



# The Eden Voice

Student Termly Newsletter

Issue 1

December 2015/Safar

## Welcome from the Head Boy: Together We Will Make History.

Salman Shafaq 8A

Asalaamu Alakium, and may peace be with you.

It is an absolute privilege to introduce myself as Salman Shafaq, Eden Boys' first ever Head Boy! I am truly humbled and honoured to have been selected and I am delighted to announce that I will be your devoted, motivated and reliable leader for this year insha'Allah. This is a prestigious position to be given and I will do my utmost best to ensure that each and every individual voice is represented. In addition, I will be working closely with all my fellow students and hope to build, create and form not a great but an outstanding bond with each and every one of you.

However, as Mrs Ravat and others have reminded me, with great power comes immense responsibility and my mission is to bring us all together as a real family. I would like to help us all to progress and move forward as the achievements from the first term are evidence that the sky is the limit for us all.

I know we have had some minor bumps along the long and arduous road to success but we have addressed them and we will continue to move forward together as a family. I believe if we want to succeed and we want all the trips and opportunities that Mrs Ravat and all the other teachers provide for us then we need to work together. This begins by respecting each other and our teachers. As Muslims we should have the utmost respect for all staff regardless of their gender, age or appearance as the Prophet (PBUH) stated – "He is not a believer who doesn't have mercy on our young and respect for our elders".

Having said that, teachers have continuously remarked how respectful and well-behaved we are and it has been truly humbling to see how many external speakers and visitors have commended all the pupils on... well on everything! From uniform to manners, from generosity to maturity- we should be grateful for all of the opportunities given to us.

Furthermore, we have all been blown away with the wealth of experiences we have already had in our first term.

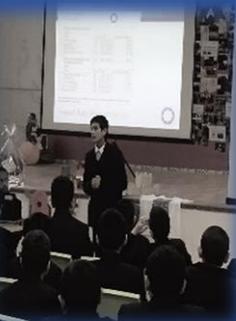
At this point I would like to touch on a hadith narrated by the Prophet (PBUH) narrated "A believers shade on the day of judgement will be his charity" which emphasises the need for all to give- however small or big. It also stated in the Bible 'Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God' (Hebrews 13:16) The reason I wanted to reference this is because we have raised a gargantuan amount of money for charitable causes thus far- totalling over £2,000 in fact!

One of our charitable achievements to date was raising money for Children In Need. Activities included all forms being entered in a great fundraising competition with things definitely becoming competitive- and that was just the form tutors! Activities included the following: students had the pleasure of partaking in Mr Hussain's Football Tournament as well as a fantastic tuck shop organised by 7B with all donations provided by the form.

In the end, it was Miss Hussain's form that came out on top with over £150 raised alone, while collectively we raised £648! This figure alone is staggering, especially given the fact we only have 6 form groups and must take into account that all donations were raised in one week!

The root of our charitable generosity first began on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September to mark 'International Literacy Day' where the English department and students dedicated their efforts to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Research. The main body behind this was Miss Shaban's 'Sweet Temptation's Bakeathon' which attracted fantastic crowds in only week 2 of Eden Boys' coming to fruition. The rest has now become history but is showcased on our fabulous 'Wall of Fame' that Mr Bhayat is very protective over!

A final message from me for now: we must continue to strive on our path to success and I have made it my personal aim to make Eden Boys' the pinnacle of education not just in Birmingham but throughout the entire Tauheedul Trust. ***"I want to inspire people, I want someone to look at me, and say "because of you I didn't give up"***



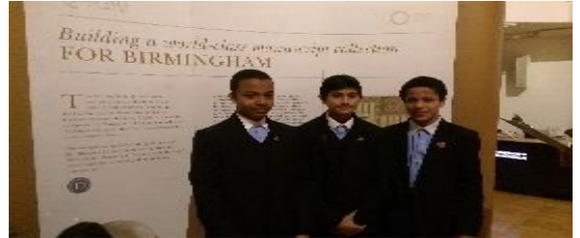


## Students visit the Qur'an exhibition

In October, a group of lucky students from Eden Boys' School were given the fantastic opportunity to visit the Qur'an exhibition being held at the University of Birmingham. The Qur'an manuscript held by the University of Birmingham has been placed among the oldest in the world thanks to modern scientific methods. Radiocarbon analysis has dated the parchment on which the text is written to the period between AD 568 and 645 with 95.4% accuracy according to the University.

The test was carried out in a laboratory at the University of Oxford.

Students and teachers took part in a lecture about the manuscript and even had the precious opportunity to see this amazing manuscript in real life!



## Eden's Amazing Academic Achievements:

### Uzair Patel 7C

Throughout our very first term here at Eden Boy's School we have accomplished numerous and fantastic achievements and we have participated in successful events and trips to support our academic progress.

This has included the creation of models every fortnight ranging from pieces that celebrate our favourite book covers through an alternative 3D medium in English to colourful solar systems in Science and memorial pieces to mark the WW1 commemorations on November 11<sup>th</sup> to name but a few in various subjects. This has unleashed our creative juices and raised the bar from any other creative homework we were ever assigned in our previous schools with parents and visitors congratulating and asking to take pictures of models on display during visits. Eden would like to personally congratulate the following students for their exceptional projects: Isa Kazi's satellite, Salman Shafaq's 3D Tower of London recreation, the house built by Haneef Ahmed for Maths, the wreath of poppies hand made by Anis Choudhury for English, the fallen soldier by Musa Yaqub, Hashim Ibrar and Amaad Wajid, 'The Hunger Games' by Mohammed Faizaan, Adam Lowery's personalised WW1 t-shirt and the grave-stone by Mohammed Hadi. The English department have asked me to commend my 3D soldier's helmet covered in poppies and Zayd Ansa's 'The Hobbit' recreation which was exceptional by far- they insisted I promise...! Finally, a big thank you to all parents for their undivided support and commitment to your education.

One of the most enjoyable days of the school term was the STEM day organised by the Science department where the school participated in competitions such as: an 'elastic race car', a tower of sticks to support an egg and a tunnel to slow down the speed of a marble. 8A's successes triumphed on the day for year 8 winning every competition and in year 7 there were numerous winners including 7B and 7D. Mr Tariq who helped in organising the day said "Watch this space. There will be more to come!"

Other enjoyable and insightful trips included two visits to KPMG and the delightful world of accounting, WW1 lectures at the University of Birmingham, a visit to 'The Drum Arts Centre' celebrating Black History Month and many more! This is why our 'Wall of Fame' is inundated with highlights from events and trips that we have been on.

I would like to leave you with a simple message: we have achieved so much in a short space of time leaving us with no doubt that we are an outstanding school and the best in the Tauheedal Trust!





# Edén Boys' Say No to Bullying!

Mohammed Touray 7B

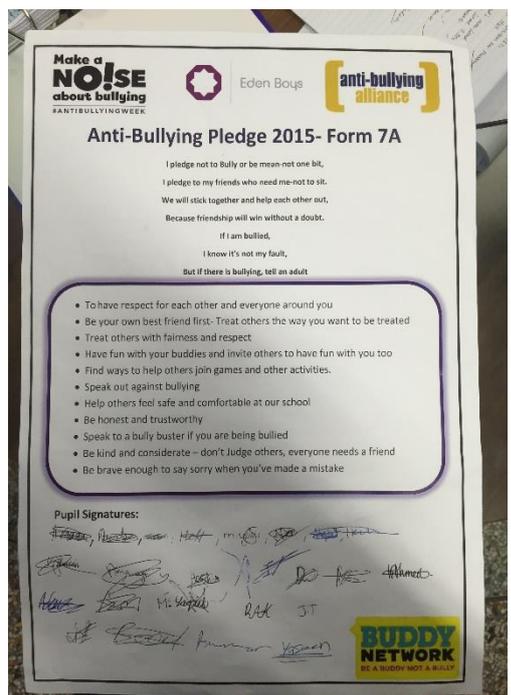
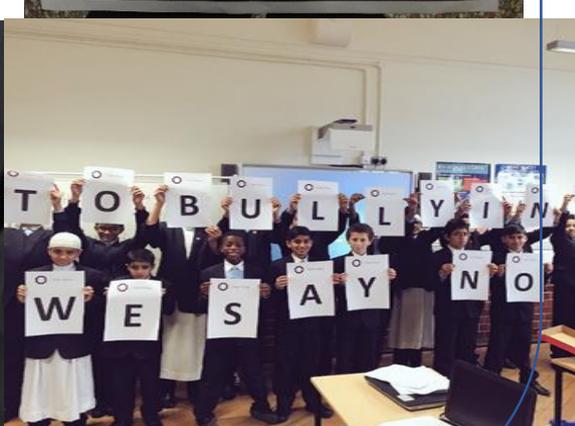
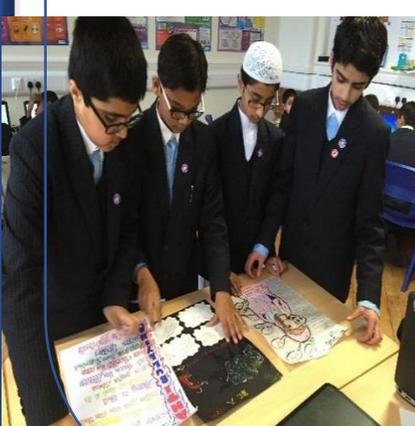
From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November Edén Boys' School raised awareness about bullying and mental health through the celebration of Anti Bullying week. Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event in the third week of November which aims to raise awareness of the bullying of children and young people, in and out of schools and highlights ways of preventing and responding to it.

Students undertook numerous activities ranging from selling our very own 'Bully Buster Badges' for 30p to creating posters and signing anti-bullying pledges! We also had our weekly assembly dedicated to the theme where we were also shown interesting videos of victims of abuse and the effects of this on them in later life.

7D's Learning Co-ordinator Mr.Hussain said "I think anti-bullying week is crucial as it shows how inclusive and welcoming we are here at Edén and how strict we are in our no-bullying policy". This was emphasised by 7B's student representative Tawqir Ahmed who remarked "I think it's a good campaign and I am proud to be part of it.

We recognise the importance of Anti-bullying Week because we are one big family. We will never tolerate verbal, physical, online or emotional abuse of any sort." In this regard each form has signed the 'Bully Buster Pledge' which says no to bullying or displaying any act of rudeness to anyone. In addition, a bully buster council has been formed which will deal with any incidents of bullying that may occur within the school.

I can confidently say here at Edén Boys' we appreciate our staff and students regardless of any differences and we say no to bullying.



# The Spiritual Side to Assessments...

Muhammad 8A

Islam says knowledge is important. It says in a hadith "tala bul ilmi fareedhatun alaa kulli Muslim" - Knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim. By revising for the test and getting good marks, you are not only making your parents and teachers happy but also Allah (SWT) happy. But with tests comes pressure! So how can we cope? One of the things we can do is simple and easy: Pray, of course! Sometimes we think that Allah is only in the most spiritual parts of our lives, but Allah (SWT) is in every aspect of our life. Allah wants you to succeed. Praying can bring you closer to Allah and make you feel a little stronger and relaxed going into the assessment period. In that regard I've outlined a few spiritual tips to help you get through those most testing times...assessments!

- Mention the name of Allah (SWT) before you start because mentioning the name of Allah (SWT) is prescribed when beginning any action.
- Before any lesson spend a few moments praying. Read duas such as "Rabbishrah li sadri wa yassir li amri (O my Lord, expand my chest and make things easy for me)."
- In a hadith it says that any du'a, which begins with: Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim (In the name of Allah (SWT), the most Gracious, and the most Merciful) is not rejected. (Qudsi)
- Ask others to also pray for you- you can never underestimate the power of prayer.
- Try to read all prayers and trust me, it will make you feel better!
- Avoid distractions by not interfering with things that do not concern you (last week's hadith of the week).
- The best time to revise is after or during Fajar time.
- It is crucial that you cleanse the soul and mind from common and unnecessary stress during the assessment period. Therefore, do as many good deeds as possible- even the smallest things are appreciated. Also, do zikr – this will clear your mind from stress.

I hope this has been of benefit to you- please remember me and our committed teachers in your duas.



## Happy Holidays!

On behalf of all the staff and students we would like to wish all parents a happy holiday. We would like to say thank you to all who have supported us during our first term at Eden Boys' School; we have certainly achieved a great deal and none of this could have been possible without the dedication and devotion from all the staff, students, Mrs Ravat, parents and governors who help make Eden Boys' School a phenomenal success! Watch this space as there's even more to come.  
JazakAllahu Khair and stay safe.

### Key Dates:

**Awards Evening: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December- 5.00- 6.45pm**

**Rewards Trip to Ice Skating: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**Spring term: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016**