

AS-SAWT THE VOICE



Tauheedul Girls

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

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TECH TITANS

AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

BY KAUSER PATEL, 12B3



Computer Science students at Tauheedul Girls have recognised the speedy advancement of technology as a prospect to channel their potential, gleaming gratefully at the opportunity to participate in the Cyberfirst event in the opulent chambers of The House of Commons.

As the excitement reached its peak and the final headcount was complete, Tauheedul's tech enthusiasts donned their suits, prepared for an event hosted by the IN4.0 Group. Here, the future of cybersecurity converged with the timeless grandeur of Parliament. Upon arrival, the students were struck with awe, gazing at the iconic Big Ben and absorbing the view before diving into the business at hand.

Immersed in the rich history of Parliament, students embarked on an enlightening tour guided by a knowledgeable host. They traversed the public gallery, witnessing a live debate that resonated with the pulse of democracy within the hallowed walls. Engaged and inspired, students were left captivated by talks from respected cybersecurity experts: topics ranged from Cyberfirst as a company to the unique opportunities available, particularly at Tauheedul, a Cyberfirst bronze-certified school.

Mrs Lorgat, Teacher of IT, stated, *"Many of our students have been applying for degree apprenticeships, so this event was held at a perfect time to equip them with the relevant skills required to succeed in their interviews."*

Students were also given the chance to forge connections through lively conversation and refreshments, exchanging valuable ideas with esteemed professionals within the computer science industry. Each scientist shared their unique approach to navigating the constantly changing world of technology, offering both wisdom and anecdotes to resonate with the young minds.

Fatimah Bhad, a Year 13 pupil, stated, *"The networking session was extremely interactive and gave us an insight into the countless opportunities that Cyberfirst has to offer."*

Having ardently engaged in a day's worth of learning, students reluctantly bid farewell to Parliament. With one final glimpse at the iconic landmarks of London, the scenic walk to the train station was saturated with laughter and discussion as pupils left ready to embark on their own journeys as aspiring guardians of digital security.



Chair's Reflections

All praises to the Almighty, Lord of the Worlds and the Master to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him), the Seal of the Prophets and the guide for all our actions.

We are blessed at TIGHS – but the need to struggle is as important as anywhere.

We are blessed at our school. We are nourished by our faith ethos with its emphasis on discipline and serving others, the loyalty and warm support of our parents, and the enterprise and collective spirit of our pupils. We are fortunate to have teachers and support staff who believe in our mission and who make sacrifices each day, driven by the simple creed that they are making a difference and forging futures.

Many schools simply do not have this. So many around the country are blighted by poor attendance, disruptive behaviour, hopelessness and fecklessness, and all of the myriad of challenges that mean that achieving exceptional outcomes for young people is a daily and incoherent grind.

President Reagan once described the United States of America as 'the shining city on the hill'. This is how I consider our school – an example to others, an opportunity to strive for excellence, and a wonderful platform for our students to secure their future and for our leaders, teachers, and support staff to build an exceptional legacy for ourselves and our families. I genuinely believe there is no better place for our teachers and leaders to expend our time, talent, and treasure to serve young people and for our young women to achieve their dreams.

To achieve this at TIGHS, however, we must be prepared to struggle.

In the early part of his time as Prophet, Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) was struggling to convince the people of Makkah of the new faith, suffering abuse and discord everywhere he turned. In response, the Lord revealed a verse in the Qur'aan:

'Indeed, we have created mankind to be in constant struggle.'

Qur'aan 90: 4

Every life is full of difficulties. This is not just a facet of life – it is divine intent. It is God's will that this life is full of hardships and the life to come is full of comfort. So, if all of us are meant to struggle, why not do so for something greater- and indeed someone other- than ourselves?

As parents and people who work in schools, to achieve great things for our children- and the children that will be the future of our country and our Ummah – we must be prepared to make sacrifices, work hard, and choose the difficult path in serving others even when a less arduous one – that offers fewer rewards for our young people- is offered to us.

As young women attending TIGHS as students, why not make the most of the excellent teaching, commitment of our teachers, and wonderful support offered to us to make the most of our time and make a life for ourselves and our families that will make our parents proud?

In short, despite the many blessings of our school that make this a great place to achieve great things, we need to struggle. Indeed, because it is easier, we should struggle more.

To achieve great things, we cannot build a Potemkin Village.

In the late 18th century, Catherine the Great annexed Crimea from the Ottoman Empire and asked Grigory Potemkin, a statesman in the Russian Army, to colonise the newly acquired land and build a vibrant community there.

Potemkin failed to achieve what Catherine had asked and the land lay barren. So, when the empress wanted to tour Crimea in her royal barge in 1787, the nobleman had a problem. To save his reputation, Potemkin arranged for fake pasteboard villages to be installed along the journey of Catherine's voyage, along with happy peasants and herds of animals brought in from central Russia.

The myth of the Potemkin Village reminds us that we often try to hide the undesirable reality of our failings and our flaws by erecting temporary facades. We do not accept our mistakes, pretend to work hard or deliver our very best only when others are watching, and put on a fake show of brilliance to get past a difficult moment rather than try to put things right every day to achieve great things.

Like the legend of Crimea in 1787, if we do want to achieve amazing things for ourselves and others, we cannot build a Potemkin Village.

Stop for a moment and notice the beauty around us.

In 2007, on a cold January morning, a man with a violin played classical music at a train station in Washington DC. Around 2000 people passed in the hour that passed. Some noticed him briefly. A few gave money. In total, he raised \$32. Several children stopped to listen and watch but were hurried along by a parent. After an hour of playing, the man stopped. No one noticed and he left.

The man with the violin was Joshua Bell. One of the finest musicians in the world. He had just played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth £3.5 million. He had played the same music days before in a sold-out theatre where tickets averaged at \$100 each.

As we hurry in our lives, do we stop and notice the beauty around us? Do we pause to see the magic? Do we let our children marvel at the intricate and delicate awesomeness of our world? Do we help them to appreciate the magic in our classrooms, our homes, and our lives? Do we create these moments for them? Indeed, in their stressful desire to achieve excellent grades and secure the next stage in their studies, do our children miss their unique talent, the divinely inspired gift that they have been given, and the path that would truly make their life one of fulfilment and joy?

If we can slow down a little, lift our heads away from our screens for a while, pause from the daily grind of our work and the preparation for exams for a short moment; if we can truly look at each other as family of our own; if we can pause and notice the quirks that make people around us unique, listen intently to what moves their mind and stirs their soul, watch our young women grow keenly into the beautiful young people we aspire them to be, and chart rather than impose a path forward with them rather than for them....if we can do this, then we will see the beauty in each of our children.

Ramadhaan - The Month for Everything

Ramadhaan is a month for everything. It is a month for forgiveness – of each other and of ourselves. It is a month for renewal – of body, of spirit, and of faith. It is a month for togetherness – family, community, and Ummah. It is a month for love – for our Qur'aan, for our fellow brother and sister, and for our Lord. It is a month for abstinence – from food, from ample comfort and sleep, from lavish talk, and from the basest of instincts. It is a month for charity – for dutiful giving to others. It is a month for cleansing – of our body, of our soul, of our wealth. It is a month for peace – free from the curses, commotions and conflicts that infect so much of our lives. Mostly though, it is our month. A month for each and every one of us. A gift. Let's make the most of it.

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

Hamid Patel

Sir (Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE
Chair of Local Accountability Board



Nourishing Souls and Strengthening Bonds

BY AISHA AHMED, 10L1



Ramadhaan, the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, is a luminous period, where hearts harmonise and spirits soar on an annual basis.

Providing a radiant opportunity to spiritually enhance one's beliefs and reap the multiplied blessings attached to it, Muslims share the delight of worship with one another. Awaiting the breaking of the fast (Iftaar) daily at sunset and the oasis of energy renewal, gratitude flutters in the Ramadhaan air.

Tauheedul Girls has embraced this sacred period, reigniting the spiritual sparks within pupils and staff alike through a number of activities. In the lead-up to Ramadhaan, the school corridors glinted with decorations, creating a welcoming ambience for the arrival of a beautiful month. Special assemblies for all pupils provided guidance on activities on offer in Ramadhaan, and pre-Ramadhaan mini-markets helped kickstart a period of fundraising.

One of the crowning jewels in the events of this month was a student leaders' Iftaar at the school. Mrs Aamena, Faith and Character Lead, orchestrated this divine delight, a soiree of serenity under the moonlit night. She commented,

"This event was meticulously planned to ensure all attendees were satisfied. It was a great opportunity to gather our student leaders together."

The attendees gathered, camaraderie vibrant in the cosy confines of the school canteen, which was thoughtfully accessorised in glamorous and delightful ornaments.

With several other flourishing campaigns such as 'Donate My Lunch Money' or the 'Good Deed of the Day Challenge', Ramadhaan is well and truly a cherished guest at the school and in the wider Muslim community.

EXPLORING THE ARTISTRY OF MATHEMATICS

BY UMAAMAH IBRAHIM, 9M3

Mathematics: a labyrinth of numbers which, for aspiring mathematicians, is a valuable instrument for navigating and resolving intricate issues in our world today.

To embrace the true potential of Maths, Tauheedul Girls was honoured to host a distinguished panel of four accomplished women who illuminated the diverse applications of mathematics with their respective fields of expertise. This eminent panel included an Information Technology technician, a skilled dressmaker, a proficient dentist, and a talented confectioner, who illuminated the expansive spectrum of how mathematics enriches and empowers their daily work.

Anticipation was palpable among the audience, consisting of aspiring mathematicians from both Year 8 and Year 9, who eagerly awaited the wisdom and guidance to be shared as a source of inspiration.

Amidst this enlightening event, the IT expert delved into the nuanced realm of time management and the art of handling requests, while the dental practitioner shed light on the precise calculations essential in administering anaesthesia, exemplifying the profound impact of mathematics across varied career domains.

In a world that is unceasingly evolving, the emergence of young Muslim women across diverse career spheres is unmistakable. Throughout this event, learners gained invaluable insights into the pivotal role of mathematics in a multitude of professions, encouraging them to explore diverse career paths and the array of opportunities available.

Miss Mohammed, Teacher of Mathematics, commented, *"It was great to hear about the ways in which mathematics is utilised in numerous professions that aren't usually associated with the subject itself."*

By showcasing real-life examples and career trajectories, students were inspired to recognise the boundless opportunities that mathematics has to offer beyond the confines of the classroom. This event served as guiding light, equipping young minds with the knowledge and passion to excel in a world where mathematics serves as a cornerstone of innovation.

A Journey of Enlightenment: From Workshops to Wisdom BY MARYAM MANJRA, 12B10

In the contemporary whirlwind of everyday obligations, where time is a scarce commodity, the act of reserving time for introspective communion with our faith is paramount.

Over the winter months, biweekly lunchtime workshops were skilfully delivered by different subject teachers, each session focusing on a diverse aspect of personal growth. Through a blend of enlightening discussions and hands-on activities, participants were exposed to a rich tapestry of values aimed at enhancing their character.

Embracing the value of kindness, learners crafted heartfelt cards to express gratitude to their loved ones, fostering a culture of compassion and appreciation. The ripple effect of this is certainly displayed, as learners are internalising the teachings of kindness and gratitude, radiating these values in their endeavours.

In addition, the workshops delved into the intriguing intersections between science and Islam, illuminating the profound parallels between the two realms. Encouraged to apply their newfound knowledge, learners engaged in scientific experiments, embodying the essence of their discoveries. This holistic approach to learning and growth transcends the boundaries of traditional learning, offering a profound insight into the unity of knowledge and spirituality.

These weekly gatherings not only deepened communal bonds among participants but also sparked new friendships, underscoring the transformative impact of the workshop.

Learners are now poised to carry forward the values learnt into the months ahead. Through a continuous commitment to personal growth and introspection, individuals can navigate the complexities of modern life with a sense of purpose and spiritual clarity, embodying the essence of their faith in every aspect of their being.



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

DAYS: Celebrating the Pioneer of Nursing

BY ZAINAB MUGHAL, 9M1



Florence Nightingale, one of history’s most revered female pioneers, is widely recognised for her exceptional contributions to the field of medicine as a nurse, her proficiency in mathematics, and her mastery in visualising statistical data.

Therefore, Florence Nightingale Days, celebrated annually at Lancaster University, act as a testament to the importance of celebrating the achievements of trailblazing women like Nightingale in STEM fields. For Year 10 learners at Tauheedul Girls, who stand at the threshold of pivotal career choices, the most recent commemorative day presented an invaluable opportunity to broaden their perspectives and draw unwavering inspiration from Nightingale.

The methodically organised event facilitated informal discussions between students and mathematicians, fostering a conducive environment for learning and exploration, whilst

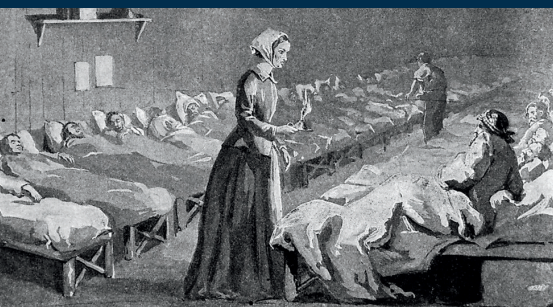
offering ample opportunities for participants to engage in friendly competitions with their peers from other schools through quizzes.

Dr Vandita Patel, a Lecturer in Pure Mathematics at The University of Manchester, shared her academic journey from a PhD graduate to esteemed researcher. With her expertise in Number Theory, she enthralled the students by revealing how she integrates classical and modern techniques to solve complex algebraic equations. Dr Patel’s presence served as a source of inspiration, highlighting the boundless possibilities within the realm of mathematics for aspiring females.

Dr Carole Tham, Teacher of A level Mathematics, proudly recounted,

“It was an incredible experience for the girls. Just witnessing how closely mathematics and computing are linked is astonishing.”

In today's world, Nightingale's impact endures, especially for the young women at Tauheedul. Her groundbreaking contributions to healthcare and mathematics serve as a guiding light for all those aspiring to make their mark.



“

**I attribute my success to this:
I never gave or took any excuse.**

”

STUDENT OPINION PIECE

Rocking Ridiculousness

BY HUMAIRA OUGRADAR, 11H2

The Rise of the Pet Rock

Innovation - it fuels the engine of advancement, yet it can leave behind a legacy of bemusement.

In the realm of ludicrous ideas, few can rival the absurdity of the Pet Rock. Yes, you read that correctly – a rock, marketed as a pet. In the pantheon of human creativity, this gem stands out as a shining model of misguided innovation...

Let's rewind the clocks to the 1970s:

Disco is all the rage, and somewhere in California, a man named Gary Dahl has an epiphany. "Why bother with the hassle of feeding, walking, and cleaning up after a real pet," he muses, "when you can have a pet that requires absolutely zero effort?"

Thus, the Pet Rock was born – plucked from the earth and sold as a novelty item.

Now, I'm all for thinking outside the box, but selling a literal rock as a pet? That's a level of absurdity even Salvador Dali would struggle to compete with.

Yet, against all odds, Dahl's fabrication struck a chord with the public. People actually invested in these items – paying good money for what essentially amounted to a glorified paperweight.

What made this phenomenon so utterly ridiculous was not just its concept, but the packaging and marketing adjoining it. Every rock was burrowed inside a cosy cardboard box, complete with air holes – to give the rocks breathing space - and a tongue-in-cheek instruction manual. It was a stroke of marketing genius - I'll give them that.

In a world brimming with technological marvels and scientific breakthroughs, we somehow managed to elevate a humble Mexican pebble extracted from the ground to the status of a household pet. Despite all our progress, some of us are still susceptible to the siren song of absurdity.

Who would have imagined that a simple rock could transform into a coveted accessory? It all boils down to the art of consumerism. So, the next time you're tempted to indulge in the latest craze, just remember that there is a rock out there somewhere chuckling at your expense.

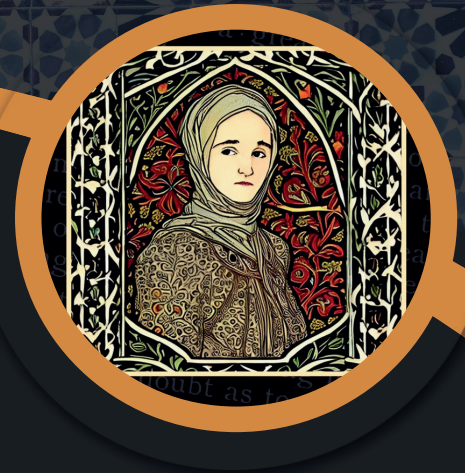


INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

THE INSPIRING TALE OF

FATIMA ELIZABETH CATES

By Tasneem Umerji, 11H2



One may define an inspirational woman as someone whose impact on society leaves a lasting legacy. Fatima Elizabeth Cates embodies this definition as a beacon of leadership in the Islamic community.

Born in 1865 into a family adherent to strict Catholic beliefs, Cates was determined to change the unstable dynamics in the community and to make a profound impact by rebelling against the prevailing injustices of society.

In 1887, Cates attended a lecture by Abdullah Quilliam, a renowned lawyer who had recently embraced Islam, and she was captivated by his articulate portrayal of Islam. Despite the vehement opposition from her devoutly Catholic mother and the wider community in Liverpool, Cates courageously delved into the study of Islam, undeterred by the hostility directed towards her. Seeking solace and guidance in the teachings of the Holy Quran, Cates marvelled onto her journey to becoming the first female convert on British soil under Quilliam's influence.

Utilising her zeal towards her faith, Cates played a pivotal role in supporting a newfound initiative, which provided a dedicated place of worship for the burgeoning Muslim community in Liverpool, marking the inception of the first official centre for Islamic faith in Britain. Cates personally assumed an active role in the governance and maintenance of the mosque, ensuring equal participation in its operations.

Simultaneously, Cates was subject to a tumultuous marriage, and pursued a rare act of defiance by filing for divorce in 1891. Through this movement, Cates catalysed the movement for gender autonomy and empowerment across England, acting as a token of inspiration for females through her unprecedented courage. Having devoted her life to diligently maintaining her hard work, Cates' profound impact still endures today.

In commemoration of her efforts, the Fatima Elizabeth Phrontistery was created, specifically dedicated to her name - a way to ensure that her memory is cherished for many years to come.

Cates' story is one of immense courage, bravery and devotion to her faith, a story upon which we may ponder and take a lesson. Serving as a poignant testament to the enduring power of individual conviction and fortitude, the narrative of Fatima Elizabeth Cates exemplifies unparalleled courage in the face of misfortune.

EXPLORING THE FORENSIC FRONTIERS AT TIGHS

BY AAMINA BIBI SIKANDER, 11H4

Have you ever come across a chilling murder case in the news, or pondered over an unsolved cold case, racking your brain trying to figure out what could have possibly transpired?

Perhaps your trail of thoughts veer towards the psyche of the perpetrators, and whether the seekers of justice are weighed down by a sense of impending melancholy.

Coinciding perfectly with National Careers week, learners were presented with a riveting opportunity to work with the Criminology team at the University of Blackburn College. Engaging with a multitude of crime and justice-related activities, each criminologist enthusiast dipped their brains into the enthralling realm of criminal behaviour and motives.

The Blackburn library played host to a lineup of distinguished guest speakers, each one offering an abundance of knowledge specific to their respective fields of study, with the likes of Peter Faulding, a trailblazer in the realm of forensic searches, who has pioneered the way in forensic searches.

Having played a crucial role in some of the UK's most harrowing murder cases, including that of notorious criminals such as Peter Tobin, April Jones, Helen McCourt, and the MI6 officer Gareth Williams, Tobin has spearheaded countless high-profile missing persons or 'no body' investigations, uncovering pivotal evidence and human cadavers in the most remote locations.

These honoured speakers explored themes such as 'Children Missing Education', social media advocacy, forensic analysis of prominent cases, and the participation of both activist and scholarly speakers.

By inspiring our youth and showcasing a vast array of talent, success and innovation, this event proved to truly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience that is sure to pave the way for our budding future criminologists.



BOOK REVIEW

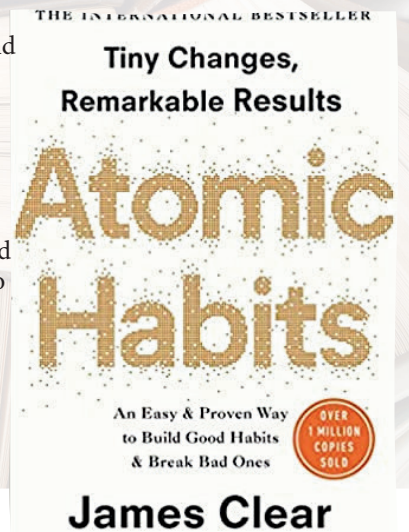
'Atomic Habits' by James Clear

'Atomic Habits' is a transformative guide published by world renowned habits expert, James Clear, which traverses through the intricate realm of habit formation. Blending both practical reasoning and scientific research together, Clear unveils the profound impact of small habits, and their cumulative effects on our lives. By using real-life success stories of top athletes and leading CEOs, he advocates for the power of marginal gains, emphasising that even the slightest adjustments in behaviour can lead to remarkable improvements over a gradual period of time.

Clear's framework revolves around the concept of consistency through decision-making that can then produce significant outcomes. By breaking down habits into their fundamental components and understanding the science behind habit formation, readers are equipped with actionable strategies to initiate positive change.

Moreover, Clear delves into the psychology of creating positive habits, interpreting the role of cues, cravings, responses, and rewards in shaping behaviour. By mastering the art of habit-stacking and environment design, individuals can create a conducive environment for sustained progress.

Ultimately, "Atomic Habits" is a beacon of hope for those seeking personal growth and transformation. It empowers readers to transcend the cycle of stagnation and cultivate a life defined by purpose, productivity, and fulfilment. With its practical wisdom and profound insights, this book serves as a timeless roadmap for unleashing the extraordinary potential that lies within each of us.



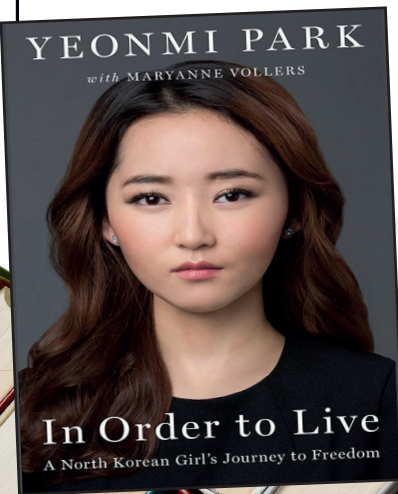
'In Order to Live' By Yeonmi Park

"In Order to Live" by Yeonmi Park is a captivating autobiography offering a firsthand account of her experience of survival and resilience in the face of unimaginable adversity. Park begins by tracing her arduous lifestyle in the oppressive regime of North Korea, vividly depicting the horrors of life under the North Korean dictatorship, where starvation, fear and constant surveillance are a daily battle.

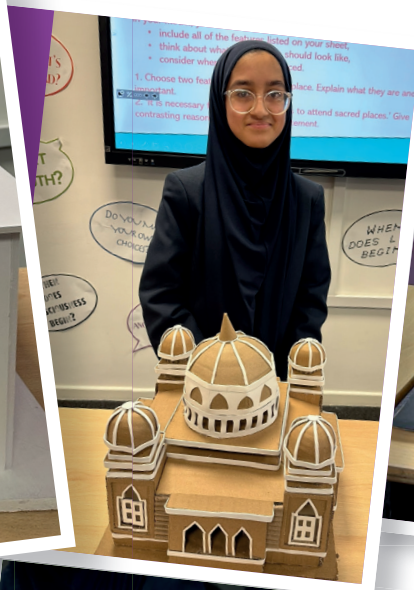
Park emotionally captivates the reader by describing her tempestuous journey following her escape with her mother at the age of 13. Their escape plan was ignited after her sister, Eun-Mi, had fled unexpectedly to escape the overbearing autocracy. Together, both Park and her mother escaped whilst securely gripping on to the prospect of hope and their yearning for freedom.

Park's novel behaves as a call to action against the injustices inflicted by authoritarian regimes, shedding light on the plight of North Korean citizens and advocating for human rights and freedom around the world.

'In Order to Live' is stamped by Park's incredible statement of survival and eventual freedom, acting as an emblem of liberty and healing after a painful escape filled with perilous obstacles.



Student Work



SNAPSHOT OF THE TERM



KEY DATES



FRI 29TH MAR
End-of-Term Holiday
(2 Weeks)
Good Friday

MON 1ST APR
Easter Monday

WED 10TH APR
Eid-ul-Fitr

MON 15TH APR
School Re-opens

THU 18TH APR
Y7 Parents Evening

TUE 23RD APR
World Book Night

THU 25TH APR
Y7 & Y8 UKMT Junior
Maths Challenge

**SAT 27TH & SUN 28TH
APR**
Duke of Edinburgh
Expedition

MON 6TH MAY
May Day Holiday

TUE 7TH MAY
GCSE, A-Level, BTEC
Summer Exams Start

MON 27TH MAY
Half-Term Holiday
(1 Week)

MON 3RD JUNE
School Re-Opens

MON 10TH JUNE
Y10 Internal Exams
Start

FRI 14TH JUNE
Five Days of Hajj Starts

**MON 17TH & TUE
18TH JUNE**
Eid-ul-Adha Holiday

FRI 21ST JUNE
Y11 School Leavers'
Assembly

THU 4TH JULY
Islamic New Year

TUE 16TH JULY
End of Year Activities
Begin

FRI 19TH JULY
School Closes for
Summer Break



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