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## REMEMBERING HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022



## A Life of Service

CO-EDITOR - AAMINAH ISSA, 12B9

*"I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust."*

During her coronation speech, under the watchful eyes of 277 million people, Queen Elizabeth gave her heart to her people, receiving in return love and loyalty unbounded. Thus began a reign of seventy years, over which generations of citizens and royal family members alike would prosper under the leadership of a woman unmatched in wisdom and experience.

Our greatest and fondest memory comes from, perhaps, the stability provided by Her Majesty – an unwavering presence, a face so reassuringly familiar. As each year rolled by, we waited in excitement for her presence at The Trooping of The Colour, and with expectation for The Queen's Christmas Message. As a leader, subtle yet deliberate in her messages, The Queen's addresses to the nation were sources of empowerment and hope, a string of words to soothe and support when the challenges rose and when darkness threatened to overpower.

As an icon, the Queen's symbolic role in the Commonwealth which reinforced the links between countries across the globe is a reminder that her power extended far beyond the borders of Great Britain. The modern Commonwealth's growth and vibrancy is a credit and testament to her dedication to developing enduring friendships between nations. As for her legacy on a national scale, her presence at countless public and charitable events

to lend her support is unforgettable. A legacy of patronages with over 600 different British charities rests in her wake, reviving her commitment to service with each day.

For Queen Elizabeth, service was all encompassing, a pledge that would enshroud and protect her nation, and most significantly, her family. Despite the demands of leadership, the Queen remained a great hands-on mother and 'Gan Gan', as her

great-grandson Prince George would call her. Valuing the pockets of time she had with her children, her playful nature ensured that her children were surrounded by her love, with memories of special family holidays and horse-riding lessons to treasure. Even more remarkable was her foresight and progressive outlook regarding her children's upbringing; The Queen was the first royal ever

to end the archaic tradition of tutoring the royal children at home. Instead, she sent them to attain the best education possible, from nursery programs to prestigious universities – a decision that her grand-children and great-grandchildren have flourished through.

It is with the greatest sorrow and sadness that we mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Hers was a life of service which will echo through the ages, a promise fulfilled so emphatically that, certainly, all the world still marvels and wonders.





## Chair's Reflections

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.

## Our special school...and valuing what we do and what we have

**Shakespeare once wrote in his famous Sonnet 60:**  
**Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore,**  
**so do our minutes, hasten to their end.**

What we do with our lives – what we do with our short time on this Earth - and how much value that life has – is really up to us. When it is all nearly over and we come to the twilight of our lives, it will not be the number of candles on our last birthday cake that matter, or the hours of sleep that we have managed, or the job titles that we held, or the meaningless machinations and the endless gossip conversations we engaged in, or the number of 'must-have' trinkets that we own. Nor will it be the wealth that we have amassed, or the plaudits that we have earned and the promotions that we racked up. None of these will matter in the end, and none of this will give our life the lasting meaning that we all want it to have.

Instead, what will matter - what will stand the test of time - is the good we leave behind. It will be our children and the values that we have imbued in them, our work, and the lives that we touched and helped save through it, and the causes to which we have dedicated and laid down our life.

So, for all of us at Tauheedul (those who work and study here as well as our parents and wider community), this will always be a place that makes us, defines us, indeed saves us, providing that meaning and that worth to a life that would otherwise be deeply flawed and rather inconsequential. Our school is blessed. It is not just a run-of-the-mill school with average students, normal people and a regular boring mission. It is a special space for us, and we should treasure the many things that make it a special place.

Moreover, we should avoid succumbing to the voices of cynicism within us and amongst us that make us doubt the sincerity and nobility of our school and make us see only the negatives, the failures and the imperfections and never the successes, the joyful moments and the true blessings that we get from being able to study and work here.

If you agree that our school is blessed and special – really special - then we need to do our bit to protect this. Although we have been incredibly blessed with so many accomplishments over the years, the sustained success of our school and the feeling of security, happiness and self-worth we all get from being here is not guaranteed forever. A tree without light, air and water – no matter how strong – will surely wither and die. Similarly, a school – no matter how good – without learning from our mistakes, without regular sacrifice and without sincerity, humility and unity - will surely fail.

So, if we want this school to still be that amazing place – that place where we and our children find meaning, a place of joy and laughter, a place where we all feel valued and have self-worth, then we all have to be prepared to do our bit. We have to learn from our mistakes, make regular sacrifices and retain that humility that knows that being at the school is a blessing as well as a burden on us. Our school leaders must be prepared to walk the walk, retain that hunger to do the job sincerely, and have that modesty of knowing that we are not appointed the leader because we are somehow the best amongst us, but rather because of a quirk of fate, a favour from our Lord, and us happening to be in the right place coincidentally at the right time. And, when our leaders make a mistake that harms us or our children, rather than rushing to judgment on social media or in an irate phone call or uncompromising complaint letter, we should be ready to pause and give them the benefit of the doubt, go see them and explain our situation, and put our faith in them to correct the error and resolve the issue.

Furthermore, all of us who work at the school, in all of our many roles and guises, need to see the value of what we do. We need not to feel motivated by praise, monetary reward, or even the promise of a promotion, rather, we have to be inspired by the inherent and lasting value of the work we do for the amazing young women in our care and the loving families from which they come each day. A meal that is made with care by our catering assistant stood for hours in a hot kitchen, a floor that is wiped clean and spotless - despite an aching back - by one of our cleaners, and hundreds of reports carefully printed and dispatched home by our admin assistant. Hours and hours of painstakingly meticulous planning for a single lesson by one of our new teachers. This is awesome work – for our young women and the families that we serve – and this is God's work.

For every single sling and arrow of misfortune that hurts us, we should be prepared to see the many, many favours our Lord and our school has given us. This is what keeps our school special, not league tables or an Ofsted judgment, not one Principal or another, not a particular policy or a clever idea – rather, what keeps our school special is – what we know instinctively in our hearts – each person recognising their individual responsibility to one other, their commitment to the collective, and their faith that no problem is insurmountable and no slight is irrevocable if we are prepared to work on it together.

We do not have a perfect school – so much of our work is left undone. So, in the coming year, and the years ahead, we will see new problems that need solving and new challenges that need resolving.

However, I remain convinced more than ever before that the answers to these problems and these difficulties lie within us. They lie in the amazing talent and the sincere hearts in this very school and this very community we serve.

Moreover, I am firmly of the view that the best days of our school lie ahead of us and that the best chapters of our school's glorious story are yet to be written - written by each and every one of us who serve and study here.

May the Lord protect, inspire and guide us for the year ahead.  
Aameen.

*Hamid Patel*

**Sir (Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE**  
Chief Executive, Star Academies

## Composing a Creative-Arts Curriculum

BY HUMAIRA OUGRADAR, 10H2 AND TASNEEM UMERJI, 10H2

**The drilling and digging and generally deafening sounds of building-work soon fell into the background as the new year started. We just forgot there was an aim, a purpose to it all. That is, until the barriers were lifted and the doors swung open to reveal brand new classrooms kitted out with equipment for food technology, design technology and music (nasheeds) lessons.**

Welcome, one and all, to the latest additions to our brimming Creative-Arts curriculum. Immersing students deeper into the creative arts, Tauheedul's subject additions are carving a refreshing and wider path, encouraging students to explore new interests, from singing to baking and designing.

Whether it be cooking up a foreign cuisine or delving into culinary science, food technology lessons have been an incredible success, as both aromatic scents and laughter escape the classroom. As lessons scaffold students' kitchen confidence from the basics to the ambitious, the new subject has developed core skills which will doubtless proving advantageous in the future.

**Kulsum Patel, Year 7, commented, "I'm really enjoying these lessons - I'm learning so many new things and it's been a thrilling experience every week; I can't wait for what we'll learn next."**

Others too, have really come to harmony with their new subjects, especially when grasping melodies and rhythms in music. With a fascinating range of instruments to potter between, the window for experimentation has been flung wide open, inviting girls to take and create inspiration.

Indisputably, these subjects have opened doors to possible career paths, instilling interests and unlocking capabilities which students are unlikely to discover otherwise. Beckoning the innovators and creators out of hiding, the expanded curriculum is vibrantly coloured by historical, cultural and modern influences.

So, everyone, make way for the future chefs, designers and singers flourishing in our midst.







## Student Opinion Piece:

## Is British Weather Really Worth The Hassle?

BY AYSHA NAMAJI, 11S4

Drizzling rain accompanied my speed-walk home from the bus stop. Hood pulled down over my head, I was, somewhat, prepared. As I crossed the road, the pavement ahead was bathed in shafts of sunlight. Quickly, I scampered towards that saving grace. But I was cheated. The rain spat at my wide-eyed expression; the cold water droplets left an icy trail down my cheek. What was going on? I whipped my head to the direction I had just come from. Surprise! It was basking in sun, like a pantomime villain forever dancing out of reach.

The only thing you can be sure of with British weather is that you can never be sure. Somewhat fondly, discussing the weather has become quintessentially British, a cornerstone of complaints just waiting to happen in the next small-talk you make. But besides the conversation opener (and main topic, and closer) that the weather gives us, the reality of it is far less reliable. When I'm about to head out, the crucial and weighty decision of what to take crushes me: a mackintosh in case it rains, a puffy parka to fight against the blistering cold, or a light jacket to keep the breeze at bay? At least I'm being kept on my (frozen) toes, eh.

British weather has the finest treats to offer both holidaymakers and permanent citizens. Come morning, and your trampoline is buried in the bushes, courtesy of Storm Dudley. Come April, and the hot tub is covered in snow. Come August, and may your shins freeze until the three-day heatwave boils you, inside and out. It's a shame that when we finally get some summer heat, all we can do is melt into a sunburnt puddle, reacting violently to this foreign substance that streams from the sky.

So, is British weather really worth the hassle? With global warming contributing excitedly to the already eclectic mess, now, we truly have it all. Perhaps acceptance is the only solution. Perhaps there's no such thing as bad weather anyway – just the wrong clothing.

Reaching New Heights,  
Breaking New Ground

BY ARHAMA FARHAN, 13B2

**Inertia is impossible in a department known for getting things moving, for stretching limbs and pushing us to beat our personal best – to be our personal best. So, how have the PE department caused a stir this time?**

A good starting point – the Sports Ambassadors, consisting of two elected students from each form class in KS3. This new initiative invites students to take more ownership over their sporting experiences at school, providing a student voice portal where ambassadors collect opinions and ideas from their peers. The team attend scheduled meetings to report their findings, scaffolding the foundations of a future that prizes change from below. Whether it's tactics to help us triumph in inter-school netball leagues, equipment that would spruce up lunch breaks, or even a subtle attempt to start a Premier League debate club, the PE department welcome all input.

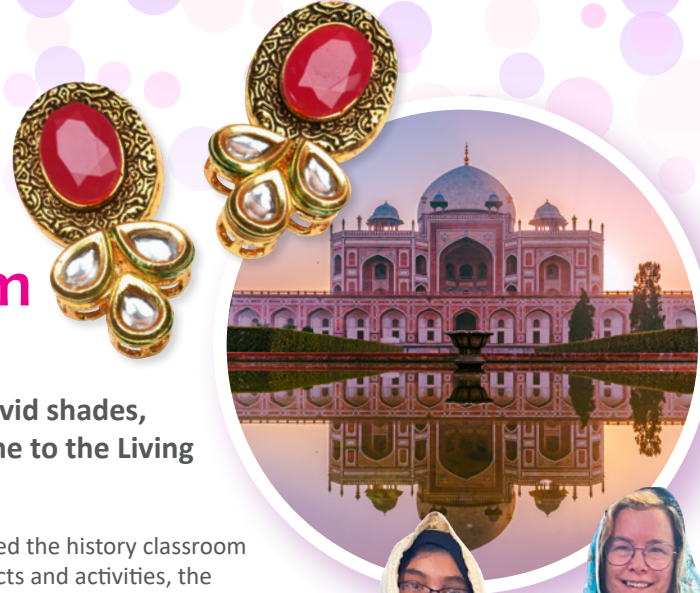
Moving to the upper end of the school, PE GCSE remains a fascination for everyone uninvolved. Much like passing the girls with portfolios half their size in the corridor (they're definitely taking Art GCSE), the students training hard in the fitness studio and diligently recording their results inspire a similar awe. More importantly, where have these students been disappearing since the start of the year? With the introduction of a new GCSE sport – badminton – the sports halls have housed our eager Year 10 cohort who are keen to squeeze in as much preparation as possible. And with additional Friday trips to benefit from the coaching and facilities at the Tauheedul Boys' school building, the students have made incredible progress in little time. To perfect their skills, the GCSE girls will lead a lunchtime badminton club open to everyone, modelling their impressive serves, smashes, drop-shots and lobs.

And finally, what was the highlight of the annual Year 7 and 8 Winter Sports Day? Aside from the usual battles in football, netball and benchball fixtures, the girls competed in a new category: 'creative movement'. Starting strong, Year 7 students performed pieces before a panel of judges, inspired by the New Zealand rugby team's 'haka'. Meanwhile, the Year 8s had carefully choreographed performances fusing the Scottish Ceilidh movements and 'breaking' – a new Olympic sport, formerly known as break-dancing. A standard of synchronisation never seen before, a breath-taking exhibition of what the mind and body combined can do, the creative movement performances left spectators stunned.

The bar soars every year with each new endeavour by the PE department. Breathless but unbeaten, we are thrilled by the challenge to jump higher, to reach the bar and readjust it. Inertia is simply not an option.







## Living the Mughal Dream

BY MARYAM MANJRA, 11S2

**Jewellery rich in beaming opulence, saris dyed in vivid shades, demitasses steaming with ginger chai (tea): welcome to the Living History exhibition of the Mughal Empire.**

The sensation of stepping into a storybook engulfed all who entered the history classroom during the lunchtime of Tuesday 18th October. Packed with artefacts and activities, the Humanities department had been hard at work to transform textbook pages into reality. **Miss Fatimah-Zahra, teacher of Humanities, said, "We wanted the students to be able to experience the history that they learn about."**

Wide eyes and shouts of excitement soon turned into a cacophony of discussion and chatter as students circulated the room, taking in the beautiful decorations. Upon entry, an incredible photo-collage of Mughal art and architectural pieces awaited, portraying the major contributions from the Indian Muslim Empire towards our world heritage.

Meanwhile, interactive stations allowing students to try on saris and traditional Kundan jewellery had been prepared. Dressed in an elegant sari and bangles, Mrs Khatun, Director of Learning in Humanities, modelled the exhibition in action, championing the beauty of Mughal dress and fashion. To complete the experience, attendees enjoyed sweet yet subtly spiced 'gulab jamuns' (sweet doughnuts) with a refreshing cup of infused chai (tea).

**Amina Faisal, Year 10, commented, "It was an incredibly unique experience! It really revived early South Asian culture."**

As we eagerly await the upcoming January exhibition, a journey through Peter Frankopan's 'The Silk Road', suggested at this event, should keep us well intrigued.



## Aspiring beyond Academia

BY FARAH MAKKAN, 12B8

**Who are you beyond academia? What else are you capable of? What do you like to do? These sound like mundane questions on a painfully abstract questionnaire, but it becomes even more painful when you can't answer them. At Tauheedul Girls' Sixth Form, the Aspirations Programme aimed to provide answers, to help students build passions and discover them through an array of extracurricular activities.**

Martial arts, self-defence, textiles, calligraphy, photography, and British Sign Language (BSL) – twice weekly, sixth form students enjoyed and benefitted from the opportunity to learn from professionals in diverse fields. Relaxed from the meticulousness of usual routines, the extracurricular options also helped broaden the horizon for students looking into more creative avenues in the future.



**Aamina Mela, a Year 12 student who took part in the BSL and photography sessions, explained, "Stepping out of our comfort zones has aided us to become more socially aware and well-rounded young Muslim women."**

One remarkable snapshot exemplifying the collective spirit within this programme came from the BSL class, where amidst stunning and dim silence rose the concentrated efforts of every student grappling to grasp the motions and signs of the language.

Lunchtimes now flaunt the common room with bustling groups of friends teaching one another the alphabet in sign language or carefully demonstrating self-defence techniques, uniting us all with this successful programme.

Historically, discoveries have always sparked excitement, but through the Aspirations Programme, students have found that the biggest thrill may come from making discoveries about themselves.

## Inspirational Woman



## An Admirable Queen: A Remarkable Woman

CO-EDITOR - SAFA SAYED, 12B1

**For the 70 years of Her Majesty's reign, the nation basked in a picture of propriety and a model of decorum. The world too, looked on with awe at the image of excellence, a fountain of inspiration. And now, we look back to this personality, reviving traits that have shaped the her into an enduring role model for all.**

History is full of 'first times', but the mark they leave is one that we can reflect on every time.. Against a backdrop of national tragedy and turbulence in 1945, Princess Elizabeth, then 18, rallied at her nation's side, joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service and training as a mechanic. She became the first female member of the royal family to join the Armed Services as a full-time active member. The Queen's youth was marked with an insistence to take part, to experience labour and learn from it – traits which moulded her into a monarch that exercised her capabilities to drive the country to success.

As a feminist icon, Her Majesty's efforts to promote equality demonstrated her knowledge that change would be achievable at the cost of pressure – a battle forever worth fighting. Starting within her family, The Queen passed the Succession to the Crown Act, changing the course of history for women in the British monarchy. This would alter the laws of succession to give both women and men in the royal family equal rights to ascending the throne.

Two snapshots, from a reel that stretches beyond her reign of seventy years, to her days as a princess. But these frames alone capture the fierce spirit of a monarch adored across the world, a woman willing to work and wrestle for progress – a woman revered by other women, for lighting the path in the dark.







## Expecting the Unexpected - Results Day 2022

BY MALIHA MEHMOOD, 13B3

Hearts pounding, and hands sweating. In the days leading up to results day, students, teachers, and parents hold on to the hope that the letters and numbers on that white paper fulfils the promise of a future long dreamed of. Facing the setbacks of covid-19 and the uncertainty of being the first cohort to be trialled with advanced information, the pressure to succeed was on.

Nonetheless, girls at Tauheedul defeated their doubts. Cementing firm foundations for the future, 95% of GCSE students received a strong pass with grades 9-4 in English and Maths, leaving the literacy lovers and equation experts thrilled. Following through with five years of determination and diligence, students walked away with pride, assured that every ounce of their efforts and struggles was worth the struggle.

Meanwhile, A-level students conquered another mammoth mission in the educational journey, with 97% of students topping the bar with A\*- Cs in their subjects - 87% achieving a grade B or higher. **Haajarah Syeda, Year 13, commented, "Results day is a reminder that hard work and ambitions are values that can drive you to your goal. The relief of seeing this hard work is truly fulfilling."** Despite being told to expect disappointment by exam boards, students at Tauheedul proved themselves to be unstoppable. Putting the cherry on top, 94% of BTEC students completed their vocational courses with Distinctions, with two thirds at the highest grade, D\*D\*D\*.

Each contributor shares the victory that marks the month of August 2022 with absolute delight. It is evident through these accomplishments that with strong faith in God and a passion for learning, the future holds surprises and rewarding outcomes.



## Page Turners: How Tauheedul is Tearing Ahead

BY FAIQA MURTAZA, 11S1

The romanticisation of reading is no exaggeration - a book is exactly what they say it is. It is that escape; that inspiration for a good deed; that trigger for a new idea; that hope in a dark, desolate time. And yet, many of us still take this once sought-after luxury for granted, claiming we 'don't have time' or 'don't enjoy reading', without really giving it a chance

Introducing 'Read Aloud', our new reading programme where reading is given time, space, and crucially, a voice to lift the words off the pages. Three days a week students enjoy the opportunity to read with their form class; every student grasps a copy of the selected novel, whilst selected 'lead readers' bring the texts to life, infusing the words with expression, pace and power.

Reaching both the eager and reluctant readers, the 'Read Aloud' programme prioritises our aims to establish a love of reading by creating a culture for it. Like Dickens' live novel readings which sold out across both sides of the Atlantic, or like the sanctified carpet-time in primary school when Fantastic Mr Fox was brought out – the comfort of a tale read aloud never loses its charm. In half-term one alone, we have journeyed through Malorie Blackman's alternate world in Noughts and Crosses, overcome trials in Veronica Roth's dystopian fiction, Divergent, and laughed in the face of our troubles in Anne Fine's comic classic, Madam Doubtfire. And this is just the start!

This academic year has also seen the launch of ReadingWise, an online programme designed to enrich students with flexible and expansive vocabulary. Statistically, to understand a text, learners need to be familiar with at least 98% of the words, and ReadingWise ensures this by giving learners of all levels a gateway to the world around them.

The programme exposes pupils to a rich profusion of words from across each of their subjects, allowing them to make leaps in their comprehension skills and build the confidence to tackle sophisticated language. Just a short, 20-minute dive into ReadingWise each week supplies students with an assortment of new vocabulary which the programme's algorithm ensures they gradually gain mastery of.

**Miss Jabeen, teacher of English, commented:** "Reading Wise is an adaptive programme which has transformed the school's approach to literacy because learners now engage with an interactive programme."

Feedback has come in various forms – from the extensive data the programme gathers on each of our learners' progress, to the steady integration of advanced or specialised vocabulary in student work. Most remarkable, however, are those magic moments during lessons when students are already well acquainted with new vocabulary making its first appearance in lessons – oh, the smug joy of being several steps ahead. Thank you, ReadingWise.

For Tauheedul Girls', the roar of our reading culture has never been louder. Collectively, we are carving a world that is vibrant and accessible, a future that is embellished by the words we live by.











**FRI 24<sup>TH</sup> MAR**  
Ramadhaan Charity  
Appeal Launch

