



AS-SAWT

# THE VOICE

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

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## Introducing Entrepreneurship Fatima Chohan, 9S3

**Y10 Enterprise Week encouraged innovative business skills amongst our budding entrepreneurial students. They were put to the task of creating their own product which developed their business acumen.**

Students were initially briefed through a presentation. This included the benefits of having good business skills, but also outlined their tasks for the week ahead. The students were assigned with creating their own unique product which they then had to sell at a trade fair. They calculated the cost of materials carefully and considered how to make a healthy profit. This gave them an insight into how a business runs and helped them with pitching and handling finances.

The teams were given a £50 budget to purchase the goods and materials needed. The students gained skills in teamwork and creativity when making their products. The groups had to come together and think of a unique selling point to make their product stand out, such as: afternoon tea hampers and create your own cookie.

Tensions were raised as pressure was rising amongst the teams to achieve a high profit - all of which was donated to the Eid (festival) Gifts programme led by Tauheedul charity.. They raced against the clock to make the all-star product. Hudaa Bax, Year 10, described it as, **"tiring, but great fun."** She went onto explain, **"We finally got to taste the reality of business."**

Many guest speakers from local and globally renowned businesses arrived to speak to the students. Siddiq Musa and Suhail Bux from the company KPMG, and designer, Saleha Bagas, who creates diverse yet modest clothing for women, shared their experience in the business world. These motivational speakers explained the highs and lows of their careers which had a profound effect on the students.



Powerful insight into successful entrepreneurship

The students pulled together and managed to create amazing products. They then battled it out to make their product sound desirable and original by pitching their products to a panel of judges. Consequently, this gave them confidence in their communication and presentation abilities. Amirah Chati, Year 10, stated: **"This taught me the art of business under extreme pressure. Through it, we learnt how to approach people we have never met and use the power of persuasion to sell them our products."**

The students had fun designing and creating their products, but, most importantly, gained valuable lessons and skills that will no doubt be beneficial when stepping into the adult world. Mrs Bashira Patel, Deputy Director of Teaching and Learning Futures, described the event as successful: **"Y10 students had an incredible week, demonstrating their business prowess through record-breaking fundraising."**

**The winning team received a trophy and a certificate. They were also given the opportunity to visit the KPMG offices in Manchester. In addition to this, the lucky winners were also treated to a meal.**



## 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...

Much of the final term was dedicated to end-of year, GCSE and A Level exams. Over half of our students completed public examinations in May and June. The exam period is always incredibly challenging for learners, their parents and our teachers. However, this year was particularly difficult with new tougher GCSE and A Level exams being completed and so many exams having to be taken whilst students were fasting and deprived of sleep during the holy month of Ramadhan.

Often, our learners find this period particularly stressful and emotional. They want to do well, work very hard, make incredible sacrifices and get upset if the exam paper does not go the way they hoped it would.

As we remind our learners, whilst our grades and qualifications are very important for our future, they are not what defines us. Our grades might open doors of opportunity for us, but they do not determine our value to our families, community and wider society. We may have the best grades possible – but this must be coupled with having the right character, being steadfast to our faith and having a commitment to helping others.

Ultimately, it is our moral character – our integrity, piety and sincerity – that will decide how successful we are in life.

In addition, our GCSE and A Level exams have a bigger purpose other than to allow us to achieve qualifications and entry into college or university. By preparing for exams – revising, planning and giving up luxuries such as time with family and watching T.V. – we learn to become more disciplined, to prioritise what is important and to be more focused and patient in our life.

And that is excellent practice for the real tests in life – maintaining healthy relationships, being a good parent and observing the tenets of our faith such as fasting and praying regularly. These are the real tests in life and they determine whether we succeed in this life and the hereafter.

### Patience in Life

Jalalud-Deen Rumi wrote about patience: 'Patience does not mean to passively endure. It means to be farsighted enough to trust the end result of a process. What does patience mean? It means to look at the thorn and see the rose, to look at the night and see the dawn. Impatience means to be so short-sighted as to not be able to see the outcome. The lovers of God never run out of patience, for they know that time is needed for the crescent moon to become full.'

In life, there are lots of blessings and challenges.

Sometimes, it is hard to see our blessings as we endure the difficulties and troubles of day-to-day life. As we suffer from illness, fatigue, bereavement or some loss in our life, we may not see all of the blessings with which the Lord has bestowed us. How many times do we stop to see the beauty of the natural world around us, marvel at the human intellect that inspired so many of the technological advances of our age and give thanks for the kindness and perseverance of the human spirit?

For, our Lord is amazing. And His promise to us is as true as it is wonderful. Be patient – truly patient – and He will deliver. And we are truly blessed. For, with every hardship and every 'thorn' that we encounter, we will be rewarded with the best of outcomes.

### Happy Birthday, Ma'am

In June, Her Majesty the Queen celebrated her 90th birthday. Since her accession to the throne in 1952, our longest-reigning monarch has dedicated her life to public service. Her Majesty's solemn sense of duty and commitment to the country and the broader commonwealth is both inspiring and a wonderful example to all of us.

So, as she celebrates another milestone in her incredible life, we wish Her Majesty the very best of health and many more years to reign over us.

### A sincere apology...

As we come to the end of another academic year, it is a time for reflection. Every day, our teachers and school leaders work hard and make sincere decisions aimed at helping our learners to stay safe, achieve the best grades and develop excellent character. However, we do not always get things right. There will be times when we have said and done the wrong thing, not been there for our learners and parents when they needed us and not lived up to the promise of the fantastic school that we aspire to be.

For each of these mistakes – and every time we have fallen short - let me genuinely say 'sorry'. We will always look to improve and strive to do better next year.

On behalf of everyone at the school, I pray that you have a wonderful and safe summer.

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

*Hamid Patel*



## Nothing Compares to Cycling Nadya Sharif, 9S3



**Nothing quite compares to the sheer joy and freedom that comes with riding a bike. Year 7 students were given the enjoyable opportunity to pedal their way across the school grounds by participating in a cycling training programme known as 'Bike-Ability'.**

The main purpose of the programme was to give students a chance to ride a bike, some for the very first time, and to boost their self-confidence. They were taught the practicalities of cycling, and how it was an essential skill in their day to day life. Each student was taught about riding safely and why such safety precautions were important.

One pupil, Sana Patel, from Year 7, gave her perspective on what she had learnt throughout the event: **"It was very enjoyable because they helped all of us in gaining confidence on a bike."**

Through this training, the professional instructors encouraged and aimed to inspire learners to increase their participation in sports in general, ultimately, helping each individual to develop independence.

Mrs. Robb, P.E teacher, said: **"All Year 7s had the fantastic opportunity to learn how to ride a bike and gain confidence in trying something new. A large majority of students, who had never ridden a bike before, succeeded on that day."**

## Sports Extravaganza: Championing Leadership through Sports Huma Ahmed, 9S3



**Thursday 16th June was truly an inspirational day as selected Year 8 and 9 students participated in the Sky Sports 'Living for Sports' activities. They were graced by the company of two renowned sporting stars: Charlotte Hartley, a professional hockey player, and Jenna Downing, an inline skating world champion and sporting mentor. The day involved fun packed activities and inspirational discussions on empowering others through leadership and mentoring.**

Starting in the Boardroom, the advice was to keep persevering. Individuals face many challenges throughout their lives and sometimes it may seem easier to give up and leave the problem as it is. However, taking that opportunity, facing that challenge and resolving your problems may mean leaving your comfort zone, but, in the end, this is where you will make the most advances. Charlotte shared the struggles she faced in her teenage years which was an emotional and touching moment – one that will inspire the Year 8 and 9 sports leaders to reflect when championing their roles.

On the netball courts, the students received great tips on playing hockey and practised 'special' championship moves pioneered by Charlotte Hartley. The practical demonstrations provided guidance to our mentors on how to deliver memorable activities to their younger peers.

'Leading by example' was one of the many mottos taken from the sessions. Students learnt that modelling positive behaviour can help with team work and inspire and instil confidence in others. Mrs Robb, P.E. teacher, described the Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' project as a way of developing life skills amongst the students: **"The sports leaders did a great job and deserved this once in a lifetime experience. It helped us reflect on our past sporting experiences to inspire and shape our life goals for the future!"**

All who attended the event whole heartedly agreed that it was a truly memorable day. Noorulanne Younis, from Year 8, summed up the experience as "inspirational and educational." She further explained, **"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Both Jenna and Charlotte were truly inspiring. This was an excellent start for us to begin thinking about our future careers."**

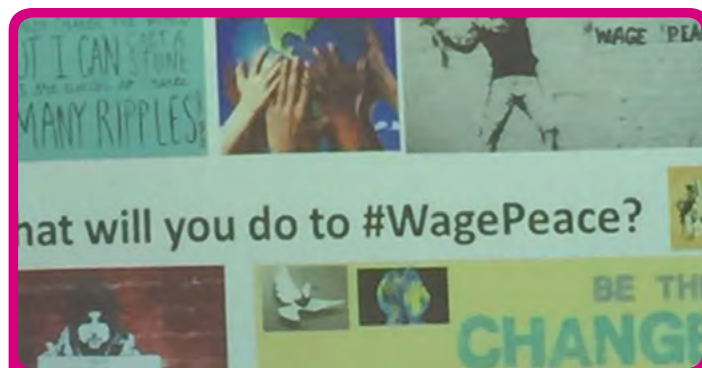


## Unleash the Dragons Batool Sethi, 9S1

Blackburn with Darwen Council held a Supporting Schools Project that was designed to integrate students from schools in the local community. Students had to create a values charter to tackle extremism, challenge stereotypes and enhance cohesion. In particular, the focus was on raising awareness of the dangerous risks of extremism and radicalisation.

Students in Year 9 took part in a series of activities which were divided up into three main events. The first of these activities was a presentation delivered by PREVENT to the students introducing them to their task and educating them on the importance of the project. The following week, students went to Pleckgate High School to take part in a series of interactive workshops and theatre productions. Through these workshops, students were not only given the opportunity to interact with pupils from other schools, but also learnt about the importance of building strong connections with people from different faiths to tackle extremism.

Finally, the main Dragons' Den style event was held on 28th April at Blackburn Youth Zone. Over the weeks, all the participating schools were given the task to create a project that promoted relations between people of different religions and tackle extremism. This was then presented to a panel of 'Dragons' who judged and decided on the best project. The Year 9 students proudly walked away from the event earning third place and received a trophy for their efforts and brilliant ideas.



The Year 9 group created and expanded their work around two main ideas. The group, after much research, concluded that an effective way of spreading the message of 'Wage Peace, Not War' would be to print it on shopping bags. This would then be marketed and sold in local supermarkets. In addition to the bags, the students also had the idea of carrying out 'random acts of kindness', which involved spontaneously handing out sweet treats to people who least expected it. The reactions were recorded and shown to the panel of judges. To conclude the presentation, the students also gifted the judges with a pie jar as a random act of kindness. The whole aim behind the ideas was to show that kindness and good character is the best way to build positive relations and tackle extremism.

Aneesah Kholwadia, 9S2, commented: **"We had a really good day. It was fun to meet with other students and talk about their views."**

The winners were St Wilfrid's Church of England Academy whose project idea was to create a film. They presented their movie trailer to the judges and explained that their film would be aimed at children focusing on the diverse relations in society. They proposed that by watching how people are treated, this would allow people to learn the differences between right and wrong and, in turn, show them how to tackle extremism.

Mrs Bux, Head of Year 9, who assisted students on the project, stated: **"It was extremely refreshing to see our students fully engaged in discussions and debate around extremism. They showcased their creativity with their ideas of 'random acts of kindness' which won the hearts of the judging panel. Their passion for wanting to change attitudes helped them to earn third place."**





## One Woman, One Mission Zainab Karbhari, 9S4



**Mother Teresa (born Agnas Gonxsha Bajaxhin) devoted her life to the service of others. In 1928, at the age of 18, Mother Teresa left her home in Macedonia to begin her new life as a missionary. Agnas joined the Sisters of Loreto institution in Ireland, where she taught in Dublin and was then sent to India where she taught Geography and History.**

Agnas left the institution to dedicate herself to the poor and needy in Kolkata. Founder of the 'Missionaries of Charity', a charity based in India, Agnas made the decision to change her birth name permanently to 'Teresa'. Soon after changing her name, she was promoted to the title 'sister' and then 'mother'; this was to show her selfless devotion to others. Although she was satisfied with the work she was undertaking, she still felt the urge to serve God in a more enhanced way. This urge was known as her 'call within a call' which influenced her to continue aiding those less fortunate than herself.

She was known as a woman who sacrificed many things in the way of others, steadily and loyally contributing to the most helpless people around her, labouring when nobody took notice or gave her praise. But who is she to us? Many claim to know the name, but do they know the woman who is behind the name? These questions prompt us to recognise her self-sacrifice as an admirable quality as she dedicated her life to helping others.

**"I saw a woman dying on the street outside Campbell Hospital. I picked her up and took her to the hospital, but she was refused admission because she was poor. She died on the street. I knew then that I must make a home for the dying, a resting place for people going to heaven."**

Mother Teresa built homes for orphans and nursing homes and hospices for the terminally ill. She sacrificed the opportunities to marry and have children in order to assist those less privileged than herself.

**In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle to overcome poverty and suffering in society. In 1999, she was recognised as the 'world's most admired person of the 20th century.' Additionally, she is now rightly remembered as 'Blessed Teresa of Kolkata' for her exceptional efforts and movements in struggling for a better society and future for all.**

## Eco-Warriors: Making a Change Humaira Toorawa, 9S3

**The gradual changes that began to appear all over the school left most students rather puzzled. Who was responsible for the brand new recycling bins in every classroom? Who stuck the useful notes above all the light switches reminding students and teachers alike to save electricity by switching off the lights?**

It was soon discovered that slowly, but effectively, the school had brought together its very own tribe of Eco-Warriors. They were working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that Tauheedul would remain environmentally friendly.

Without fail, KS3 students, led by Citizenship teacher, Mrs Aga, and History teacher, Miss Rizwanah Patel, gathered every Friday in order to discuss how exactly the school could be transformed into a successful, exemplary eco-school. The dedicated Eco-Club members devoted their time in thinking of ideas, drawing up plans and putting them into action with the ultimate aim of making the school greener and more environmentally friendly.

Nour Alarbi, an Eco-Club member in Year 7, explained, **"Working as a team and getting to know new people made the club a very enjoyable experience, and I had a great time. The activities were constantly interactive and there wasn't a boring moment!"**

Not only did the Eco-Club help make the school more environmentally friendly, it also opened up numerous opportunities for the students to build their skills. Organising fundraisers and taking part in charity work allowed the students to enhance their organisation and interpersonal skills as well as developing leadership and responsibility.



The ideas ranged from planting trees, placing bird feeders on the grounds and introducing the 'Eco Code of Conduct' around the school. The Eco-Club students were also given the opportunity to take part in activities on a much larger scale. This included the fundraiser for Children in Need and the sponsored walk at Ingleton Falls in order to raise money for the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature). It is common knowledge that hard work pays off and the Eco-Warriors most certainly proved this when they raised an astonishing £707 during their sponsored walk, as well as the remarkable sum of £1267 for Children in Need.

Miss Rizwanah Patel commented on the brilliant efforts of the students: **"The progress made this year is most impressive and I am very proud of our students. Each task was met with great enthusiasm and a lot was learned by all of us this year."**



## UK Mathematics Trust Challenge (UKMT) Huda Rijab, 9S2

**The annual UKMT Maths Challenge is a chance for gifted young students to test, not only their maths skills, but also their ability to think logically and under pressure. It is a competition completed under exam conditions. This was carried out by the gifted mathematicians in Year 7 and 8 on Thursday 28th April 2016.**

In total, 60 students participated and, out of those, 19 achieved certificates in the bronze, silver and gold categories. In the whole country, only a small percentage of students get certificates and only a few receive the gold certificate. Those who achieve the gold award, get chosen to partake in the next round known as the 'kangaroo paper' which was held in school on Tuesday 14th June 2016.



Our Year 8 Winners

In Year 8, the highest achiever was Aaliyah Gorji, who won a silver award, and in Year 7, the highest achiever was Ruqayyah Geloo who also managed to reach the kangaroo round and achieved the highest certificate the school has ever had.

Gold award achiever, Ruqayyah Geloo, stated, **"The first round was a little easy to complete, but the next round was a lot more complicated. It got harder as the paper progressed, but I look forward to doing it again next year."**

Miss Yunus, Maths teacher, gave her thoughts on the event: **"The UKMT Junior Maths Challenge was an exciting opportunity for our gifted and talented Year 7 and 8 students to shine. We had great fun and achieved an excellent result far better than the school has ever accomplished. Well done to anyone who participated and good luck next year!"**



Our Year 7 Winners

## Experiencing the World of Work Laiza Dar, 9S4

**Work experience is an advantageous opportunity for students to be brought out of their comfort zone and solve problems much bigger than the ones you find on paper.**

This year, from Monday 13th June, Year 12 students received their first taste of what it is like to work in a professional field. Each student was assigned a specific job related to the field they would like to enter in the future which gave them first-hand experience in the world of work. Popular assigned work placements were: pharmacies, nurseries, primary schools and care homes.

Students had organised a briefing with their allocated company which meant they were enhancing their communication skills. From Monday, their true experience began as they were designated a variety of tasks to complete, such as stocking shelves and organising medication. As the week progressed, they were allocated more challenging tasks that helped build their social skills. Some had to work with children and alongside teachers, whilst others had to socialise with and care for the elderly.

From time to time, teachers would check in on the work placements and discussed students' insight to the working world. Many students stated that the work experience was an extremely useful opportunity that allowed them to build their character as well as skills related to the actual profession they were aspiring towards.

Humaira Ismail, 12B6, worked for Bootstrap Enterprise for a week and shared her experience: **"There were a few things that I came across which I would never have known if I did not work in that environment - or even in any workplace. I experienced what it was like to be working professionally with so many different types of people. So, it was a real eye-opener in general."**



The students learnt many invaluable lessons from being exposed to a real work environment. From observing the routine of work life, to being able to communicate in a professional manner. The wealth of skills they gained will help the students hone and develop in the future.

Year 12 student, Javeria Amjad, completed her work placement in Lammack Primary School. She valued the skills learnt and stated: **"By completing each task to the best of my ability, I was able to recognise the value of communication, commitment and service for others. Also, I learnt about my strengths and weaknesses."**

Mrs Bashira Patel, Deputy Director of Teaching and Learning Futures, outlined a memorable event one of the students experienced: **"It was an excellent experience for the students. One of our highlights includes Seema Patel (12B2) who met Ed Balls (Former Economic Secretary to the Treasury) during her placement at Blackburn MP, Kate Hollern's office."**



## Festival Celebrations Safeeyah Desai, 9S3

The school celebrated the end of fasting with food and gifts! The students came in to school in their festive clothes and brought in various sweet dishes for the rest of their year group to sample. The rainbow of colours, designs and styles stretched as far as the eye could see in all the classrooms and corridors as the students and staff exhibited their best attire.

This event was a big hit with students and teachers alike who got to enjoy both well-loved sweet treats and new desserts with their friends. From chocolate-covered goodies, to cakes and pies, we saw almost everything imaginable and probably developed a few cavities.



Sharing delights



Gifts galore

Aisha H Patel, from Year 10, described it as a **“fun and great bonding experience.”**

The ‘Secret Buddy’ project also went down well with students who were thrilled to receive gifts from their peers. Every student secretly selected a member of their form class from an envelope and created a festive gift pack. This really brought the students together and strengthened the bond between them.

Sana Master, from Year 9, exclaimed, **“The day was fantastic! The food was delicious, everybody looked amazing and the gift idea was really cool.”**

## New Year, New You Aaliyah Musa, 9S2

As this year draws to a close, a new year dawns upon us. For some of us, it will be a year full of new challenges, experiences and opportunities and we all want to make the perfect start to set us up for success. So, how can we make our transition into the next year swift and how can we maximise our learning?



It's important for us to realise that a new school year brings new beginnings, regardless of how long we have spent at school. The highs from the year before are an indication of where we could go next. The new school year will give us a chance to re-evaluate our aims and our overall purpose for attending school: **to learn and succeed.**

It's important to refresh and remind ourselves of some learning throughout the holidays by keeping on top of any homework. You may want to look at the book list provided by your English teacher and, just before starting school, look over the content from Science from the last year, or complete a few maths puzzles.

Over time, we all get things wrong, but we have to recognise that this is okay. Mistakes can be the best way to learn new things about ourselves and it gives us the opportunity to make changes in the way we approach new tasks. It is a chance for us to reflect on past mistakes and use this to improve ourselves, but also our learning.

This does not mean, however, that we set up to fail. Optimism is key for starting the new year. Now, I'm not saying that we should set unrealistic targets, but set up small milestones for us to achieve throughout the course of the year. This way, success will be inevitable.

Mrs Master, Head of Year 8, advised students: **“Begin the new school year with the hope that all things can be possible.”**

**My last tip for you is to enjoy your school days. Aside from all the lessons, homework and exams, school days are probably the best days. Take this coming year as a chance to create memories of attainment, success and overall excellence.**

## Reflection Hurmat Shahzad, 9S4

The blessed month of fasting is over, but that's no excuse to deprive ourselves of the innumerable mercies that were acquired during the holy month. There is a reason why the month of fasting is known as 'the month of the Qur'aan' and we should try to continue to reap the rewards bestowed upon us, in accordance with the spiritual actions of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). During the month of fasting, not only were these actions practised at home or in free time, but were also accomplished in school. This is why, for the second consecutive year, the school successfully launched a spiritual introspection circle (I'tikaaf) in the Reflection Centre every lunchtime. This was led by a number of inspiring teachers.

Zainab Ahmed, from Year 9, commented: **"I went to the Reflection Circles every day. I really enjoyed them. There was always something new to learn that I didn't know before."**

If that wasn't enough, the school also continued its beneficial practice of Qur'aan recitation in form classes. This provided the students with moments in their day and in between lessons for some quiet reflection, or just a minute for them to meditate and develop their bond with God. Also, during the Reflection Circles, the students were generously provided with the chance to study stories of female role models in history and their contribution. Through this, students were enlightened with the importance of kindness, sacrifice and inner strength.

Miss Aamena Patel, Head of Year 10, stated:

**"I think the lunchtime Reflection Circles and daily Qur'aan recitations were both very successful this year. I was particularly impressed with the eagerness of the students who gave up their lunch times to participate in the circles."**

**Service:** Taking responsibility for our community

**Teamwork:** Working together for excellence

**Ambition:** Aspiring to be our best

**Respect:** Treating others as we wish to be treated

## Upcoming Events...

**Thursday 18th August:**

[A Level Results Day](#)

**Thursday 25th August:**

[GCSE Results Day](#)

[Y12 Enrolment Day 1](#)

**Thursday 1st September:**

[School re-opens for students](#)

[Y12 A Level and BTEC Induction Day](#)

**Friday 2nd September:**

[Y13 Induction Day](#)

**Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th September:**

[Festival of Sacrifice](#)  
(subject to moon sighting)

**Thursday 15th September:**

[Deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry UCAS Applications](#)

[A2 History Trip to Museum of Liverpool](#)

**Tuesday 20th September:**

[Y12 Parents' Induction Evening](#)

[Y13 Parents' UCAS Evening](#)

**Thursday 22nd September:**

[Y6 Open Evening](#)

**Tuesday 27th September:**

[Year 7 Castleshaw Trip](#)

**Wednesday 28th September:**

[Year 7 Castleshaw Trip](#)

[A2 Social Science Trip to Media City, Imperial War Museum and Lowry Gallery](#)

**Friday 30th September:**

[Duke of Edinburgh Recruitment Deadline](#)

**Friday 14th October:**

[Y10 Bronte Parsonage Trip](#)

**Wednesday 19th October:**

[A2 Social Science Trip to Crown Court and People's History Museum](#)

**Thursday 20th October:**

[Deadline for UCAS Applications](#)

**Monday 24th October –**

**Friday 28th October:**

[Mid Term Closure](#)



Tauheedul Girls



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