



Tauheedul Girls

AS-SAWT

THE

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VOICE

Edition 27 - July 2017

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



Striker Takes Centre Stage

Noorulanne Younis, 9H4

Blackburn Rovers' star, Lucas Joao, a Portuguese striker, is the first player to visit the school through a partnership between Tauheedul Girls and the football club which is now coming into its second year.

The aim of the session was to inspire the girls in continuing to develop their football skills. Mrs Robb, Head of PE, detailed: "We are thrilled to have such a strong partnership between Tauheedul Education Trust and Blackburn Rovers. Having Lucas Joao, created a buzz around our football sessions and motivated the girls a lot more."

In the past few years, Tauheedul students have had regular sessions at the school with the football club's coaching staff who also run the Premier League Girls' Football Programme.

Joao kicked off his visit by taking part in a question and answer, where he revealed his football inspiration is the Brazilian football player Ronaldo. Then the striker joined in with some games. The 23-year-old striker said: "It's always fun and always good to be in places like this, to see different things. To put smiles on the faces of the children is the most important thing and the reason why we come here."



Budding footballers at Tauheedul Girls inspired by a visit from Rovers star Lucas Joao

Year 9 student, Zahraa Akuji, said:

"It was an amazing experience to meet Lucas Joao and, throughout the course of the day, I learnt quite a lot of things about what it takes to make it in football."



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Principal's...Reflections on the Term

(Mufti) Hamid Patel **Chair of Governors**

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.

Staying Hopeful...

The months of May and June have been a testing time for all of us. As well as the many horrible events across the world, we have witnessed unimaginable tragedies closer to home.

There was a bombing in Manchester that killed 22 mostly young people and injured over 100 others who were at a concert. This was followed a few days later by an attack on London Bridge and borough market, which killed eight people enjoying a night out. Following that, a group of Muslims leaving a Mosque after late night prayers were mowed down by a vehicle, killing one man and injuring several others, simply because of their faith. And, then, a truly horrific fire at a tower in North London, killing nearly a hundred people in the most awful manner possible.

Faced by such terrible sights and sounds, and laced with the fear and mistrust that it creates, it is tempting to worry, to be fearful of others and of the future, and to let our dreams and ambitions become paralysed by the thought that the world is closing in on us.

Yet, in the Qur'aan, we have the most beautiful promise from our Lord, a gift which carries us through the darkest of times:

'After every hardship comes ease.'

We have to be hopeful in our Lord, in our spirit and in the promise of our common humanity.

When the Prophet Adam (Peace Be Upon Him) found himself on Earth in the darkness of the night, he was fearful. But, the light of the dawn would soon break. When the Prophet Yusuf (Peace Be Upon Him) was imprisoned, little could he imagine the prestige and power that would come from his patience. And, during the early days of Islam, when our noble Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) was abused, assaulted and threatened for spreading the word of God, things may have seemed

forlorn. But, the faith to which he called would soon span every continent of our world and be the creed to which a billion people would testify just a few centuries later.

As the much acclaimed writer JR Tolkien has said: 'The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater.'

It is really important that we recognise that each of these events will make us sad and worried for a while, and that these emotions are natural but will pass. If our children are frightened, it is vital that they feel able to seek advice and support from people who care about them most – their family, friends and teachers.

It is also important to be happy in our lives, to thank the Lord for all the great things with which we have been blessed, to be good to those who love us and to make the most of the opportunities we have in life – to live, to love, to learn, to work, to play and to pray.

The month that keeps on giving...

In June, many of our students and staff marked the holy month of Ramadhaan.

It is a month often marked by sacrifice and hardship – the giving of wealth to charity, fasting for long days during a hot summer, the lengthy prayers during the night and the lack of adequate sleep. We felt increasingly weak, tired and slow as each day passed. So, at times, it must have felt like a month that takes a lot out of us.

However, it is really a month that keeps on giving. Full of great blessings and opportunity, the human spirit is lifted to new levels. The emotional connection with our Lord is renewed and we feel a stronger bond with everyone around us, particularly those in need. Our students marked this month by praying

Checking out Cambridge Maryam Sharief, 12B9

Cambridge is one of the most prestigious institutions globally. Often seen as a place for the privileged few. However, this was immediately quelled by Teach First, an organisation on a mission to end educational inequality and to show that anyone with enough perseverance can find a place in any such university.

On Monday 3rd April, Teach First invited five Tauheedul Sixth Form students to Cambridge to explore what life in the university is really like. The four-day trip began with the introduction to the accommodation rooms at the university. They were then allocated different groups, in which they met, and worked with, various students from other colleges.



Sixth Form students at Tauheedul Girls enjoy an awe-inspiring four-day residential at Cambridge University

With academic sessions in their chosen subjects, in addition to lessons on finance management and employability, the students were able to gain a true insight into university life.

Lectures were not the only things the students were able to enjoy as the five also appreciated a popular Cambridge pastime, punting, and a grand tour of the university. They also met up with inspirational YouTuber and first-year student, 'Ibza Mo', who is described as a 'great motivator' and taught the students that it is only true effort that will take you places.

more of the Qur'aan, taking part in faith circles each lunchtime, donating their lunch money to help those in our community who are homeless or live in poverty, giving gifts to our elderly neighbours in a local nursing home and making new friends in school and beyond.

It was truly a remarkable month – and one we pray we get to welcome again next year.

Exams, Exams, Exams...

This summer, our students completed examinations in new GCSE and A Level courses for the first time. These exams are tougher, assessing more content than ever before, and no longer supported by coursework. At A Level, for the first time in a couple of decades, courses are being assessed at the end of two full years of study. At GCSE, the Government has introduced a new 9-1 grading system to replace A*-G and also increased the standard needed to be awarded a 'good pass'.

In addition, to make things even harder, the overwhelming majority of the exams were completed whilst students fasted during the month of Ramadhaan – with some assessments even completed during Eid. During the six long weeks in May and June, there have also been many instances of students showing great courage and fortitude despite illness, stress and fatigue.

So, there is no doubting that this has been the most challenging summer in our history.

And, in August, we will no doubt report lots of statistics about our performance in these exams. But, behind every 0.8% (that is how much each student makes up of our GCSE class) or every 1.8% (in the case of A Levels), we have to remember that there is a student – an actual young woman with real dreams and hopes which are hopefully one step closer to being realised.

We pray that the incredible efforts of our students and their teachers are reflected with excellent results this summer. However, regardless of the outcome in August, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the unique circumstances of this summer and the sacrifice of so many people. And, if we ever stumble in our quest to achieve great things for our students, it is not for want of trying.

Messing up...

We do mess up.

Despite the most sincere of intentions, and genuine desire to be as good as we can be, our teachers and school leaders sometimes get things wrong. We do not always say things the right way, get things done the way that we would want or live up to the praise and hype that sometimes surrounds what we do.

When that happens, it is important to accept our faults, make amends and learn from our mistakes. So, for every time we have messed up this year, let me offer a heartfelt apology.

For, as the much quoted poet Alexander Pope once said, 'To err is human, to forgive, divine'.

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.

Amr Patel



Aisha Daya explained:

"Going to Cambridge was an unforgettable experience which has expanded my skills and given me the chance to meet some amazing people."



The Momentous Mini MBA and a Week of Work Experience

Arifa Patel, 12B9

On the week commencing 12th May, Year 12 students embarked on a week of work experience at placements across different sectors to further their skills. The aim was to allow the students to get a taste of the world of work. By the end of the long journey, the pupils emerged triumphant and better aware of professionalism and job-specific skills.

Speaking of her placement at a local primary school, Mubeenah Patel, Year 12, stated, "It was really great to do my work experience in such a tight-knit school because of how easy it was to get to know everyone. The Year 5 students who I was working with were particularly fantastic. I was really impressed with how mature and respectful they were. It was a really valuable work placement too as we had a lot of input in teaching the students and that really allowed us see what it was like to prepare and teach a class."

Mrs Bashira Patel, Deputy Director of Futures, who organised the placements, expressed her pleasure in the way the Sixth Form students undertook the responsibilities given to them, saying,

"Year 12 students have had an enjoyable and instructional experience learning about the world of work. The small number of students who have taken part in the mini MBA programme pilot have made excellent progress with their research projects, gaining insightful knowledge of their work placements and learning key skills such as referencing and report writing. All Year 12 A Level students have been excellent ambassadors of the Sixth Form over the last couple of weeks."

The week was also monumental in a different way as the Sixth Form began its first mini MBA (Master of Business Administration) programme. Since the college's launch, ten students enrolled onto a difficult but rewarding course. During this week, the students



Transforming careers, education with Y12 students

spent two days at the University of Central Lancashire in order to attend several lectures concerning different areas of business. In the process, they gained a wealth of business knowledge and technical terms to aid them in their research. According to Aisha Daya, Year 12, it was 'informative and engaging'.

A belief further emphasised by Khansa Iqbal, also of Year 12, who added: "The lectures were particularly useful in their portrayal of contemporary issues on business. That helped me to further develop my understanding of finance and how it operates not just the workplace, but also in our daily lives."

Following the students' two day visit to the university, they returned to school in order to complete a 1500 word report on their business subject of interest - a choice between Finance, Marketing, HR or Leadership and Management. In addition to this, they also scripted, recorded and filmed a CV video alongside a 250 word proposal outlining the primary research they intended to carry out. This was to be sent to their prospective employers at each work placement.

Through a week of perseverance and commitment, the students in Year 12 gained a deeper insight into the working world and the roles that they would soon play. This experience either confirmed their intended career choices, or altered their career perceptions altogether. In the end, it was a week of hard work to profit years to come.

10 Years from Now Wajeeha Ahmed, 9H2



This term, Year 8 were treated to an exciting opportunity to meet people from various careers in order to give students an insight into career opportunities, including apprenticeships.

By connecting future employees with employers, the Careers Fair helped students to understand the numerous jobs awaiting them. It also gave them an idea of what they may aspire to be.

Carl Makenzie Brown, from BAE Systems, spoke to students about the apprenticeship options available. Detective Owen, from Lancashire Police, encouraged the young ladies giving them insight on his field of work: protecting the general public. He also demonstrated arresting techniques and rules that must be followed. Furthermore, AMT Lawyers, which is a provider of legal services, spoke about a career in the field of law and what that entails. Finally, app developer, Omer Janjua, truly related to the audience as he talked about his job in today's contemporary society.

The event ended in a huge success, with one student, Attiyah Patel, Year 8, describing the event as an 'eye-opener to the many careers out there'. Students could now understand work in the outside world.

Without Introspection, You Cannot Stand on True Faith Zainab Karbhari, 10S4

"In order to understand the world, one has to turn away from it on occasion."
Albert Camus

Once again, the blessed month of fasting has come and gone. The peaceful nights spent in worship and forgiveness have departed from us for yet another year, but the precious moments and spiritual changes will remain with us for life.

Fasting is a time for self-reflection: a time for us to ponder on the year that has passed and an opportunity to truly change ourselves for the better. By experiencing the plight of people living in poverty, guarding our tongues and refraining from other wrongdoings, it aids us in becoming better. It is a time to focus on the things that are really important in our lives.

The Reflection Circles that took place daily in the Reflection Centre gave students and staff an additional opportunity to make the most of this blessed month. The circles, led by encouraging teachers, focused on stories of the Prophets (Peace Be Upon Them) and the lessons we can learn from their lives.

They discussed the 99 Names of God and narrated inspirational, relatable stories. These sessions, organised by the school, were an incredible chance to maximise the rewards gained in the month of fasting.

This blessed month may have come to an end, but it is now our duty to implement all the messages we have learnt into our lives.



Inspiring stories being shared

Creating and Reporting News Stories Yasira Salim, 9H4



A hive of activity in Tauheedul Girls' newsroom

On Thursday 16th March, the Tauheedul News Report team's eyes were glued to the screen, as a live stream, featuring their own videos, began on the BBC webpage.

After months of researching, lunch time sessions, and after school activities, the report team had finally reached BBC News day, a day which allows students from all over to showcase their exciting and promising news stories on the BBC website. They had managed to create five new reports, which included: modest fashion, the Holocaust and tackling food waste.

Contacting the prestigious pop-up restaurant, Tiny Leaf, which strives to reduce food waste by putting leftovers to beneficial use, allowed the team to



report their knowledge for one of their stories. This vegan friendly restaurant has received multiple positive feedback from their customers, including a fantastic review by Jamie Oliver in 'Jamie Magazine.' The report was created using information received through a phone call with one of the co-founders.

Our local Morrisons in Blackburn then kindly invited the group one afternoon to pick up two boxes of unwanted but edible food items. The supermarket wanted to help in showing people how to use food that would otherwise go to waste. They then enlisted the assistance of Tauheedul's talented kitchen staff, who were able to conjure up a few delicious meals out of the ingredients. Three teachers volunteered to taste the meals, unaware of the ingredients used. When

it was later revealed that the food they were eating was made from unwanted food items, they were pleasantly surprised and made a mental note to use more leftovers in their own cooking, reducing waste and helping to conserve the environment.

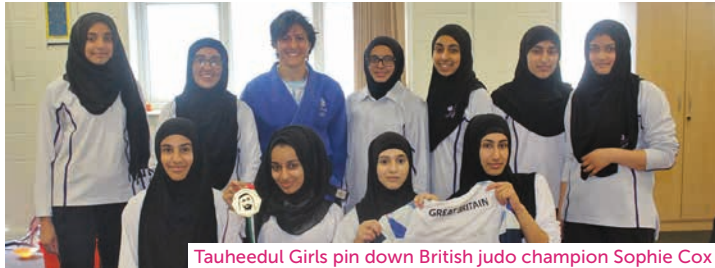
But the reports didn't end there.

Modest fashion also acted as a subject for the team's reports. The journalists diligently undertook another task: creating modest and fashionable styles with limited resources. This time, however, they appointed the challenge to the renowned designer, Saleha Bagas.

If you wish to find out more about the journalists' reports they can be found on the school website, or, alternatively, on the Tauheedul Girls YouTube channel.



Judo Champion Makes Exciting Visit Alisha Alli, 9H3



Tauheedul Girls pin down British judo champion Sophie Cox

Tauheedul School was graced by the visit of British judo champion and double Olympian, Sophie Cox. Sophie's story of determination and perseverance truly inspired everybody present as she spoke about her sporting goals, achievements and discussed the adversities she was forced to overcome as a young girl in the sporting industry.

Sophie is an ambassador of the Sky Sports Living for Sport project which she explained:

"The aim behind the Sky Sports Living for Sport programme is to help these talented young women achieve their full potential and encourage an ethos of commitment, encouragement, participation and excellence, as well as enjoyment, through sport.

Spending a full day with the pupils, the double Olympian showed off her moves with some of the audience members. She later presented a practical judo training session to Year 8, in addition to a judo masterclass with the Year 11 GCSE PE students.

Mrs Robb, Head of PE, said

"Sophie Cox is a fantastic ambassador for girls in sport and it was a privilege to have her in our school."

Furthermore, Sophie launched a Sky Sports Living for Sport leadership project with some Year 9 students. The project aims to help the girls develop and improve a variety of life skills that will help them to excel in their sporting careers. Work on this leadership project is continuing and will bring Sophie Cox back to our school later this month.

The judo champion revealed:

"We want to take every opportunity we have to inspire our learners and open their eyes to the possibilities sport can bring. Through sports leadership at Tauheedul we are building up our students to become role models and develop the skills and confidence to lead others."

All the pupils enjoyed learning the skills taught by Sophie with Year 11 student, Murva Awan, saying,

"From participating in this session, I can see why she is a champion. I saw first-hand the core strength and balance needed for this sport but, more than that, the mental toughness that Sophie has."

Sophie summed up the event:

"It was a real privilege for me to work with these intelligent young women and to be able to introduce them to a sport which has been such a big part of my life and has given me many great experiences. I am sure the students' confidence will continue to rise, especially with the fantastic support they have from the staff at the school."

Tauheedul Education Trust, pledges that all its pupils will encounter 100 inspiring figures, such as Sophie Cox, during their time at secondary school as part of its leadership curriculum activities.

Save the Colour Green Aaliyah Musa, 10S2



Deforestation: the action of clearing a wide area of trees

Every second, one and a half acres of forest is cut down. Every minute, we lose 20 football fields worth of forests. And within the next 100 years there will be no rainforests left.

Prior to the year 2000, world forests covered approximately seven-thousand million hectares, but the wide-scale increase in

deforestation has seen forest figures plummet. In the year 2016, the loss of the forest lands contributed to 17% of greenhouse gas emissions, and over half of the world's tropical forests had already been cleared by the end of 2016.

The main cause of deforestation is our need for farming. We destroy the earth's main oxygen providers in the name of supplying ourselves with food. Yet, due to our habit of wasting, the governments are forced to tear down huge masses of trees so we can have even more.

However, this is not the only reason for this inhumane act, it is also our wasting tendencies. We waste paper. We waste things as simple as wood. We refuse to recycle anything – requiring more fuel to remake these products. Everything has a knock on effect. And this is irreversible.

Saving rainforests will not only help in reducing global warming. There are more than 121 natural remedies in the rain forest which can be used as medicine. 25% of cancer fighting organisms are found in the Amazon. Deforestation affects the water cycle causing a drier world and a change in climate.

It has been proven that one person can save up to 20 square feet of land with one simple contribution, in which the world's largest ecosystems, habitats and homes can be protected. Or simply sign petitions and show your support in defending Mother Nature's wonders.

When a forest is lost anywhere, people feel it everywhere. Preserve the world for the future generations to come.

As is a Tale, So is Life: Not How Long it is, But How Good it is, is What Matters Huma Ahmed, 10S3



JK Rowling, one of the most iconic authors of the 21st century, is responsible for sparking imaginations and creativity into the minds of the young as well as igniting many dreams and future aspirations. It was Rowling's work that inspired a whole generation of children to become lifelong readers. And it is her work that will continue to inspire generations to come.

For those who have read Rowling's most famous works, the Harry Potter fantasy series, it is very common to see her female characters as independent, intelligent and opinionated. Hermione, Ginny, Luna and McGonagall are all characters representing Rowling's own feminist beliefs. And it is through her writing, Rowling's characters are created to be role models for young girls.

When she first began to write Harry Potter she was a single mother living in impoverished conditions. She came from a family where her imagination was seen as **"an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage, or secure a pension."** She struggled extensively:

"I had failed on an epic scale. An exceptionally short-lived marriage had imploded, and I was jobless, a lone parent, and as poor as it is possible to be in modern Britain, without being homeless."

Yet, this did not stop her. She was determined and ultimately managed to pursue her dreams. Eventually, she became one of the world's most successful authors becoming a multi-millionaire within the space of five years.

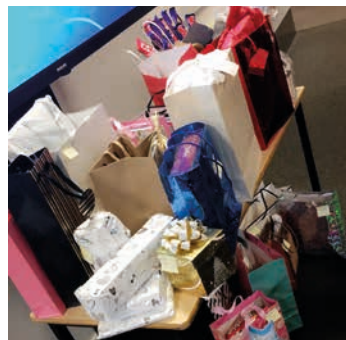
However, it was when she decided to continuously donate some of her money to charity that she fell off of the Forbes list. Her humility, her will to never give up despite multiple rejections, and constantly fighting personal battles is what created the legacy of JK Rowling. She has showed that faith and determination can allow you to get through anything and hard work does pay off.

"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default."

JK Rowling

Gift Exchanges Hadiqa Ali, 9H3

Only a couple of weeks ago, we were celebrating Eid after fasting for the entire month of Ramadhaan. This is the day we all look forward to. Muslims spend time with family, give in charity, (eat lots of) food and wear our best clothes. Yet, arguably, the best part is the giving and receiving of gifts from the people we love.



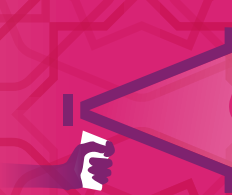
At Tauheedul, we also took part in this custom: the Gift Exchange. Students were allocated a secret buddy to buy a gift for in order to revive the Prophetic tradition of giving gifts. It helped develop a sense of generosity and also extended friendships amongst the students. From sweet delicacies, to precious trinkets and useful stationery supplies, the pupils were delighted with their small presents.

The project was extended to our neighbours at the local nursing home. Students shared their excitement and happiness with elderly neighbours by giving hampers filled with delightful goodies. It was beautiful as a smile lit up on each person's face. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said: 'Exchange gifts, as this will lead to increasing your love to one another.'



Offering Eid hampers to our local elderly neighbours

This day was filled with appreciation and understanding, but most importantly it brought everyone together.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 20th July

Spirituality Day

Termly Rewards Assembly

School Closes for Summer Break

Thursday 17th August

A Level Results Day

Y13 Re-enrolment & Target Setting Meetings (Day 1)

Friday 18th August

Y13 Re-enrolment & Target Setting Meetings (Day 2)

Thursday 24th August

GCSE Results Day

Y12 Enrolment Day 1

Friday 25th August

Y12 Enrolment Day 2

Wednesday 30th August

5 Days of Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca) starts

Thursday 31st August

Day of Arafaat (Day of Repentance)

Friday 1st September

Eid ul Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) holiday

Monday 4th September

Staff Inset Day

Tuesday 5th September

Re-open (for students)

Monday 30th October –

Friday 3rd November

Mid Term Closure

With special thanks to Editor
Amaani Moress for her dedication
and work with As-Sawt.

We wish you the very best.



Tauheedul Girls



Part of Tauheedul Education Trust



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

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Service: Being a responsible citizen in the community

Teamwork: Working together for excellence

Ambition: Aspiring to be our best

Respect: Treating others as we wish to be treated