



AS-SAWT

THE VOICE

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

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Anthology Launch Commemorates The Great War

Batool Sethi, 9S1

Friday 13th November marked the official launch of the school's anthology, 'Lest We Forget'. The meaningful poems were written by students to commemorate WW1 and honour the lives sacrificed during the war.

In the anthology, which was edited by Sixth Form students, Sheereen Patel and Humaira Dudhwala and English teachers, Miss Namaji and Miss Kazi, students dedicated their work to the millions who played a pivotal role for Britain and its future. The launch event was attended by distinguished guest, Lord Shuttleworth, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire; Chair of Governors, Kam Kothia; Chief Executive of Blackburn with Darwen Council, Harry Catherall and High Sherriff, Amanda Parker.

The event began with a welcoming speech, delivered by the Chair of Governors which was followed by a beautiful recitation of the Quran, by Ammarah I Patel, Year 10, and Rehana Patel, Year 11. After this, Lord Shuttleworth took to the stage and officially launched the anthology. He read David Cameron's foreword, in which the Prime Minister expressed the importance and value of the anthology: 'It is right that the people about whom they [the students] have written continue to be honoured for their valour in such difficult circumstances,' and praised the pupils 'for their stellar efforts'.

Thereafter, six pupils: Safeeyah Desai, Batool Sethi, Year 9; Saima Iqbal, Saarah Kothia and Afreen Shaikh, Y11, and Safiya Kheratker, Y12, all recited some of the poems from the anthology that truly captured the hearts in the room. Some of these moving recitations were from the student's work as well as poems written by those who has experienced war first hand, such as, Laurence Binyon and Arthur Graeme West. Lord Shuttleworth then commented insightfully in response to the poems and the tragedy of The Great War.

To mark the end of the ceremony, Harry Catherall delivered his closing remarks and ended the event on a reflective note. And so, the distinguished guests left for afternoon tea, which included delicious cakes and delicacies in the Dining Hall.

Lord Shuttleworth praised the event and the work of the students. He said, **"Without exception you were well informed, polite and hospitable, and the huge work and effort you had put into the exhibition was self-evident. I appreciated the attention to detail and the research you had undertaken."**

The event was an opportunity to express the importance of WW1 in our lives today and a chance to honour the bravery and sacrifices of so many.



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.

Showing Solidarity with Paris

On Friday 13th November, terrorists killed 129 people and injured several hundred others in Paris. Our thoughts are with those whose lives were cut short so mercilessly on that evening and the families left behind; the children who will not see their mother or father and the parents who must bury, and grieve for, their young ones.

People of all faiths and cultures, young and old, men and women, were targeted. There is no faith or cause that justifies the killing of innocents in this way – and those who committed such a terrible deed cannot ever be considered to represent any part of our faith.

Whilst we reject the idea that Islam has anything to do with terrorism – and are absolutely right to do so – we must accept that there are a very small number of people who are misusing our faith to try to justify the most appalling violence towards others.

That cannot be right. And, it cannot be allowed.

We cannot allow our young people to be exposed to a hateful message that says that the suffering of Muslims across the world justifies hatred and violence towards others.

In our homes and schools, we must talk to our young people about events around the globe – the suffering, the wars and the violence – and help them make sense of their role as Muslims and citizens in pushing for a better world.

We must show the best of Islam: love, compassion and mercy. And inspire our young people to do the same. We need to teach our young ones about the example of our noble Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) – about the compassion and mercy he exemplified during his life and about the legacy of peace and love that he left for the world. We must inspire our children to reach out to others – to show small acts of kindness in our daily life, to be grateful for all of the kindness shown to us and to pray regularly for others and for ourselves.

This is the true message of Islam – this is the true Islam.

Having Faith

As a school with a strong inclusive Islamic ethos, we are doing more than ever before to develop the faith and character of our young women.

Scores of new initiatives have been introduced this year to build on our existing programme of faith-based activities.

One example of this is how our learners connect with the Qur'aan on a regular basis. Each student takes part in activities to recite or listen to the Qur'aan for around 90 minutes each week – reciting Surah Faatiha before each lesson, listening to a quarter of a para (around 7-8 pages) each Wednesday morning, listening to Surah (Chapter) Yaseen each afternoon and reciting Surah Kahaf on Fridays. In addition, there are weekly Qur'aan circles which students attend to learn about how stories in the Qur'aan can inspire better character.

Throughout the year, we are marking more of the Islamic calendar with a focus on events such as the annual Hajj pilgrimage, Eid ul Adha festival, Islamic New Year, 'Aashoraa (10th of Muharram), Shab-e-Me'raj (Night of Ascension), Laylatul Bara'ah (Night of Freedom), Ramadhan, the Night of Power and Eid Ul Fitr.

In addition, our assemblies have been enhanced with a particular focus on important Islamic messages and personalities, delivered by a range of special guests and senior leaders. Each assembly also includes the recitation of the Qur'aan and the singing of Nasheed by our students.

As well as activities relating explicitly to faith, there are numerous initiatives that are developing character. A new award, called the Tauheedul Baccalaureate, promotes excellent attendance, behaviour and community service; debating events encourage our young women to learn the skills of public speaking and the art of oratory and rhetoric; workshops for parents and lessons to learners enable our girls to be safer on the internet; and people from a range of backgrounds, faiths and cultures visit the school to encourage mutual understanding and tolerance.

Our aim in all of these activities, and many more, is to promote deep love for our faith and exemplary character. Faith is not just something that is serious – but it is also beautiful, fun and full of awe and wonder.

Progress 8

Imagine if the Premier League in football was decided by 'Progress 8'. The champions would not be the team that scored the most goals, kept the most clean sheets or won the most matches. It certainly would not be the team who cherry picked the best players or had the most expensive squad, largest fan base or the biggest budget.

If the Premier League was decided by 'Progress 8', the champions would be the side whose players improved the most during their time at the club and whose value increased the most in key skill areas – such as shooting, dribbling and passing. It would reward improvement by players of all abilities – from the workhorse in defensive midfield to the showman trickster on the wing.

From this year onwards, schools will now be judged by this new measure called 'Progress 8'. This would give a score to a school – based on how well each of its students does in key subject areas, compared to how his or her peers of similar ability do across the country. It replaces '5A*-Cs with English and Maths' as the main measure of school performance and many consider it to be much fairer as it reflects progress (or the value added by a school to each student).

Although the new measure will not officially start till this year, we know that our 'Progress 8' score from last summer's exams is 1.57. A 'Progress 8' score of 1.5 means that our students achieve, on average, 1½ grades higher than students of similar ability across the country. Such a 'Progress 8' score means that ours is one of the very top schools in the country. This is testament to the hard work and sincerity of our teachers, support staff, students and parents.

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

Hamid Patel

The Women's Institute: Women who Quietly Changed Britain

Hafeeza Badat, 13B5

For 100 years the Women's Institute has been quietly fighting to change all parts of society. Some of the organisation's more unexpected and groundbreaking campaigns now need recognition.

The true brilliance of the Women's Institute is a force to be reckoned with. It has a 212,000-plus membership, but few know the full extent of the organisation's rich history, which it celebrated on 4th June at its 100th annual general meeting at the Royal Albert Hall.

Born in 1915 out of the ashes of the First World War, the Women's Institute was initially sponsored by the government with a mission to help boost food supplies. But the gatherings proved so popular that it soon took on a life of its own. Its members set about righting wrongs and initiating progressive campaigns, many of which were light years ahead of their time.

Looking through the campaigns, it is clear how intricately the Women's Institute understands how the country works. Its members agree on a single cause to back per year which is decided by a vote at the annual meeting. From that moment it is all systems go. They implement a number of strategies: a letter-writing campaign

targeting those with power, partnering with expert organisations, and choosing members to give evidence.

And it works. Recent campaigns have secured government support to help victims of domestic violence and £10 million funding into research to help protect the endangered honey bee are amongst some examples.

What is also remarkable is that the Women's Institute has always been able to speak as one of which Her Majesty The Queen is a member.

Tony Blair recognised the impact of the organisation's work. In his speech to the organisation, delivered in year 2000, he said: "You are a very powerful force for good in our country. That is a great tribute to the depth of your compassion, your fearlessness in tackling hard issues and the energy with which you further the cause of not just women, but British society."

As Ann Jones, the chair of Women's Institute Wales, puts it, **"Our work is done quietly but effectively. You don't always win by shouting from the rooftops."**

Lest We forget – WW1 Commemorations

Safeeyah Desai, 9S3

Around 100 years ago, World War One was raging and millions were affected. Triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, allies and axis countries rapidly slid into a state of war in 1914.

Four years later, on November 11th 1918, Germany surrendered. Subsequently, the countries signed a peace agreement named 'The Treaty of Versailles.'

The students at Tauheedul took part in a wide range of activities across all the different subject areas to commemorate the end of the war and those who lost their lives.

In English, war poems and biographies were studied, annotated and re-enacted. Maths lessons focused on army sizes, ration distributions and code breaking. Students in

Science had a 'blast' blowing things up to re-create noises from war zones. The MFL department had students put themselves in the shoes of those fighting by creating ration boxes and writing letters and postcards to family and friends in Urdu, French and Arabic.

Wajihah Gati, 9S3 had nothing but praise for the lessons: **"Everything we did in the lessons was productive and very informative, I really enjoyed learning about the war and the way the tasks related to it."**

Indeed, we are forever indebted to those who fought for our country. In conclusion to the WW1 commemoration's week, Tauheedul's anthology of war poems was officially launched with a special ceremony.



Gifts For All! Fatimah Waghat 11M1

On the 23rd October 2015, the 10th Muharram 1437, a group of Tauheedul students united for a special Aashoora event. Students, who attended, had the opportunity to engage in reflection and a variety of activities centred around the occasion.

The evening started with a piece by Miss Abdullah on sacrifice, followed by an enlightening speech by the head girl on the importance of Aashoora.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in the Aashoora Gift Exchange Programme. Similar to the exchange that took place in school near Eid Ul Adha, each student was assigned a random classmate to send an anonymous gift to. In return, each student received a gift from another classmate.

Towards the end of the event, everyone gathered around for an iftaar meal to complete one of their sunnah fast.

Overall, the programme was a major success, with the students leaving school that day ready to relax over the half term holidays.

Ms Amina Modan, organiser of the event, comments **'The event was enlightening and there was a wonderful sense of unity when everyone was opening their fasts.'**

Umme Kulsum Patel (11M1) commented on the gift exchange:

'I think it was a really good idea; our classmates got a bit closer knowing that each of us put care and effort into the gift.'

Enter: The Tauheedul Baccalaureate Amirah Chatl, 10T3

For the first time in our school's history, KS3 students will be showcasing their efforts to become the best citizens for our community. This award recognises their service to the community and their outstanding attendance and behaviour. It also reflects how they embrace their role as a future citizen, future leader and future entrepreneur in the society we live in and contribute to.



Are you aiming for the **Bronze Award**:
90% Attendance, 10 Conduct points and 25 hours of Community Service?



Or reaching higher for the **Silver Award**:
95% Attendance, 20 Conduct points and 50 hours of Community Service.



Maybe some of you are stretching and breaking boundaries by going for the **Gold Award**:
97% Attendance, 30 Conduct points and 75 hours of Community Service?



For those passionate about making a difference, aspire for the highest of praise, the **Platinum Award** is ideal:
This hard to reach, but fruitful honour calls for 98% Attendance, 40 Conduct points and 100 hours of Community Service.

All of this begs the question:

How can we gain such an outstanding recognition?

Mrs Master- Head of TBacc suggests that taking part in charity events, opening evenings, Social Enterprise clubs and volunteering, all amount to the hours of community service. As for behaviour and attendance, well, the ball is in your court for those points. So history awaits; who is to become the first Platinum winner of Tauheedul?

Maths Murder Mystery Night Amaani Moress 10T5

On 13th November, approximately 40 students undertook a deeply challenging maths mission to uncover a murderer. In a series of three rounds, the students were left to crack impossible codes and uncover secret clues that would later assist them in revealing the culprit. Organised by the Maths Faculty, forty students stepped up to the challenge with their heads held up high. However, they were soon to learn that they would need all of their wit in order to come out victorious.

Pupils were launched into the mystery; beginning with the first round. This consisted of the students solving various clues to unveil the offender. It was followed by Round Two, which involved a wanted poster being created in order to find the criminal. Finally,

it ended with round 3, which required the detectives to follow clues around the school to end the mystery and locate the law breaker.

The two winners, Huma Ahmed, 9S3 and Ayesha Khansia, 9S1, received a £10 gift voucher, and the two runners up, Liya Makkan, 9S2 and Ayesha Lorgat, 9S2 both received a £5 gift voucher. A huge congratulations to the other winners of the rounds.

Mrs Yunus, Maths teacher stated, **“Exercising the mind is just as important as exercising the body. This was our aim for our Maths Murder Mystery.”** She follows on by saying, **“If you enjoyed the event or wish to participate in occasions such as these, please come along to our club every Friday.”**

Year 11 Netball Fever! Raeesa Patel, 11M4

They say all good things come to an end. And the story for the Year 11 netball team was no different.

October saw them compete in the Blackburn with Darwen Netball League, and it was safe to say, they didn't fail to entertain. They played a total number of 5 thrilling matches and each one of them saw the players' solidarity and passion.

Playing each game as if it was their last, the team worked effortlessly to try and come out victorious.

Nahid Patel, who was frequently named **‘player of the match’** during the run of games, stated:

‘I’m proud of the team for how much we’ve improved since we first started playing. We’re still learning and getting better.’

The team of seven emphatically finished the short-gamed season against Witton Park in a hard-fought match.

Mrs Mulla had nothing but praise for the girls, saying:

‘The girls did brilliantly, they have made massive improvement since they first started playing and I’m incredibly proud. They will continue to practice hard for their next tournament.’

They will play together one final time in March, competing for top place in the annual Netball tournament against other schools.

Loopy Language Hubbub! Humaira Paderwala, 10T3



The European Day of Languages, an annual occasion to celebrate the 6,000 + languages spoken around the world, promotes and encourages multilingual awareness. It is an opportunity to collectively celebrate the beauty of communication and the many languages we possess.

The school celebrated the event with its own 'European Languages Week'. All form groups received their own 'European Passport' which contained facts and quizzes about European countries. Year 7 and Year 8 had the opportunity to take part in a 'Guessing the European Language' riddle, whilst Year 9 to Year 11 took part in a 'Guessing the Proverb' quiz. On Friday morning, to end off the many celebrations, there was a whole school 'Guess the Book, Guess the Language' quiz which contained a famous book title read by a mystery staff member in a foreign language.

Each of us certainly enjoyed the various activities planned and it was also "a great opportunity to learn about all the different languages we are surrounded by, and from it many of us should have unquestionably began to appreciate all other cultures and understand the importance of communication," quoted Aazima Vali, 10T4. Merci d'avoir participé!

To go hand in hand with the school's celebration of European Languages Week, the school was also delighted to receive the British Council International School Award 2015 – 2018 for development of internationalism in the curriculum. The school received a congratulatory email from the International School Award team stating, **‘It is testament to your whole school commitment to embedding a rich and creative range of international work.’** Key organiser and French teacher, Mrs Mushtaq, commented: **‘This is recognition for the school's fantastic curriculum inside and outside of the classroom.’**



The Matter of Memory

Arifa Patel, 11M3



For centuries there has been a desperation to leave a lasting will and legacy upon the Earth, indicative of one's time on it. Though the matter is usually approached through writing a last will and testament, or a letter to a friend or loved one, there have long been suspicions about other methods, and whether or not sound can ever be truly imprisoned in stone.

There has been speculation from the dawn of time as to whether or not such an event could ever occur. In many cases, such is often related to the supernatural, or dismissed as yet another unproven scientific theory. Tried and tested once, before being forgotten. However, several recordings have been found of such a theory in the works of Thomas Charles Lethbridge, an archaeologist and parapsychologist (supposed investigator of the paranormal) of his time. If the theory could be proven, it may explain ghost encounters people believe they have faced, and also explain away any notion of a building or place ever having been truly haunted.

The basic idea of the theory is simple - porous rocks, such as limestone and chalk absorb water, so they may also absorb sound, imprinting it into its very matter, unbeknown to and untried by the modern world.

Yet the idea is somewhat intriguing, that humans may leave behind a legacy, or memory, completely immersed in stone. While the theory remains unproven and therefore nonsense in the eyes of the scientific world, much could be said of human interest in it, and in the philosophy behind such a thing itself. One could take an

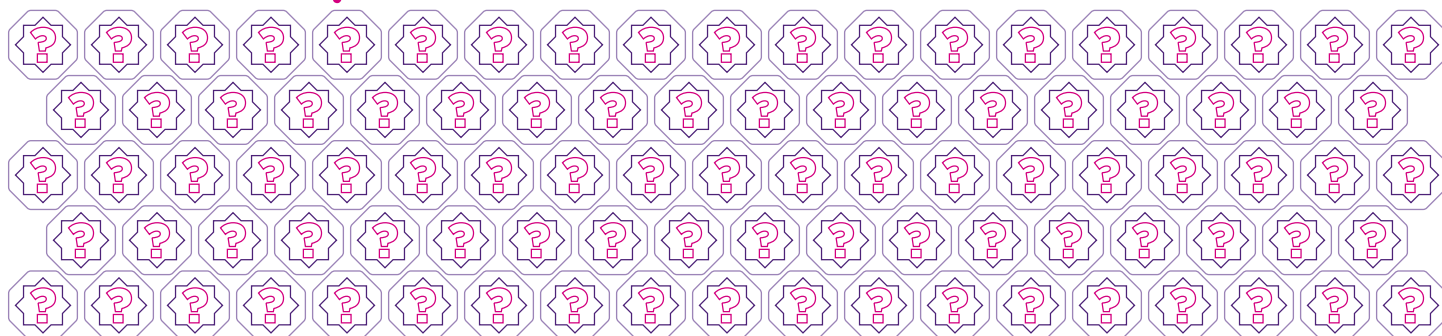
example from the human desire to leave something behind or to avoid being forgotten.

While one may entertain oneself that in the next hundred years a person may sit where you are now and hear long lost remnants of some seemingly insignificant conversation you have previously had. The question remains as to why one feels the desire in the first place to leave something behind?

Testaments have been an increasingly common practice over the last few centuries, with records dating back to the early Greeks. This is to ensure that family or friends left behind may possess whatever the writer so chooses of their belongings once they have passed on. Diaries have been kept, letters written, testaments made, all in the hope that one day they will be picked up and read by a descendant or anyone for that matter, who may read it and remember them.

So while it appears that humanity's supposed athazagoraphobia (the fear of being forgotten) increases, it appears that the only way to truly be remembered is by one's actions. One only needs to look back into the past and see that the many famous historical figures known to many are known for their actions, not their wishes or hopes or dreams. **So, my message to you is to try and find a small thing every day, one small act to be remembered by. And to keep in mind that when any of you, including myself, are about to do any act, be it good or bad, little or large, significant or not so, is it the one you wish to be remembered by?**

Radio 4 - Any Questions? Huda Rijab, 9S2



On Friday 2nd October, 5 students from Tauheedul Sixth Form and Miss Rizwana Patel, teacher of A Level Sociology and Politics, took a trip to Radio 4 in Winstanley College, Wigan.

The college hosted BBC Radio 4's live programme, Any Questions, which visits different parts of the country each week. This involves different members of the world of politics and media having a topical discussion based on questions posed by the audience.

In preparation for the event, the students thought of a range of questions and on arrival to the venue those questions were then posted in a box. The editor of the programme then read through the questions and selected the best 9.

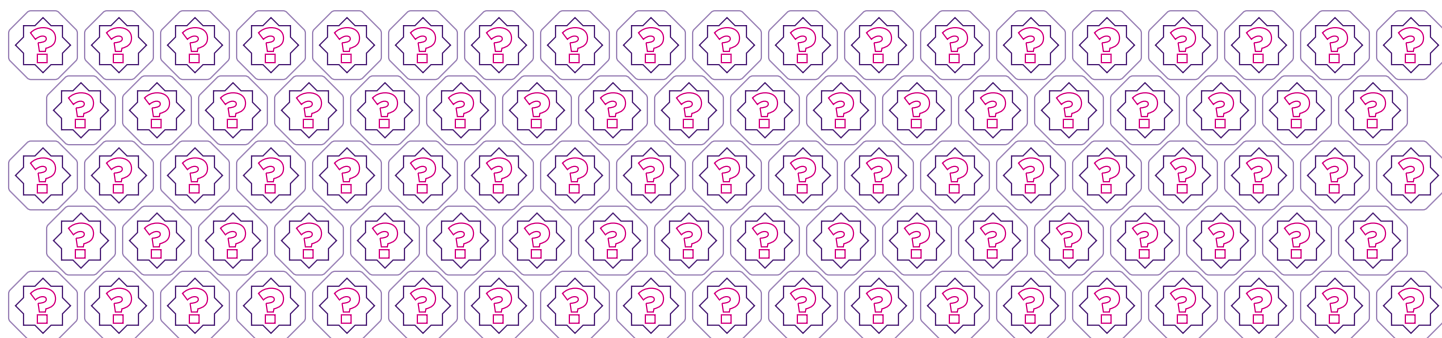
One of our student's questions was selected; the question was linked to the recent controversy about Volkswagen misleading customers on the amount of pollutants emitted from their cars.

This question came in sixth place. Unfortunately, there wasn't time for the respective debate to be aired. But not to worry, our students got the opportunity to witness the discussion sat in front row seats.

There were many well-known politicians at the event including: former Conservative Cabinet member - Kenneth Clarke, as well as Jonathan Dimbleby - a British presenter of political radio and television programmes, as well as a political commentator and a writer. Also, Labour Party politician - Hilary Benn was part of the panel.

The students then got a chance to meet with the panel and the host. Miss Rizwana Patel said

'They were all very lovely and it was very exciting meeting Jonathan Dimbleby and the other political greats!'



The Honourable Entrepreneurs of Sixth Form Maryam Sharief, 11M2

A palatable plateful of goodwill, served with a side dish of delectable determination, along with a whole lot of sweet competitiveness: the week commencing the 16th of November managed to knock up quite an eventful dish. The sixth form students battled it out for the chance of winning the Inter-Society Competition, by raising money for Tauheedul Charity to support their chosen campaign.

The students, split into eight societies, were first given the opportunity to acquire knowledge about their own society. Inspired by the skills they had learnt, they then strategised the best way to raise as much money as possible. They were also required to advertise their society by presenting their work in front of four judges - including the

restaurant Maida's owner Mohammad Ali and successful businesswoman and school governor, Anne Pilling.

After weeks of planning and preparation, the students impressed the school with a series of delightful events including: a debate, a play, a fashion show and -of course - lots and lots of food. A staggering amount of over eight thousand pounds was raised. But, at the end of it, there could only be one winner. The judges had a tough decision to make with Mad Science raising the highest amount of £2244.83 and the Debating Society £1654.52.

However, after much discussion, it was the Entrepreneurial Society, who had raised £1331.94, who finally won them over with their professionalism, visible teamwork and extraordinary 'entrepreneurial' ideas.

Mumtaz Patel and Naeema Ghadiali, members of the group, expressed their joy:

'We were absolutely ecstatic and knowing that we had done everything for charity made the win even better.'

The judges exclaimed that they were **'truly amazed by all of the students' work. They'll do well in the future.'**

Filled with fierce competition as well as a true sincerity and want to support the needy, the week was an incredibly amazing one for all students and teachers alike.

Religions Connected: Interfaith Speakers

Farha Patel, 9S1

Sixth Form students were enlightened with knowledge of religious experiences from established interfaith speakers who visited the school. Speakers from diverse religions such as: Buddhism, Christianity and the Jewish faith delivered factual and engaging sessions.

Organised by RE teacher, Mrs Natesha Butt, the first speaker, Rev. Arun John, provided an insight into Christianity. Mr Richard Foster presented a Buddhist's way of living. Mariya Bandukiya, 12B3, commented that the experience 'was very interesting because we got a deeper understanding about other religions and traditions'.

The school hosted the guests showing how religious diversity and pluralism makes Britain a richer society. All the speakers helped to connect the differing religions and showed how our beliefs provide the perfect way to unite.

**It was a pleasure and honour to welcome
all the speakers to our school.**



Tauheedul Girls

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