to view a thought provoking conference about extremism.**

The interfaith trip was a great experience and students had the opportunity to view each religion. **'We made many friends from various religions, which was amazing!'** said Aasiyah Waka, 9T5. Students were given the chance to display their skills in team work and chosen students participated in discussions alongside St. Wilfrid's and Witton Park Academy.

During the course of two days pupils participated in the interfaith trip at Witton Park Academy, they were grouped with learners of a different religion or background. Near the end of their stay, they displayed their research answering the question: **'Is religion worth the fighting in today's society?'** After each group presented their project, a panel of judges, who were representatives of each religion, chose the two groups that were most convincing in their argument. The two winners from our school were Sidra Yusuf, 9T1

and Amaani Moress, 9T5 with Amirah Chatti, 9T3 winning one of the awards for the best speech.

Year 9s also participated in the conference about extremism that took place just before the school exams on Friday 17th April, with the whole of Year 9 enjoying the spectacular show that they put on; displaying the extreme views that affect many young people. Their aim was to raise awareness for young teenagers and change their outlook on the way that the media inaccurately portrays a range of faiths. All the students and the teachers present thoroughly enjoyed the performance. One of those students, Nadia Osman, 9T1, said, **'The conference was something different and I didn't expect it to be as good as it was. The presentation was very interesting and their acting helped me to understand religions in a clearer way.'**

**I think Year 9 can agree that both the interfaith trip and the conference about tackling extremist views, was fascinating and stimulating and we definitely learnt a lot from it.**

## Mathematical Mania Fatimah Waghat, 10M1

**On Thursday 30th April, Key Stage 3 students across the UK, including here at Tauheedul, took part in the Junior UKMT Maths Challenge, an exam-style paper consisting of twenty-five mathematically-minded multiple choice questions. The multiple choice format may make this sound simple, but everything is not as it seems.**

Each question is a complex puzzle designed to put abstract maths skills to use. Successive questions are harder than the previous, building up to fiendishly difficult

mind-benders towards the end. Guessing is not encouraged - there are penalties for incorrect answers, adding that extra layer of exam strategy for the budding logicians. The aim is for students to develop and use logic and mathematical reasoning skills to eliminate all possible answers and eventually find the correct solution. To round things off, these twenty-five feats of genius must be performed under timed conditions.

Despite the trademark tricks and traps of the challenge, our Year 8 students pulled through victorious, with two students receiving the

prestigious gold award, part of the top 6.7% in the nation. **"Having two of our girls in the top percentage bracket in the country is a truly fantastic achievement!"** said Ms Laher, Maths teacher.

Many students also achieved silver and bronze awards for their efforts, a testament to the mathematical talent we have in school.

**Well done to all students who participated in the Challenge, and best of luck to those participating next time!**

## Election Fever Grips Tauheedul! Abiha Nawaz, 10M1

**Thursday the 7th of May saw the excitement and frenzy of another historical election take over the country. To mark the event, Tauheedul organised its very own mock election alongside the national one. A unique and exciting event was organised by a group of enthusiastic students and teachers, attempting something which has never been done at the school before.**

The engaging and distinctive pursuit was set to take place at lunch time on the 7th of May, giving all students the opportunity to come in and cast their vote. With all votes being registered, voters were given ballot papers after which they were asked to cast a vote for their preferred candidate. Votes were then counted and verified by a group of Year 11 students, and ballot papers were placed in boxes, with each year group representing a constituency.

The turnout was excellent, with the highest vote turnout being from the Year 8s, who were rewarded for their participation with a tasty, well-earned breakfast the following morning. The votes were quickly counted, and the result was that the Labour Party won a staggering majority!

Mrs Bashir, Humanities teacher and chief organiser of the event, reflected: **"The mock election created a real buzz around school - it was a great opportunity for all the students as it was something they could all participate in."**

The main aim of the election was to provide our girls with an understanding of the voting system, and encourage future involvement in elections. The opportunity allowed students to experience a glimpse of the real world and gain a realistic idea as to what the voting system is like.



**All in all, the "election" educated many of our students and turned out to be a great success, in sync with the excitement of the rest of the country.**





## Football Fever

Raeesa Patel, 10M4

**The Year 7 football team participated in the Under-12 Blackburn with Darwen football tournament on Thursday 14th May. They represented the school fantastically and played incredibly well. Their hard work and continuous determination during their training sessions evidently paid off as they came third place in the tournament, a huge achievement.**

They rallied together as a team and got to the second round, and were then knocked out in the semi-finals by the overall winners, OLSJ.

Humaira G Patel, 7H1 and Zahraa Akuji, 7H4 were both voted as the school's players of the tournament for their continued fantastic contribution to the team, but the entire team's dedication and endeavour has not gone unnoticed.

Earlier on in the year, the team participated in the Futsal competition and again, came third. Maybe next year will be the year they lift a trophy, so long as their determination and hard work continues.

**'Keep calm and carry on training,' says Miss Robb, who watched the girls come together as a team and manage third place.**



## The Sky's the Limit: Psychology Inspiration Event

Tossefa Patel, 12C



**As exams drew close and the year came to an end, Year 13 Psychology students were surprised with a unique graduation event, organised by Psychology teacher, Mrs Modan.**

The morning of Wednesday 29th April saw thirty three Psychology students, in classic graduation attire, donning graduation hats and fervently entering the hall where the ceremony commenced.

Two ceremonies took place for the two classes, each consisting of heart-rending recitation, nasheed, and a very amusing awards ceremony, in which one of the awards on offer were 'Most Likely to be Famous.' The students were given awards according to how they had represented themselves throughout the course of the year, which they happily received from guests Nurun Ahmed,

former candidate on The Apprentice, and Sadiyah Surti, a local Vlogger and designer.

Guests Nurun Ahmed and Sadiyah Surti both gave excellent speeches, inspiring the students to persevere hard and progress in life. After the event, Nurun was clearly impressed by the students and commented, **'The girls were so sweet and diligent, no doubt the school will produce many pioneering and successful women.'**

**All in all, the event was brilliantly executed - and expectations are already high for Mrs Modan from the current Year 12 Psychology classes!**

# From Skellig to Spring Rolls: World Book Night 2015

Humairaa Dudhwala, 13C

**Excitement is bubbling in the air. Whispers are being exchanged in a whirl of anticipation. Furtive glances are being darted towards the English classrooms, for a hint of what is to come. It is World Book Night 2015.**

As the sun came down on an ordinary Thursday at Tauheedul, classrooms were hastily transformed into story-telling havens and final preparations were efficiently put into place, and as moonlit hues lit up the corridors of the school, students eagerly gathered together to celebrate World Book Night 2015.

World Book Night is an annual celebration of reading that sees the distribution of thousands of books throughout the country, as passionate volunteers share their love of reading with the community.

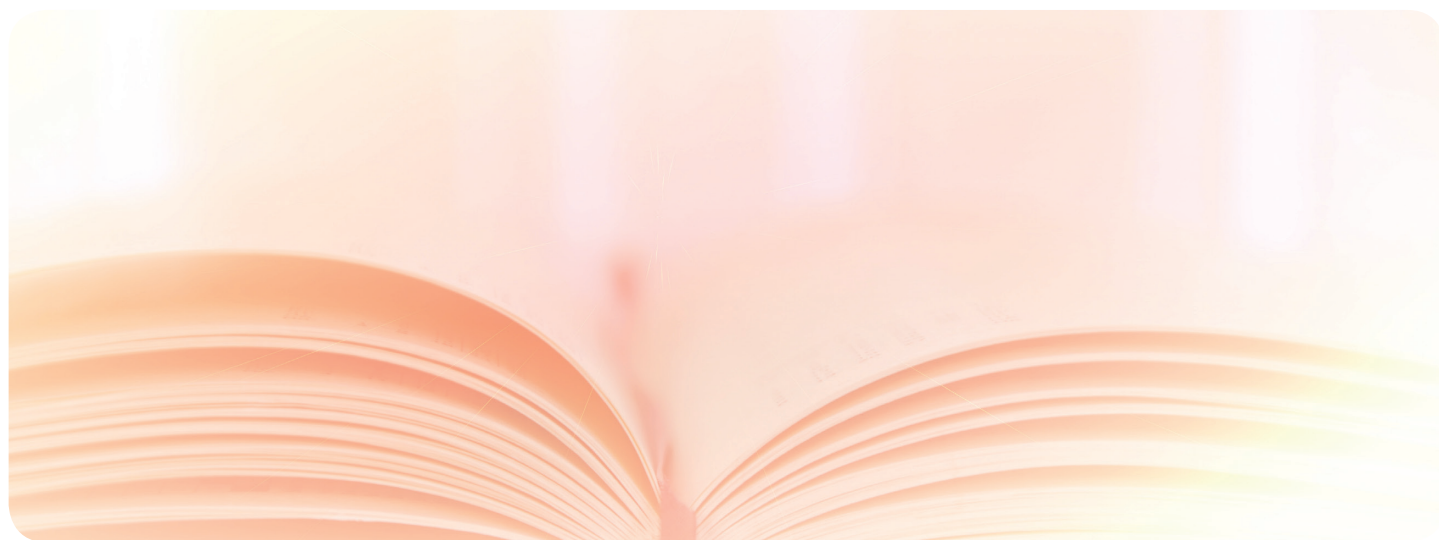
On the 23rd of March, Tauheedul celebrated the night with Year 8 students in an evening exploring the book *Skellig*, by David Almond. *Skellig* tells the tale of a strange creature found by a young boy when he moves homes - it is a contemporary classic, enjoyed by children and adults alike.

The evening commenced with a reading of *Skellig*, followed by a multitude of activities designed to engage students in exploring the novel. This involved the challenge of hunting down clues to investigate who and what *Skellig* was, as well as examining where he lived. Some of *Skellig*'s favourite food was also consumed, including Chinese spring rolls, which was a favourite with students, who delighted in playing his character.

Miss Dawood, organiser of the event, commented:

**"It was great to see the creativity and enthusiasm of the students as they got involved in the activities - it was a thoroughly enjoyable night!"**

**As the stars twinkled overhead and the night drew quietly to a close, students returned home with their very own copy of *Skellig*, enlightened, invigorated and inspired by the power of books.**



## The Reunion - A Roaring Success

Aaisha I Patel, 9T3

**250 former students, who attended Tauheedul in 1984, gathered for a reunion on Saturday 21st March. Anticipation filled the room with many former students travelling great distances to meet former classmates they had not seen in over 25 years.**

These former students attended Tauheedul at its humble beginnings on Bicknell Street and were proud of the progress the school had made, particularly the change in location. The building we have today is a far cry from the dripping ceilings and crumbling walls of the building on Bicknell Street in 1984.

The event was thoroughly entertaining and engaging for the former students and included an enlightening speech by Soaad

Patel and Zahra Ahmed, current deputy head girls. They were given the opportunity to answer questions about their school life by current students, which was extremely fascinating. The founder of Tauheedul, Mr Abdullah Master, was also in attendance and gave a reflective and heart-warming speech about the leaps and bounds of progress the school has made since 1984. There was also a nasheed performance by students from various year groups and the event ended with a dua by Chief Executive of Tauheedul, Mufti Hamid Patel.

Friendships that had fizzled out were once again lit because of the reunion and a former pupil of 1984 expressed her gratitude at the once in a lifetime opportunity,

**"Thank you for a wonderful and precious day. It was exciting to relive the memories from so long ago and meet up with classmates I haven't seen in a long time. It was a truly remarkable day."**

**A special thanks must be given to organisers of the event, Mr Iqbal Patel and Miss Darbar. They worked tirelessly to ensure all the former students were contacted, wherever they were. The event ran smoothly and was a huge success thanks to their efforts.**

**We hope such reunions occur for every student in the future and everyone can experience the joy and nostalgia felt by the reliving school life memories.**

# Preparation for the Holy Month

Amirah Chati, 9T3

**From mid-June, our lives will take a turn as we welcome the blessed month of Ramadhan.**

Although throughout this month we will see many heavy-eyed, there will hopefully be a sudden burst of abundance in the beautiful remembrance of the Almighty and recitation of the Holy Quran. So, how to make this already busy and packed Ramadhan into one of the most productive and blessed months of our entire year? Well, here I have compiled a list of small yet easy tasks to make sure each and every one of us achieves this goal.

**1. Intention**

What better way to start this fruitful month than with a clear, pure intention? As students of Tauheedul, we are very familiar with the hadith 'actions are according to intentions'. So begin with the hope that this will be your best Ramadhan and you will be helped through.

**2. Remove distractions**

Distractions come in many forms, the biggest one being your phone. Staying away from your phone may seem difficult, but removing the sound of constant buzzing will mean spending more time reflecting. Or if that's too hard for you, then let the phone become beneficial to you by putting on beautiful recitations or making use of the hundreds of great apps out there to help you through Ramadhan. Suddenly your phone won't become the reason of your mum's constant nagging but will be a source of great rewards.

**3. Create concrete, realistic goals for this Ramadhan**

A great tip for this would be to set specific goals. So instead of thinking, 'I want to pray more Quran', how about: 'After every prayer I am going to read 5 pages of Quran to make sure I finish at least one whole Quran by the end of the month.' This means you know how and when you are going to go about completing your goal.

**4. Sleep - when you get the chance (not in school lessons!)**

So, the very hard thing this Ramadhan will be tackling the issue of sleep. So, as well as your night sleep, I recommend having a little nap after school as afternoon naps were the practice of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and by making a good intention for the sleep, such as: 'I am sleeping in order to rest my body so that I can be alert and concentrate during the night prayer,' you will be gaining rewards whilst sleeping.

**5. Supplication**

The importance of supplication in this blessed month is immense. God once said to Musa (a.s.) 'O Musa! While you speak to me there are 70000 veils between you and me but at the time of Iftaar there will not be a single veil between me and the fasting followers of Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)'. How amazing is the beauty of Ramadhan!

**We wish everyone a blessed and fruitful month this Ramadhan**



Tauheedul Girls

Editor - Humairaa Dudhwala

With special thanks to Editor **Humairaa Dudhwala** for her dedication and work with As-Sawt.  
**We wish you the very best.**

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