

STAR

ISSUE 4
SUMMER
2018



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STEADY
COOK**

**BEND IT LIKE
BECKHAM**

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WELCOME

Asiyah Ravat, Principal

As I write this, I am aware that we are nearly at the end of another year. Although we still have many activities organised, unfortunately it will be too late for me to include them in this STAR edition, but I hope when you look through these pages you will have a little insight into the successes we have enjoyed together and the enjoyment we have all had.

The wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle was such an important event for the country that we couldn't let it go without celebrating it ourselves! As the wedding fell within the blessed month of Ramadhan, we thought it would be a great idea to join in the fun and celebrate our annual Iftar event with the wedding celebrations. Have a look on page 7 where you can have a sneak peek into the evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The article on page 3, Changing Our Lives, is a favourite of mine. 8 students were chosen to take part in Community development work which included inviting some of the elderly people from the community into school for a coffee morning. This is a project that not only people in our community benefit from but also our boys', who were given the chance to meet people from different walks of life.

One of the articles I felt should be part of this STAR edition was the Grenfell Tower fire which affected so many lives and tragically ended 72. It was the first anniversary on 14th June and Eden Boys', along with people across the country had a 72 second silence to remember the tragic event. Students also came to school wearing green showing solidarity to the cause.

In May, many of our year 10 students sat two of their GCSE's, Computer Science and French. They worked extremely hard and showed true commitment to being successful and gaining the results they really want and deserve. I'm sure when the results are revealed in the summer they will all be celebrating.

I did hear something which had been kept very quiet! Two of our students have been taken on by Aston Villa Academy Soccer School. They obviously have great talent so I caught up with them recently to find out about this well-kept secret! Could they really bend it like Beckham?

So, here we are at the end of our third year. I do hope you enjoy reading through this edition. Sit down and relax with a cup of tea, I hope you find something of interest.

Have a fantastic summer holiday. I look forward to welcoming our students back in September for the Autumn term.

A ROYAL IFTAAR

A message from one of the guests - Suzanne Lynch, Lt Cdr SO2 Engagement

I am just writing to thank you for inviting me to attend the Royal Iftar at Eden Boys School on the 19 May – what a fantastic event. It was wonderful to see so many pupils at the event and spend time talking to them.

I was extremely impressed with the young speakers who talked about their family immigration stories – they were very inspiring. The school should be exceptionally proud of your students and the values and standards that portray.

I know that we have been involved in the U-gardens Project with your school, but am keen for my Royal Navy Engagement team to further engage with the school and possibly arrange some visits for the Summer and/or Autumn Term. I would also be eager to discuss the opportunity for the Royal Navy to be involved in an Eid event at the school, which could involve local Sea Cadets and CCF Units – this would serve to unite different members of the community in a unique celebration.?

I look forward to hearing from you.



CHANGING OUR LIVES



Changing our Lives are a rights based organisation working on a project entitled 'Community Connecting' in the local area.

The project is aimed at connecting young people into their local community, to combat loneliness and social isolation. The project was delivered by Project Officer Sophia Parinchy, who delivered 5 weekly sessions with 8 students who were carefully selected by the pastoral team as being the pupils that would most benefit from these sessions. During these sessions Sophia got to know each of the students individually, their likes/dislikes, and aspirations for the future. The sessions also worked at developing their self-esteem and confidence. At the end of the sessions, an action plan was drawn up to begin community development work, which the organisation will support using their own connections in the community.

Following on from the sessions, we attended a meeting on Wednesday 13th June at the 'Ageing well forum'. This was held at Birmingham Settlement, Aston. During this meeting, students Seyed Ali, Ahad Maaz and Zain Hussain delivered speeches on how they wish to work with the elderly in order to tackle loneliness and bridge the gap between the local elderly and youth. During the meeting,



the audience were very impressed by the students' passion and enthusiasm in wanting to work with the local community. One gentleman said: "If the boys can stand up here and speak the way they just have, they will be able to achieve anything in the future."

At the end of the meeting, we informed the attendees that we plan to invite some of the local elderly in the community on Wednesday 12th July for a coffee morning. This event will be held at the school and will be led by the same students, thus building their confidence in engaging with the community and helping them become positive role models, inspiring other young people to achieve greater social inclusion and equality.

OFSTED RESULT

This was the year that was. This year will not be forgotten. This was the year we got **OUTSTANDING**.



All of our staff, students and Governors worked so hard to ensure we got the result we all deserved from Ofsted – Outstanding. Some of the staff have only been with us for a short time and others have been with us from the day we opened. Some of our Governors were working behind the scenes long before we opened and where we are today is due to everyone's commitment and dedication. However without your support, none of this would have been possible. With your support, we would like to continue securing the very best futures for our children. We have no doubt that the difference our children will make to the wider society will be phenomenal.

THE COOK OFF

Organised by Chartwells



Eden Boys' had their aprons to the ready for - Ready Steady Cook – and the red tomato/green pepper teams.

This took me back in time, I remember watching charismatic presenter Ainsley Harriott hosting the show on a Tuesday way back in the year 2000 and Eden boys' themselves were just as enthusiastic and competitive to win the cook off. Along with their staff member in their team, they were given food with which they had to create a healthy, tasty meal and in turn the audience tasted their culinary skills and voted as to who they thought prepared the tastiest meal by showing either a red or green card.

After being selectively hand-picked from the rest of the staff (obviously because of the Principal's knowledge of my cooking abilities!), I was excited to be part of Eden Boys' first cook off competition for year 8! Teamed with my enthusiastic volunteers, Tamjeed and Shahzaib, we all dressed up in our red aprons as we eyed up the ingredients we wanted to use. Based on Tamjeed's advice, it was amazing to see us all step up working as a team, with the crucial assistance from Mr Miah, to produce the unique red team quorn biryani. The bright yellow dish dotted with flecks of red and green pepper caught the eyes of our year 8 judges, but the superb taste of our competitors stir-fry dish meant that we unfortunately conceded a defeat in the cook off. Hats off to the green team, and to all those in year 8 and Chartwells who were involved. It was a great event, and one where I for sure learnt something in the art of healthy, yet delicious, cooking!

Amy Bishop, Geography teacher

On Monday 23rd April 2018, Chartwells organised a healthy eating work-shop entitled 'Fun into Food' which culminated in a 'cook-off'. Chartwells are our food suppliers and the company who prepare our meals at break and lunch time. Mr Islam asked for the company to come in and talk to year 7 and year 8 pupils about making healthy food choices. We were able to demonstrate our knowledge of food groups and learnt more about what it means to 'eat healthy'. The presenter was very enthusiastic and entertaining, which made for a very informative and creative session.

We then went on to form 2 groups of 3, made up of one member of staff and two pupils. I was on the red team with Miss Bishop and Shahzaib Khan. The green team was made up of Ms Kapadi, Aleem Iqbal and Dayaan Ukaye. The competition was stiff and we made sure we were on top form! The red team made a mouth-watering biriyani. Our technique and amazing team-work meant that our dish was exceptional. The green team made a chicken chow-mein dish. We were up against the time, with only 15 minutes to create our dishes. We had a range of food types to choose from along with fresh and ground spices. Unfortunately for us, the green team won the competition. A group of student judges were selected at random to judge the master-pieces, to ensure it was all fair.

The work-shop sparked a love of cooking in a number of pupils and it demonstrated how easy it is to prepare and consume healthy meals on a daily basis. Chartwells, and the presenter in particular, did a fantastic job. All of the pupils involved agreed that it was both an enjoyable and educational experience. Let's just say we now have a new appreciation for Ralph and his team of chefs now.

Tamjeed Hussain, 8A



EDEN'S FOOTBALL TALENT

Their journeys by Mohammed Yousaf Sharif and Adnan Malek



Football has been in my blood since the day I was born. It is the most entertaining, exhilarating game in the world. So when Mr Ditta sent me for a trial to the Aston Villa Academy Soccer School in December I was over the moon. I had a training session with the club to prove that I had what it takes to be a part of their training programme. It was a very gruelling process, but I was determined to give it my best. The day I found that the club had signed me was the best day of my life. They sent me my contract in January 2018, making it the best gift at the start of the New Year.

I train twice a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays and then play a match every Sunday. The training process is tough but it helps to increase my fitness levels and develop my football skills. We play against local teams and this is a fantastic opportunity for me to get a taste of what it's like to be a real footballer. Being a part of the training programme has made me want to pursue a career in football even more!

My parents are very supportive and proud of me. They can see how much of an impact the academy has had on me and they think it's a fantastic opportunity. They can't wait for their son to grow up to be a famous footballer.

Adnan Malek, 8C

My passion, love and enthusiasm for football all began when I was 5 years old. It felt like I was born to play the 'Beautiful Game'. Joining Eden Boys' Birmingham gave me the next stepping stone in my career as Mr Ditta, our PE teacher, saw a lot of potential in me and put me forward for a trial at Aston Villa Training Academy.

The trial was a success and I joined the Phoenix Club. I can honestly say it was the best day of my life when I was signed to the club. The struggle, the hard work and the commitment are all worth it because I get to play the game I love on a regular basis!

The season went really well and I was awarded managers player of the season. To say I was honoured and proud would be an understatement. I also got man of the match in our finals and we won the cup!

I wouldn't be able to do what I do without the support of my parents, friends and of course Mr Ditta.

I'm looking forward to another trial at Aston Villa in August and hopefully I will have even more good news to share.

Mohammed Yousaf Sharif, 8A

GRENFELL REMEMBRANCE

ONE LOVE

It's been a year since the horrific news of The Grenfell Tower fire hit the headlines all over the country, although to its victims and the families of the 72 lives that were lost, I'm sure it seems like it was just yesterday. The UK looked on in horror as people lost their homes, their livelihoods and their families whilst others lost their lives. As an act of remembrance and solidarity, Eden Boys' took the time to reflect on the events of 14th June 2017.

On 14th June, all students and staff, along with others all over the UK, were encouraged to wear green which is part of a government backed initiative. Green for Grenfell, which is organised by Grenfell United, is designed to celebrate a spirit of unity and collaboration.

The event reflected on the work of the Grenfell Community in how they, with the rest of the UK, came together to help those effected by the tragedy.

Students were encouraged to put their thoughts into writing to create a book of condolences. The book circulated around the entire school for students to write messages for the families affected by the fire.

Finally, we conducted a 72 second silence, a second for every life tragically lost. All staff and pupils used this time to reflect on the event, but to also remember that as we go about our daily lives, we must never forget that so many lives were changed for the worse that day. We remember them today, and we will remember them always.

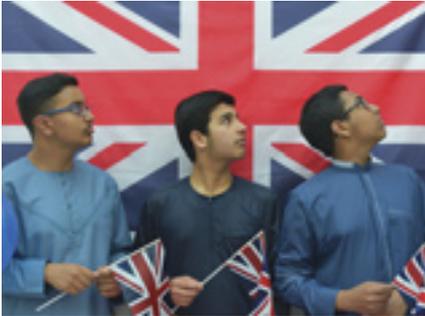
I'm sure we can all clearly remember the heart stopping moment we heard that a horrific terrorist attack had taken place at an Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena. Innocent children enjoying a concert became the victims of the cold blooded attack which resulted in parents mourning their children and children mourning their parents as well as their friends, sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles. Eden Boys' conducted a one minute silence to remember those whose lives were taken so suddenly and tragically. May we continue to remember them every year on 22nd May



ONE LOVE MANCHESTER

A ROYAL IFTAAR

A Celebration for Everyone



To mark the grand occasion of the Royal Wedding, Eden Boys' held its annual Ramadhan Iftar on Saturday 19th May. The evening was a fantastic success as students, staff, governors and respected guests from across the city came together to commemorate the Royal Wedding as well as mark the blessed days of Ramadhan during which brotherhood, unity, friendship and charity are of utmost importance.

The evening began with a short programme consisting of input from students during which we heard about the amazing migration stories of the families of some of our students. The astonishing sacrifice these people had made to provide a better future for their families was truly inspiring and astounding whilst giving us all 'food for thought' to ensure we are appreciative of all we have been blessed with. We then heard from our Vice Chair of Governors, Julie Griffiths. Julie spoke with such eloquence about the importance of diversity, refraining from assumptions and prejudice whilst celebrating the unique blend of cultures, faiths, beliefs and practices that has made modern Britain into the special place it is today.

A truly special evening concluded with all enjoying a lovely meal together during which the spirit of Ramadhan was truly evident.



THE PURPOSE OF FASTING AND ITS LINK ACROSS FAITHS

In the Quran, God Almighty has revealed: "Fasting has been made compulsory upon you as it was on those before you so that you gain 'Taqwa'."

One may question the purpose and benefit of fasting. Why does God want me to refrain from the most basic of human need, food and water? Why does God want me to suffer? What is the purpose of fasting? These are rational questions that one may ask. In the above verse, God answers these questions

for us in a simple yet eloquent verse; the purpose of fasting is not for the benefit of God but for our own benefit, so that we may gain 'Taqwa'. Scholars have found difficulty in finding a suitable translation for the word 'Taqwa', the best translation we can find for this word is 'God consciousness'. Therefore, the purpose of fasting, the purpose of going through this great sacrifice, is to gain a deeper connection with God and to be aware of his presence in our everyday lives.

We also learn by examining the practices of other faiths, the prevalence of fasting in nearly all faiths; the fasting of Lent in Christianity, Yom Kippur in Judaism, Ekadasi in Sikhism and Purnima in Hinduism whilst fasting in Buddhism is also common. This shared practice teaches us the power and benefit of fasting and its effect on one's spiritual connection with God.

Mulana Zubair Khalifa

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD BOY

Ismail Muhamed, 10A



As many of you may already know, last month, year 10s were given the privilege to complete a GCSE in computer science and for some of us, French. This will help us next year as it means we will have already completed two of our GCSEs giving us more time to study for the other subjects!

It will also make college entries easier as we will be able to provide actual results and not just predictions, giving us the advantage over other college applicants.

We are all very grateful for this opportunity as we understand that early entry is a big risk for the school, but they believe in us and know we can get our best results. We received enormous help from the staff in school, running weekend and after school revision sessions. A lot of work went into these sessions and we were grateful as we felt after each session that we were getting closer and closer to our predicted grades.

Honestly, I must say this year was the most intense for year 10 but it has given us an insight into what we will have to accomplish in year 11. Many of the year 10s moaned and groaned about the concept of actually having to do work instead of just lying back, but we pulled through. All the personal sacrifices the teachers and pupils made were coming into fruition. Nearly all of us saw a massive increase in our grades and results. A testimony to this is a friend of mine who began at a grade 1 or 2 but by the end of the revision sessions was consistently receiving grades 5 and above, a commendable endeavour.

After over 2 years of studying and a grade changing revision period, it was finally exam time. I recall being called to the first exam, computer science paper 1. We were all afraid as we had never been through this process before, however this was an irrational fear. As we wrote our details on the front and flicked through the pages of the exam, we were overcome with joy. Some people even let out an unconscious chuckle, the exam was ridiculously easy compared to all the preparation and experience we had.

It goes without saying that without the unwavering commitment and selflessness of our teachers, none of this would have been possible. The amount of sacrifices the teachers made for us truly cannot be paid back. I would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of the whole of year 10 to our teachers that supported us and also the staff that helped manage the sessions. And to the year 10s, 1 down, 10 to go!

School Term Dates 2018/2019

Autumn Term 2018

First Day of Term	Tuesday 4th September
Half Term	Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November
End of Term	Friday 21st December

Spring Term 2019

First Day of Term	Tuesday 8th January
Half Term	Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February
End of Term	Friday 12th April

Summer Term 2019

First Day of Term	Monday 29th April
Half Term	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May
End of Term	Friday 19th July

Staff Inset Days:
Monday 3rd Sept 2018,
Monday 7th Jan 2019

Christmas Holidays:
Monday 24th Dec 2018
to Friday 4th Jan 2019

Easter Holidays:
Monday 15th April 2019
to Friday 26th April 2019

Bank Holidays:
Monday 6th May 2019

Eid-ul-Fitr 1440:
Tuesday 4th and
Wednesday 5th June 2019*

*Eid holiday may be revised slightly according to the sighting of the moon.



Eden Boys' Birmingham 2018; Looking and Feeling Outstanding – See page 3.



Eden Boys

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