

# AS-SAWT THE VOICE



Tauheedul Girls

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

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EDITORS - AAMINAH ISSA, 12B9 & SAFA SAYED, 12B1

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## A Historic Coronation: Reflecting on the Past and Embracing the Future

BY AYSHA L NAMAJI, 11S4

**A** momentous occasion; a mark in history. The spectacular glistening of the crown jewels, reminiscent of a widely revered monarch, glittered out at millions of eager eyes. From that moment on, 'God save the King!' would be the new anthem of our country, from living rooms and streets to stadiums and theatres.

The events of May 6<sup>th</sup> instilled nationwide pride for our new king. Parades showered the streets whilst the festive mood entered the grounds at Tauheedul. Vibrant balloons in hues of red, blue and white decorated the lunch tables, with metres of bunting running along corridors. After much anticipation, the school stood ready to celebrate.

In the dining halls, the true heart of every party, students queued eagerly for a delectable 'Best of British' themed lunch prepared by the catering staff. Gone were the usual dishes, replaced by classic newspaper wrappings for fish and chips, alongside plates and napkins in merry Union Jack prints. And of course, this was also the perfect opportunity to dish out slush drinks in bright red and blue – students were keen to claim their cups.

Westminster last felt the thrill of a new monarch way back in 1953, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was crowned at the age of 27. We honour the bravery of The King, who endured the loss of his mother only recently. Nonetheless, he now finds solace in the comforting presence of

Queen Camilla by his side, sharing the responsibility of ruling.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, conducted the ceremony, he also oversaw the birth of a new era for the United Kingdom. It was executed in tradition and symbolism, a clear display of The King's new title and global role. On the Sovereign's Throne, he was bestowed with the orb, sceptre and crown and anointed with holy oil. After taking the Oath of Office, promising to uphold the laws and customs of the United Kingdom, his duty was fulfilled.

If you had looked close enough, you would've noticed the carriage that left the church was, in fact, the Gold State Coach. This has been used in every coronation, despite Queen Elizabeth II branding it as 'horrible'. As our late Queen's humorous streak, wills and wants still remain fresh in our memories, it is comforting to know that tradition will nevertheless tie us firmly to both the past and present. With a new monarch, King Charles III, on the throne, we look forward to what the future holds.



## 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.

## Sharpening One's Axe...

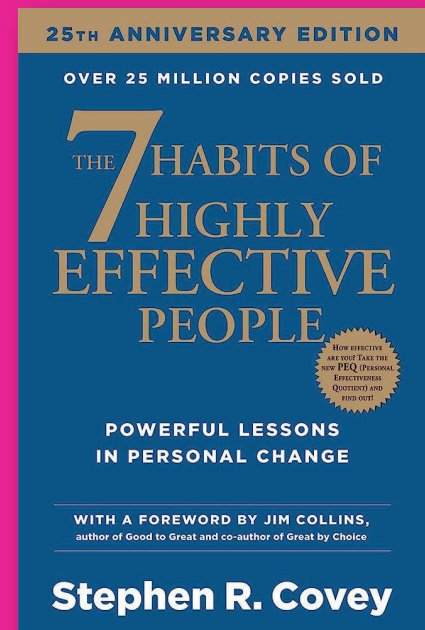
In his book, '7 Habits of Highly Effective People', Stephen Covey tells the story of a woodcutter flailing and struggling for hours to cut down a tree. As he flounders during this lengthy and fruitless endeavour, the woodcutter becomes frustrated, increasingly ineffective and less productive. As he cuts and cuts, the saw becomes dull and less effective at its purpose. The solution is clear – to sharpen the axe.

As Abraham Lincoln once said,

**'Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe'.**

The analogy is often misunderstood to suggest that if you're working too hard, the solution is to have a break. Whilst this might be needed, it is not 'sharpening the saw'. Rather, it is putting the saw down – and the saw will still be dull when you re-engage with the work a while later. Instead, 'sharpening the saw' means periodically reviewing how we do things, changing our approach, learning new skills, engaging in mentoring, preparing better for a task, and learning from those who do the work better than us.

If we want to continue to do well in life, we need to not only work hard, but also to continuously evolve the way we approach problems, sharpen our approach, and learn new techniques. Such a growth mindset, and regular renewal, is the bedrock of our success in the future. This needs us to commit to growing ourselves – making time, having that resilience to accept where we are going wrong, and nurturing that confidence to chart a new path and yield improved results.



## Saying Goodbye....and believing in yourself...

**To our school and college leavers, who leave us this summer, let me say a heartfelt goodbye.**

As you grow into fully fledged young adults, you step out from the comfort and safety of our school and into the big, bold world - a world that is so different to the family and the school in which you have been protected and nurtured - into a time and place that is rapidly changing, a realm that offers so much opportunity and hope, so much chance of joy and happiness, but which also has so many dangers, hurdles and moments of peril and sadness that you must navigate and overcome.

To succeed in such a world, to thrive and achieve the potential that our Lord has planned for us, I would urge you to have the courage to believe in yourself. Do not under-sell yourself, your faith and your future. Recognise that the future of our world and our Ummah lies not with the billionaires, politicians and emperors of our day, not in small-minded people who spread lies and mistrust, and not in those who jealously hold on to the grievances of the past and use it to bring down themselves and scheme against others. Instead, the future lies in the hands of those who are optimistic about the future, wake up each morning wanting to make a difference and believe in themselves to make that difference; those who are hopeful and joyful and push

themselves to think smarter, act kinder, respond quicker and be better; those who stand in the glorious light of truth and decency, not the shadows of lies, mistrust and gossip; and those who take each setback and each stumble as an opportunity to learn, to grow, to perfect themselves. In short, the future lies in your hands, your deeds and your character; and the causes to which you give your life, providing you are prepared to keep striving towards, and make sacrifices, for that future.

Everywhere you go, carry that light of righteous endeavour and ardent perseverance knowing that today will be better than yesterday and tomorrow will be better than today. I pray that our Lord inspires and insulates you, protects and propels you, strengthens and sustains you to live a life full of happiness, joy, and success. Aameen.

Thank you for reading our summer term As-Sawt newsletter.

*@Hamid Patel*

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

## The Magistrates Mock Trial Triumph - Case Dismissed

BY AISHA AHMED, 9L1

Justice, jargon, and juggling stacks of evidence - the British legal system has many of us confounded. Nevertheless, it is fundamental within our society and has a vital place in the educational curriculum. At Tauheedul, Year 9 students entered in the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition and were given the chance to clear their confusion once and for all.

The competition presented students with a specially written criminal case, which they would dissect and prepare legal arguments for. The case would then be enacted in court alongside another school, and students would compete to prosecute and defend the case. Immersing themselves in the courtroom atmosphere and gaining firsthand knowledge on its proceedings, the competition took interactive experiences to a whole new level.

*"This was a beneficial opportunity for our students to engage in an out-of-the-classroom learning experience which gave insight into job opportunities in the law field,"* related Mrs Aga, teacher of Humanities.

Under Mrs Aga's guidance, the students dedicated weeks of preparation for the trial. Together, they meticulously examined even the most seemingly insignificant details of the case, leaving no stone

turned. Their relentless focus on these details proved to be a key factor in their success as it allowed them to build a strong and compelling case.

As they arrived at the somewhat daunting Blackburn Magistrates' Court, a panel of illustrious judges awaited them. These judges assessed the participants based on their ability to effectively portray the characters in the case, their aptitude for memorization, and delivery of their arguments, alongside their cohesive teamwork in building a strong case. In the end, their thorough preparation paid off, leading them to a triumphant victory in the courtroom.

*"It was an amazing experience which taught me so many new skills, such as public speaking, analysing information, and being able to think outside of the box,"* explained Safa Idris Patel, a Year 9 student who took on the role of a prosecution lawyer during the trial.





## Dorothy Byrne: Mastering the Mediascape

BY MARYAM MANJRA, 11S2

**BAFTA awards, Emmy awards, and Royal Television Society awards - just a few of the achievements gathered by a woman excelling both within and beyond her television and journalism career. Students at Tauheedul Sixth Form had the privilege to absorb invaluable wisdom from Dorothy Byrne as she shared her arduous yet exhilarating journey. On April 25th, Byrne shared her story with the captivated sixth formers - advice, anecdotes, and humour accompanying the impressive list of accomplishments.**

Dorothy is a truly unstoppable force, facing health challenges that threatened her career - from a time in her mid-fifties when she could barely get out of bed and dress herself, to the terrifying possibility of going blind. She candidly recalled, *"At Channel 4, our entire news and current affairs output was being run by a woman with the body of an 85-year-old."* Through these trials, she gained first-hand experience of society's indifference and lack of understanding towards the elderly and disadvantaged.

Unwavering in her pursuit to better the media industry, Dorothy champions television as the 'bastion of democracy' and boldly exposes politicians, prime ministers, and public opinions. Her witty approach to revealing truths while advocating for women's opportunities in mainstream media has earned her well-deserved respect and recognition. A myriad of groundbreaking documentaries and articles bear witness to her crucial role in journalism.

Year 12 student, Unaisa Patel, commented on Dorothy's speech, *"With a journey as turbulent as hers, I'm so inspired by what she has achieved."*

Although her television chapter has closed, Dorothy now proudly serves as President of Murray Edwards College at the University of Cambridge. She continues to mentor young individuals like us, encouraging us to explore similar career paths while discussing opportunities at Cambridge.

Mrs Shaaheda, teacher of English at the Sixth Form, noted, *"Dorothy's speech really filled our girls with the confidence and aspiration to achieve their very best in today's world."*

## STUDENT OPINION PIECE

# RISE OF THE ROBOT: Liberation, or Cause for Concern?

BY KAUSER PATEL, 11S2

Let us think back to the very start of human life on earth, dating back six million years. Throughout the ages, evolution has proven favorable for mankind. The unveiling of the very first Artificial Intelligence (AI) in 1951, however, casts doubt in the sea of our supremacy – did we invent a monster that will eventually master us?

1997 marked AI's first symbolic victory – perhaps we were too busy marveling to understand what this would mean for the future. As the chess-playing supercomputer, Deep blue, triumphed against world chess champion, GM Garry Kasparov, years of training was diminished in a matter of days. On the surface, this sounds like the idle pastime of tech-geeks, but to many, this groundbreaking victory earned respect for AI as an invaluable tool to amplify human creativity.

Currently, AI advances at an astounding pace that challenges our ability to keep up, from self-driving cars to progressions in medicine, such as disease identification and drug discovery. Gifted with photographic memory and utilising machine-learning to aid every walk of life, naturally, AI far outpaces the rate of human evolution. AI once stood as a testament to human creativity, showcasing the musings of the human mind and filling man with immense pride at its inception. Yet, somewhere along the way, this pride transformed into a sense of competition, highlighting the irony in the argument of human intellect vs. AI.

Robots are no longer simply providers of an inferior service. They now equate to or even excel human intelligence, emphasising their productivity which comes devoid of human emotional baggage. As AI displays its immense versatility, it catalyses growing concerns of job displacement, forcing the redundancy of workers in both formal and informal sectors alike. With each day, man begins to tremble before the machine.

So, what does it mean for the people of today? For many, it is a bosom friend, the unsung hero of countless homework tasks, essays and successful speeches. For others, living in a cyberfirst world has boosted an inevitable rush towards professions in computing and technology. But with a mass flow in this direction, we detract from the UK's highly skilled workforce. Perhaps this is the ultimate test in today's world – if we can't beat the machines, must we join them?



## BOOK REVIEWS

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### The Assassin's Blade by Sarah J. Maas

BY TASNEEM UMERJI, 10H2

**Looking for a book to drag you out of your reading slump? Or a book so good, it'll throw you into one as you fail to find a worthy next-read?**

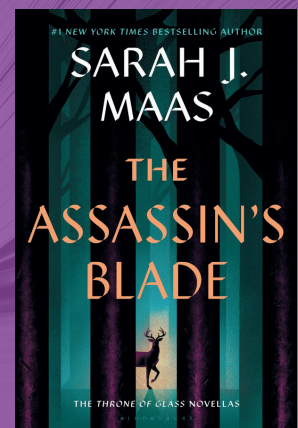
The Assassin's Blade is a collection of novellas which follows the story of young, skilled assassin, Celaena Sardothien, as she tackles missions that take her from remote islands, freeing hundreds of slaves, to hostile deserts, and even seeking approval from the master of the Silent Assassins.

The five novellas within The Assassin's Blade allow us to explore both sides of our female protagonist, from the emotional and vulnerable, to the hardcore and cruel, leaving us in that awful grey area where the phrase 'greater good' grows increasingly common. Offering readers of the thrilling Throne of Glass series a glimpse into Celaena's past, this is a must-read for those who just aren't ready to let great protagonists go.

The Assassin's Blade is only the beginning of an epic eight book journey, a mix of unexpected betrayals, face-offs and of course, plot twists.

I would love to re-experience the blend of emotions that explode from a first read of this book, as I plunged head-first into a wonderful, fantasy world and came to understand the incredible characters who have impacted me in so many ways.

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### The Mystery of The Blue Train by Agatha Christie

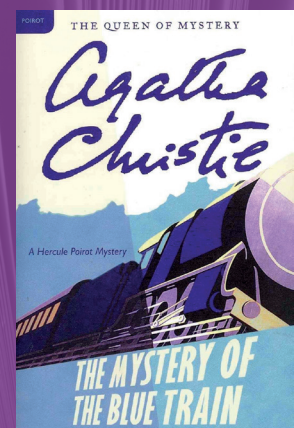
BY MALIHA MEHMOOD, 13B3

**Something within us thrives off danger, and for many, that feeling of being on edge comes from books. A book that makes you eager to delve deeper into the psyche of criminals, victims and detectives, bringing you closer than ever to the dark side. Agatha Christie's infamous novel, 'The Mystery of the Blue train' is the perfect fix for these cravings.**

Widely known as the 'Queen of Crime', Christie's British crime mystery contains plot twists, red herrings and unpredictable endings. Featuring the intellectual foreign detective, Hercule Poirot, the novel begins with news of the murder of American Heiress, Ruth Kettering, and the disappearance of her lavish rubies gifted to her by her father on 'Le Train Bleu' - the blue train. All individuals are suspects, with their own motives to cause harm. Trapped aboard a trip where suddenly, everything feels ominous, it is up to Poirot to examine each character's dark desires and secrets.

The prime suspect - Derek Kettering, Ruth's husband. Standing to inherit millions, he remains the archetypal perpetrator. Yet, Poirot isn't convinced.

Working through his iron chain of reasoning, he formulates a re-enactment of the murder, working his way through each scene individually in an attempt to extract the guilty party. Will Poirot prevail?



## Inspirational Woman: Everest - and Everything Else

BY FAIQA MURTAZA, 11S1

**In a world filled with incredible tales of triumph, few can match the awe-inspiring journey of Junko Tabei. Defying societal norms and physical limitations to become the first woman to conquer Mount Everest, here is a role model we wish we'd known earlier.**

Born in a quaint village in Japan in 1939, since childhood, Junko Tabei was drawn to the majestic mountains surrounding her hometown. With financial challenges barring her access to mountaineering, Tabei constantly juggled with jobs to raise the funds to support her dreams. Even worse, however, was the battle to overlook the derision and disapproval of many male mountaineers, with some even refusing to climb with her. Combatting this, in 1969, she established the Joshi-Tohan Club (Women's Mountaineering Club), transforming pain into power.

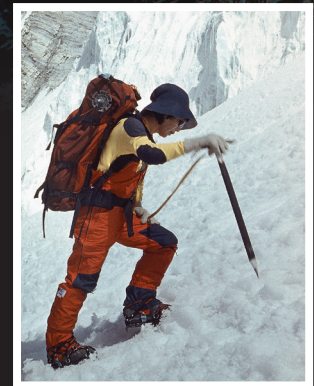
In 1975, Tabei made history by becoming the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the highest peak on Earth. From having to rely on hand-sewn clothing and second-hand equipment, to losing consciousness after being buried by an avalanche, her ascent was packed with deadly challenges. Nonetheless, her successful conquest shattered the notion that mountaineering was exclusively a man's domain, sending shockwaves through the world. Her remarkable feats, however, did not end with Everest. She went on to conquer the Seven Summits, reaching the highest peaks on all seven continents.



Beyond her mountaineering accomplishments, Junko Tabei devoted her life to advocating for environmental conservation. Recognising the fragile beauty of the natural world she explored, she became a passionate voice for sustainable practices and preserving the earth's treasures for future generations. Through her foundation, she inspired countless individuals to take action and protect our planet's delicate ecosystems. As an author and teacher too, it is remarkable to observe the reach of Junko's incredible example, modelling for others what she mastered on her own.

In the face of adversities, Junko Tabei never wavered. She conquered towering mountains, shattered stereotypes, and inspired generations. Her remarkable journey serves as a reminder that within each of us lies the potential to overcome any obstacle and reach unimaginable heights. Junko Tabei's name will forever be etched in the annals of history, a beacon of hope and a symbol of what it means to be an inspirational woman.

*'I can't understand why men make all this fuss about Everest - it's only a mountain.'* – Junko Tabei





## Soft Toys: A Labour of Love

BY SANA GEN, 9E1



Isn't it a delight when simple skills yield stunning results? In Design Technology lessons, many students have discovered their talent in sewing and knitting, advancing in technique to create hand-made soft toys. Throughout their lessons, students have planned and pieced from scratch, sewing together their very own endearing companions.

Soft toys, such as teddy bears or dolls made of textiles, are plush items filled with soft materials and often resemble animals or cartoon characters. The history of soft toys is said to have dated back to as early as 300BC.

While the process of making soft toys may appear straightforward, it demands nimble fingers and patient execution. The essential steps include:

1. Sketching the chosen animal's design on a fabric.
2. Folding the fabric, cutting out your design, and creating two identical pieces.
3. Aligning the fabrics and sewing one side.
4. Stuffing the toy with cotton or other materials.
5. Stitching up the other side to seal it.
6. Adding any extra features and fabrics that bring the soft toy character to life.

Meticulous sewing skills, accurate judgment, a touch of creativity – suddenly, these charming creations have sprung to life. I think it's time we all had a go!



## From Paralympic Powerhouse to Parliament: Tanni's Transformative Journey

BY HUMAIRA OUGRADAR, 10H2

Tanni Grey-Thompson, the celebrated Paralympian and member of the House of Lords, recently visited our school, captivating students with her inspiring journey and unwavering determination. In her address, she highlighted the importance of education, sports, advocacy, and the power of effecting change.

Grey-Thompson spoke passionately about the pivotal role education played in shaping her life. She shared personal anecdotes about her father's tireless efforts to ensure that disadvantaged children, including herself, received the education they deserved. This instilled within her a profound appreciation for the transformative power of education, enabling her to surmount barriers and strive for excellence.

At the age of 14, Grey-Thompson established her own charity, showcasing her innate desire to make a difference. This early initiative reflected her faithful commitment to enhancing the lives of disadvantaged individuals and promoting equal opportunities.

As a wheelchair athlete, Grey-Thompson highlighted the significance of sports in her life. Sports provided her with a platform to channel her energy, passion, and competitive spirit. Through sports, she discovered her true potential, breaking records and defying expectations, inspiring generations to come. Grey-Thompson's

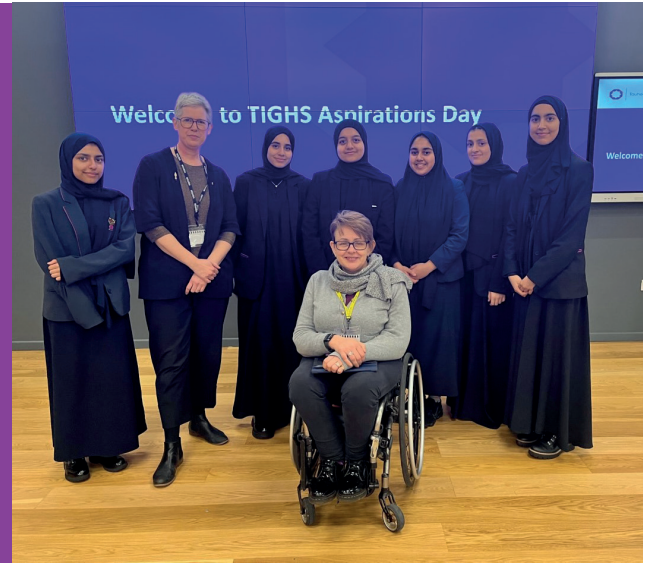
sporting achievements demonstrated that physical abilities should never constrain one's dreams and aspirations.

Currently, Grey-Thompson serves as a member of the House of Lords, where she advocates for disability rights, sports accessibility, and inclusive education. She stressed the importance of utilising one's platform to raise awareness and battle for change in society.

Throughout her address, Grey-Thompson's underlying message was clear: she aimed to make a difference. Her story touched the hearts of all those who had the privilege of hearing them.

*"Her aspirational journey and insight into the House of Lords and the world of Paralympic racing has inspired us all,"* said Mrs Fahima, Careers Education Tutor.

With an iron will to transform the world, Tanni Grey-Thompson exemplifies how the power of an individual can shape a brighter future for all.





## TechXpo: The Ultimate Teen Tech Showcase

BY ZAYNAB BALA, 9L1

It's a question we will always ask ourselves until we find answers through our actions and intentions, and experiments. Fortunately, for Year 8 students, significant assistance was at hand in broadening their future prospects, allowing them to explore various options and discover what truly resonates with them.

The students were invited to the Teen Tech Festival, where a multitude of professionals representing their fields awaited their arrival. From GCHQ and NHS cyber, to Amazon and aerospace engineering, the girls delved into various fields, gaining insights into the diverse areas of these professions. They discovered the pivotal roles these occupations play in facilitating company operations, which may appear straightforward to the casual observer. The festival showcased individuals dedicated to innovation, problem-solving, and collaborative teamwork within their respective organisations.

*"It was eye-opening to explore jobs that I could pursue in the future. This helped me to look beyond conventional career paths and consider the creative options out there."* - Maryam Ali, Year 8 student.

## STEMagination Unleashed: BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

BY SAFAA BOHRA, 9E1

Organised annually by the British Science Association, British Science Week commenced this year on the 10th of March, bringing together schools, communities, businesses, and other stakeholders to engage in activities that enhance knowledge and foster expertise in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – subjects highly celebrated by our school.

During this event, enthusiastic Year 7s competed to create futuristic modes of transport using easily accessible, recyclable materials. Meanwhile, Year 8 students were challenged to raise models of their very own theme park rides. The sight of determined crews of students patrolling the corridors in search of cardboard and plastic, picking through waste-paper bins, and persuading teachers to part with containers became

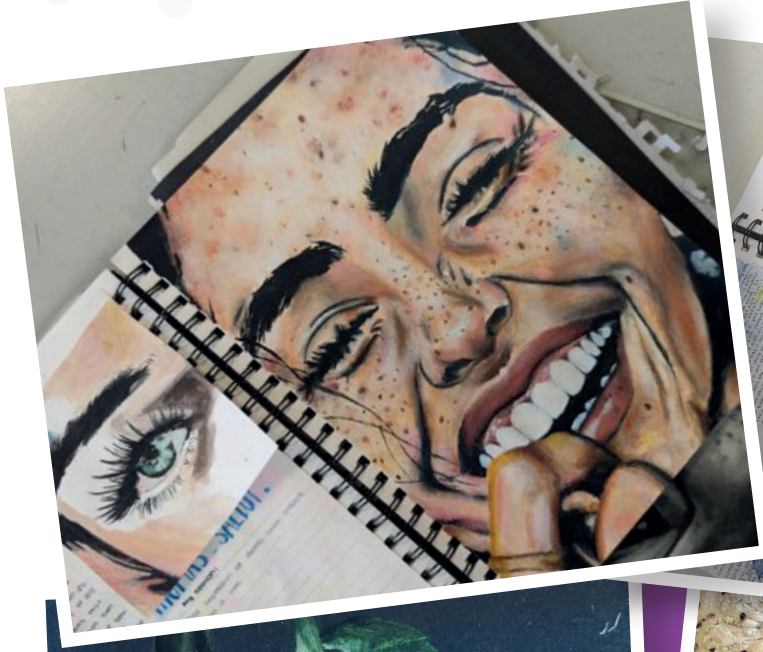
common over the week, much to the amusement of staff. It's remarkable how waste on one day becomes treasure the next.

Year 8 student, Saliha Mulla, who designed a thrilling, new roller coaster, commented: *"This was a week to understand that science is used everywhere, and to marvel at it connects to our lives."*



# Student Work

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# SNAPSHOT OF THE TERM



## KEY DATES



### THURS 17TH AUG

- A Level Results Day
- Y13 Re-enrolment Day 1

### FRI 18TH AUG

- Y13 Re-enrolment Day 2

### THURS 24TH AUG

- GCSE Results Day
- Y12 Enrolment Day 1

### FRI 25TH AUG

- Y12 Enrolment Day 2

### FRI 1ST SEPT

- Staff Inset Day

### MON 4TH SEPT

- School Re-opens

### MON 23RD OCT

- Mid-term Closure (1 Week)

### MON 25TH DEC

- Christmas Closure (2 Weeks)



THANK YOU, SAFA SAYED AND AAMINAH ISSA,  
FOR YOUR EDITORSHIP OF AS-SAWT THIS YEAR



Tauheedul Girls



Part of Star



SERVICE

Being a responsible citizen  
in our community



TEAMWORK

Working together  
for excellence



AMBITION

Aspiring to be  
our best



RESPECT

Treating others as we  
wish to be treated