

Our New Faith & Character Education Lead

We are happy to welcome Moulana Nasir Zameer Akhtar who has joined us from the Abrahamic Foundation. He is the new Faith & Character Education (FCE) Lead at our school.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be working with our students, parents and staff in further development of our faith provision at Eden Boys. We are a progressive and inclusive faith-based school with an Islamic ethos and are committed to promoting values of compassion, respect, self-discipline and love for each other which will really help develop the character of our pupils. Every young person should be proud of who they are and what their beliefs, culture and heritage can teach the world. I hope that I can nurture our students' character and help them become upright people of tomorrow."

At our school, we deliver our Faith and Character Education through the Star Academies 4C's framework which are:

Character - Facilitating congregational prayers throughout the day which include bespoke wudu facilities for pupils and staff. Lessons start with Surah Fatiha and end with Kaffar-e-Majlis prayers in Arabic and English.

Curriculum - Islam is taught alongside other world faiths and beliefs in Religious Studies lessons in all year groups and GCSE Arabic is taught alongside other world languages. Various Islamic circles are held throughout the year for staff and students and a new Hadith of the week is delivered weekly.

Community - Running whole school events such as Muharram, Rabi-ul-Awal & Sirah Week, Ramadhan and Eid celebrations.

Creativity - Promoting FCE trips, such as the Islamic Heritage Trip to Spain which will take place over the half term. Students visit various places of worship and our School Interfaith Zone incorporates all of the main faiths represented in Britain. Diversity is celebrated via global and national events, such as World Book Day and Black History Month.



Eden Boys

FEBRUARY 2019
JUMADA AL-THANI 1440

Eden PASTORAL BULLETIN

The Newsletter for Eden Boys' School, Birmingham

Assalaamu Alaikum / Peace Be Upon You

The spring half-term is now over and has been packed with many successful experiences. Well done to the students who have made the half-term a success! Students have volunteered to fundraise, help with the Food Bank and participated in many other volunteering opportunities and extra-curricular activities throughout the school. It is a pleasure to see our young boys developing into strong, confident, and intelligent young adults. Finally, our best wishes to the 17 Year 9 students who will be embarking on the Islamic Heritage Tour to Spain. We pray for safe travels and hope that you all have a wonderful experience.

STAR Pupil Council

We are pleased to announce that Star Academies has launched a Star Pupil Council. This has been established to ensure that pupil voice is at the heart of Star Academies, using GotoWebinar as a virtual meeting platform. The Council will bring together pupils from across Star's diverse network of schools and provide a forum for pupils to share their views and opinions and shape decisions that will help bring about positive change in all Star schools.

Eden Boys' School has appointed Head Boy Mohammed Faizan (11A) and Deputy Head Boy Muhammad Ibrahim (10B) to be our representatives. They attended the inaugural Star pupil council meeting on Tuesday 5th February alongside Mr Islam.

Our Head Boy, Mohammad Faizan, commented: *"Ibrahim and I were both very fortunate to be able to represent our school during the meeting. I believe that our role in the council was extremely valuable as we are the only school in the council who have recently opened and where Year 11 students will sit their GCSE examinations for the first time. As a result, the feedback that we gave to the host of the meeting (Mrs Shirley Gornall) will help in providing beneficial feedback to schools such as Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East and the newly opening Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Bradford. The interview process was a valuable learning experience as it allowed us to gain insight on how virtual meetings take place. This has prepared us for the future when we will need these skills. We were able to put forward questions that we had gathered from a range of pupils through to Mrs Gornall who endeavoured to answer each one and provided helpful feedback."*

ATTENDANCE

7A	99.20%	8A	98.20%	9A	99.30%	10A	97.50%	11A	98.70%
7B	97.60%	8B	99.90%	9B	98.80%	10B	98.50%	11B	98.40%
7C	98.20%	8C	97.80%	9C	99.00%	10C	99.30%		
7D	98.50%	8D	98.60%	9D	99.50%	10D	98.70%		

KEY EVENTS

- Year 9 Trip to Cordoba, Granada & Seville: **15th - 18th February**
- Year 11 NEC Careers Event: **Friday 1st March**
- Year 8 Parents' Evening: **Thursday 7th March**
- World Book Day 2019: **Thursday 7th March**
- Quran & Qira'at Competition: **Friday 29th March**

Whole School
Cumulative
Attendance
98.2%

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



The English department is buzzing with after school clubs for the pupils to participate in. Whether it is building their transactional writing skills in Journalism Club with Mrs Khan, or improving their speaking and listening in the Mock Trials with Miss Morris, all of the activities are designed to prepare the pupils for their GCSEs in exciting ways. Here are some pupil responses from Mr Darby's Creative Writing Club:

"Creative Writing Club is amazing – it helps get my imagination flowing and it's improving my English grade. My favourite part is being free to write our own stories and share them with my new friends." (Abdul-Haleem, Y7).

"I like it because it's a chance to get our work displayed on the Creative Corner board and we also get opportunities to have our work published like with the Mission Catastrophe Young Writers' competition." (Rowan, Y7).

We strive to offer the pupils as many chances as possible to showcase their talents in the real world through regional and national competitions – Journalism Club have even produced segments for the BBC! The Young Writers organisation will be publishing 8 mini-saga entries from Eden Boys' School out of 24,000 national entries. The Year 9 Mock Trial Club will soon be putting their logical thinking skills to the test in March – our aim is to get to the National Heat! We are constantly thinking of new activities to challenge our boys who are as creative as they are dedicated.



Eden Boys

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EXECUTIVE
PRINCIPAL
Mrs A Ravat

PREVENT WORKSHOP

We are very pleased to have hosted workshops on Prevent for the students in Years 7, 8 and 9. These were delivered by Habib Ullah, a Prevent Engagement Officer from Naseby Youth Centre. Habib specialises in youth work and has been instrumental in helping to raise awareness of the Prevent Duty amongst our students. He has delivered detailed sessions to Years 7, 8 and 9 on radicalisation and extremism with the view to helping our students understand our roles and responsibilities in tackling extremism in the United Kingdom. Students found the sessions insightful and left with a much deeper understanding on how to live their lives in the United Kingdom in a manner that is in line with Fundamental British Values.

Following the successful workshops, Habib has now agreed to begin running an exciting after-school youth club for students. This is an opportunity for students to engage in a number of activities that will help them develop valuable life skills in addition to improving their knowledge and understanding of the vulnerabilities young people are exposed to. They will gain experience by participating in different activities which include exploring different parts of Birmingham.



Big Sleepout

We are proud to have once again participated in the Big Sleepout. Eight students from Year 9 and 2 Heads of Year faced the challenge of sleeping rough to help raise awareness of homelessness. Each student built a bed out of cardboard and plastic sheeting to protect themselves from the elements before bedding down for the night in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral. This was in association with St Basils Charity, which houses more than 1,000 young people in Birmingham and more than 1,500 across the West Midlands in 34 supported accommodation schemes. The charity also helps thousands of other young people and offers face-to-face support and advice.

Following the Sleepout, we also ran the 'Sheets not Streets' appeal. This was an appeal that was aimed at helping to get young people to come off the streets and give them a place to sleep for the night. This involved donations of brand new duvets and pillows that would be donated to St Basils. We were amazed by the huge volume of bedding that was donated by the students. The charity spends over £20,000 every year on bedding alone to support young people who have become homeless. We sincerely hope that our humble contribution goes some way in tackling homelessness in Birmingham. A big thank you to all parents and students who made a contribution.

Salahuddin Khan from Year 9 said:

"After a night of surviving the cold, I realised what it was like to have no food and no water, and how it felt living on the streets of Birmingham. I believe more could be done to help the homeless and that more should be done to ensure that they are taken care of. If we continue to raise awareness and take part in events like the Sleepout, I hope that the vast number of people sleeping rough on the streets is reduced."



Breakfast Club

At least half a million children in the UK arrive to school each day too hungry to learn. Research has shown a direct link between the breakfast habits of children and their educational attainment, with children in primary schools where breakfast is provided achieving, on average, up to two months' additional academic progress over the course of a year.

The breakfast club has created a true buzz every morning. Pupils now get a healthy and tasty start to their day after we joined the National School Breakfast Programme. Students have been tucking into a free healthy breakfast packed with the right energy and nutrients to set them up for their school day. Studies have found that having a nutritious breakfast

can increase alertness, improve behaviour and give children greater motivation to learn.

Mrs Ravat, our Executive Principal, said: *"We are really pleased to have been chosen to be part of the National School Breakfast Programme. This is a great opportunity to help give our pupils not only a nutritious breakfast, but also benefit from the proven impact it will have on their educational attainment outcomes, learning, behaviour and health that come with a having a good start to the day."*

All students are welcome to join the breakfast club at 7:30am every morning. They will get to choose from warm bagels, hot tea, fresh fruit juice and much more delicious food.



Food Bank

We are pleased to say that Eden Food Bank has been delivering service to the community in the provision of nutritious, non-perishable and easy to cook food to those who face difficulty in supporting themselves. Pasta, spaghetti, sauces, soup, tin food, tea and biscuits are some of the examples of the provision made available.

Unfortunately, the service users are financially crippled with low incomes and unable to make ends meet. To date we have delivered over 60 meals to the deserving who are either homeless, refugee/asylum seekers or claimants of universal credit, employment support allowance and income support. Many who find their way to Eden Foodbank are in desperate need due to social and economic situations.

Pupils from Eden Boys' School, Birmingham and Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East support the Food Bank in setting up and having bags pre-packed with all the essentials. Pupils also hand delivered leaflets to nearby homes informing them of the Food Bank location, opening times and the criteria for eligibility. Over 200 leaflets were delivered. Eden Food Bank also promotes the service to the community with a visible 6ft banner located outside the school.

The Eden Food Bank is delivered every Friday afternoon from 2.30pm – 3.30pm and welcomes support from the local community in this rewarding charity. Parents are welcome to make any donations of non-perishable food items. Please ensure all contributions are given to Mr Ravat, Head of Year 7.



FOOTBALL

A group of Year 8 students attended a football match at The Hawthorns Stadium which is the home ground of the local West Bromwich Albion Team. The match was played during the evening so the students were very excited to be attending outside of school hours. It was also a very lucky occasion for some of the students as they attended their first ever professional football match. The match was an F.A. Cup replay versus Brighton & Hove for one team to progress further to the F.A. Cup.

Students braved the cold temperatures and were fortunate to have front row seats right by the players' entrance onto the pitch. The match was very entertaining throughout as the first goal went to the home team students were cheering for. As the final whistle came closer, Brighton equalised and the students were happy because this would force extra time. The students were having such a fantastic time they did not want the match to end. Brighton scored twice during extra time that resulted in a 3-1 win, but overall the students were treated to a fantastic match.

The pupils involved represented the school very well and their behaviour was superb throughout the evening. They were a credit to the school and are now looking forward to more football games, with one of the students describing it as 'the best night ever.'

