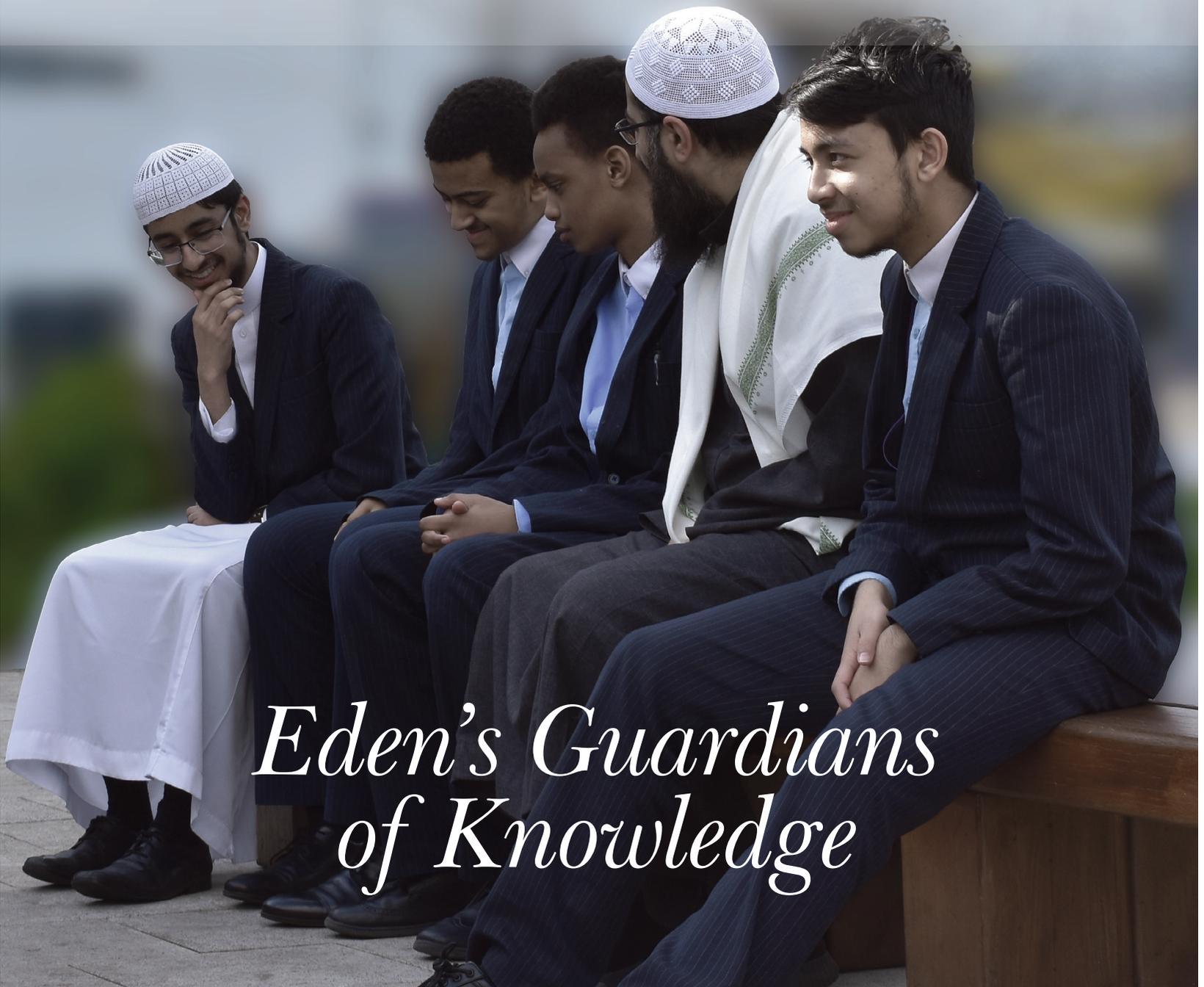


STAR

ISSUE 6
SPRING
2019

**SCHOOL
LINK DAY**

**SHEETS
NOT STREETS**



*Eden's Guardians
of Knowledge*

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SCHOOL DATES



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WELCOME

Asiyah Ravat, Principal

After a long and strenuous journey our school has reached that milestone where in a matter of just days our Year 11's will be sitting their first full set of GCSE exams. We are also just days away from receiving the blessed month of Ramadan.

I feel it's a stage where I must thank all those who have enabled us to get to this milestone. I first thank Allah Ta'la who blessed our community with a school that embraces and celebrates the faith of our children. I thank our Masajid who helped in laying the early foundations in establishing our school. I thank our staff who have worked tirelessly to make our school OFSTED outstanding. I finally thank our students and families who have made our school community a vibrant and honourable place to work and study.

Spring term at Eden has been as busy as ever. We have seen the arrival of our full time Faith & Character Education Lead join our team, Moulana

Nasir Akhtar. This term Moulana Nasir focused on celebrating our students and their connection to the Qur'an, I hope you enjoy his piece. You will read about the precious memories our boys have made on their recent trip to Spain whilst learning about the Islamic Heritage of Europe. World Book day saw staff and students dress up to the occasion so enjoy the pictures.

Finally, each Friday, students at Eden School are given the opportunity to take part in our weekly Qur'an Khatam recital. Each week a year group will come together and spend 20 minutes reading a quarter Juz. The month of March has been dedicated to the memory of the victims of the mosque massacre in Christ Church New Zealand. Ithaale thawab of the Qur'an recited and duas are dedicated to those made shaheed after each majlis. We pray that Allah Ta'la heals the hearts of all those who have lost loved ones and gives all communities the ability to live in peace and security. Amin



INTER-FAITH INTER-SCHOOL FEAST



On Friday 1st of March three Birmingham faith schools came together for an inter-school inter-faith sports and mental challenge day. We were delighted to host Sikh faith school Nishkam from Lozells and Christian faith school King Solomon from Nechells who joined Years 7's from Eden North & East

The day was organised and delivered by The Feast who aim to bring together teenagers from different faiths and cultures to build friendships and explore faith

Fifteen participants from each school attended and were divided into 6 mixed teams. Teams of two took part in group mental challenges and physical activities which encouraged team work, listening to each other and physical group activities. Our sixth form centre served as the mental challenge zone. The sports hall housed the 40ft inflatable assault course and the kurling and pass the pipe team building challenges area. Teams of two had to pass through all three areas and complete the challenges before finishing the day.

The day ended with a feast of pizza and group discussions around how students understood and expressed their faiths. Feedback from the 8 youth workers was heart-warming. This is what they said about our students.

Eden boys' were confident and passionate about discussing and sharing what their faith meant to them with the other team members". The youth workers were impressed at the depth of knowledge of our boys and how naturally faith came to them.

This is testimony of the hard work our parents, Madrasahs and staff make in delivering the best Tarbiyah possible to our students. May Allah Ta'ala accept our efforts.

The day ended with the highest scoring three groups receiving medals, chocolate buttons and plenty of appreciation from The Feast youth workers and all the staff from the three participating schools. We would like to thank Nishkam & King Solomon School for attending and The Feast Project youth staff for their enormous effort in making the day a success.



TEAMWORK

SCHOOL LINK DAY 2

King Solomon School



KING SOLOMON SCHOOL LINK: TEAMWORK

EDEN BOYS' SCHOOL HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH AN INTERFAITH CHARITY CALLED THE FAITH & BELIEF FORUM FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. THIS HAS INVOLVED THE FAITH & BELIEF FORUM DELIVERING WORKSHOPS ON EMPATHY AND RESPECT FOR PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS AND NONE.

As part of our ongoing collaboration with The Faith & Belief Forum, Eden Boys' have been involved in the school linking project this academic year. Our 'link' school is King Solomon International Business School who like us are a faith (Christian) designated free school that opened at the same time as Eden Boys'.

The linking project involves 3 link days across the academic year; link day 1 took place earlier in the year, and with link day 2 taking place at Eden Boys' on Tuesday 1st May. We were very proud to welcome students and staff from King Solomon School to Eden Boys: The day was a fabulous success as students from Eden Boys' reacquainted themselves with the students from King Solomon School with whom they had developed friendships during Link Day 1.

The students worked collaboratively on a range of activities with a key theme during

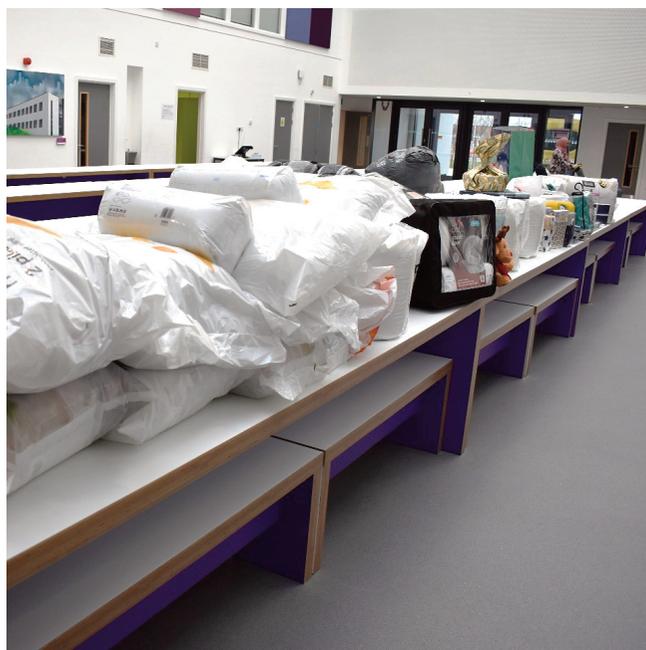
the day being 'Our Community'. Students learnt about the various communities they represented and how we are, collectively, a rich mix of cultures that together form a diverse and strong community. Along with the many fun filled activities, our students also prayed Zuhr (afternoon) prayer as the students from King Solomon School were eager to learn how Muslims observe prayer. Mohammad Usman, Asad Khan and Mohammad Shaikh, Year 8 students explained the meaning and purpose behind Wudu (ablution) and the physical aspects of the Salah prayer.

Overall, it was a fantastic day of shared learning, collaboration and friendship building; we are all now very excited about visiting King Solomon School later on in the summer term.



SHEETS NOT STREETS

(December 2018)



**St
Basils**
Works with young people

*O son of Adam, I was sick but you did not visit me,
I asked you for food but you did not feed me, I asked you
for drink but you did not provide for me*

Above is an extract from a Hadith Qudsi narrated by Imam Muslim. The son of Adam replies to Allah that “Oh my lord how can I visit you, feed you or cloth you when you are Lord of the worlds?” Allah will reply: “Did you not know that my servant was sick, my servant was hungry and thirsty? Had you visited him, fed him and given him drink you would have found me there.”

May Allah reward all our parents and students who donated nearly 40 pieces of new bedding ranging from duvets, sheets and pillows. Your donated bedding has clothed young people with the warmth of a blanket and the comfort of a pillow. We pray that Allah grants us too the warmth of his nearness and comfort in our lives.

Eden students delivered these essential items to St Basils Trust based in Bordesley Green Birmingham. St Basils charity works with young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness,

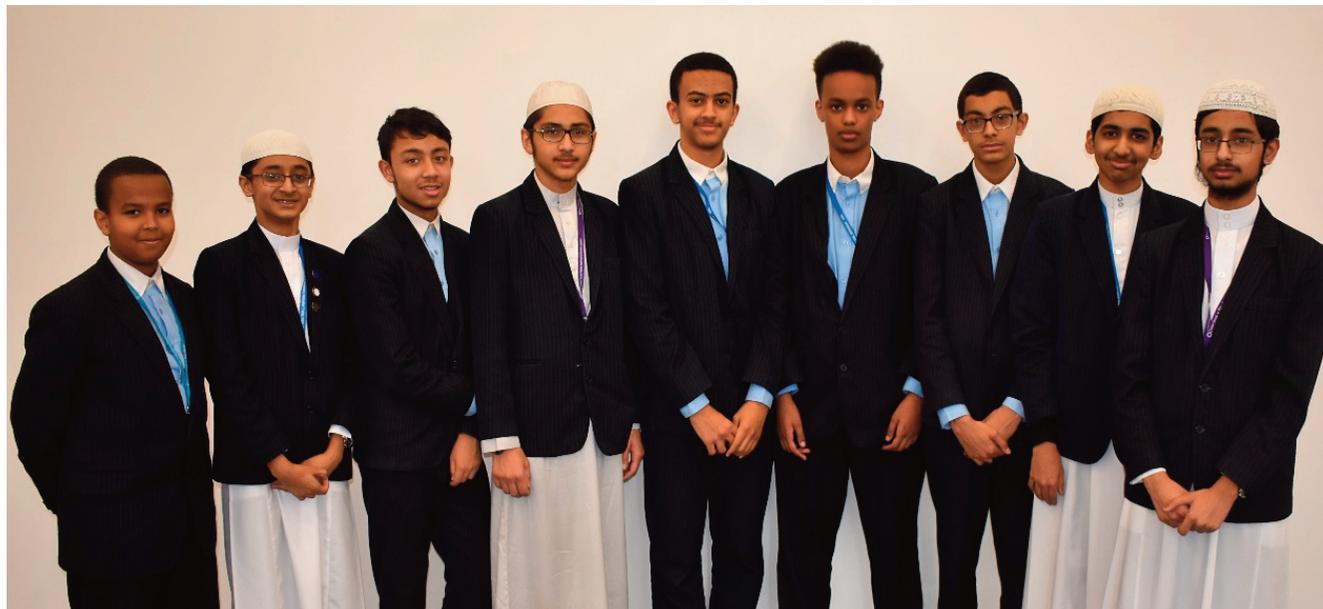
helping house over 1500 young people per year across the West Midlands region alone.

When these young people have secured accommodation, one of the first things they will urgently need is bedding. We can be happy that one of the first things these young people will receive is your gift of a good night sleep.

Just imagine! The bedding you donated in December will most likely be used by a young person every night even as you read this article. To further the excitement, as you know, most of us keep our duvets and pillows for many years and bedding tends to follow a person where ever they pick up and move. For a Muslim, such a donation is a Sadaqa Jariyah (a continuing charity) - so long as someone is benefiting, you are receiving the blessings of this Sadaqah in this worldly life and also reaping the reward of the life of the hereafter.

RESPECT

CELEBRATING THE QUR'AN



From the right: Hafidh Muhammad Ahmed, Hafidh Usaamah Iftikhar, Hafidh Bilal Chowdhury, Hafidh Anas Ige, Hafidh Ammar Abdulkadir, Hafidh Mohammed Seadat, Hafidh Sameen Choudhury, Hafidh Muhammed Ibrahim, Hafidh Abdallah Jama

This term we carried out a faith audit and identified over 85 students at Eden Boys' Birmingham who are studying to memorise the Qur'an. That's, inshallah, 85 Huffadh in the making. Subhanallah! We were amazed at the aspirations of our students, their families and the Madrasahs that they attend. We pray that Allah Ta'ala grants our students every success in reaching this great milestone. Amin

From amongst this group, nine students have already completed their Hifdh and who are now officially the Imams at our school who amongst themselves lead Dhur and Jumu'ah Salah. Midst these Huffadh is Abdullah Jama who completed his Hifdh at the tender age of eight is currently studying in Year 7. Learn about this Eden star below.

Hafidh Abdallah Jama

Abdallah Jama did not complete his Hifdh of the Qur'an in a Madrasah or Islamic school. Behind his Hifdh was a great sacrifice from him and his family who travelled the world for him to attain the greatest blessing of Allah i.e. memorising the Qur'an. Born in London, Abdallah from a young age has travelled and lived in Somalia, Egypt and Dubai in pursuit of his dream to become a Hafidh. At the age of 7 Abdallah returned to the UK and his family settled in Birmingham after learning about Birmingham being a city with excellent Muslim faith schools. After a further year of studying, at the age of 8 Abdallah completed his Hifdh of the Qur'an under the guidance and supervision of his mother who too is a Hafidha. May Allah grant his parents the best of reward for their efforts.

Hafidh Abdallah Jama standing in front of our Guardians of knowledge school notice board. Here we have been celebrating the Islamic achievements of our students.

March Qira'at Competition

Continuing on the theme of the Qur'an, Eden Boys' is holding its annual Qira'at competition final on Friday 29th March 2019. Auditions and practice sessions are taking place

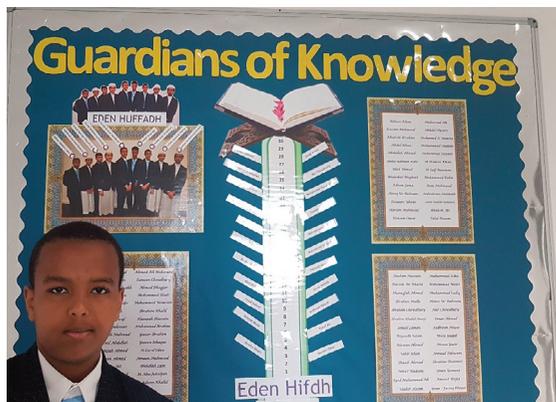
throughout the month of March led and supported by our Faith Lead, Moulana Nasir Akhtar and Head of Year 9, Moulana Shabir Miah. Do look out for our winners in the next edition of our STAR magazine.

Weekly Khatmul Qur'an

Every Friday students at Eden Boys' School are given the opportunity to take part in our weekly Qur'an Khatam recital supervised by Moulana Nasir. Each week a different year group will come together and spend 20 minutes reading a quarter of a Juz. The month of March has been dedicated to the victims of the mosque massacre in Christ Church New Zealand. Ithaale thawab of the Qur'an recitation and duas being dedicated to those made Shaheed after the sessions.

Understanding the Qur'an

Every Wednesday morning before school Qur'an circles are delivered by Moulana Shabir. Students examine the last 10 Surahs (chapters) of the Qur'an with a focus on one different surah per week. Topics discussed include: Surah translation, cause of revelation, links between the surah and the sirah, links between one surah and the next, virtues of reciting the surah.





During the evening of the 15th of February, me and 16 other lads from Year 9 headed off to the magnificent and splendid Spain to enjoy the experience of a lifetime! After a nice, calm flight, we landed in Malaga only to sit through another 2 hours of travel to get to our first hotel which was in Seville. We also met our tour guide Abubakr, who would prove to be quite beneficial and certainly someone we would've never made it through Spain without!

On the first day of our trip, the group visited the grand Torre del Oro – the Tower of Gold. It used to be one of the great watchtowers which sat next to the astounding Guadalquivir river. The river was so large that when we visited Granada a few days later, we encountered it again! Later during the day, we toured the Royal Alcázar of Seville. This royal palace, filled with stunning gardens and glorious architecture, was simply a taste of what we'd see in Spain. It was so stunning that one of the lads walked into a fountain hidden in the ground. Next, after having a nice lunch, we headed to the awesome Plaza de España. It's perfect open area and structure was truly one of the highlights of the trip and something the boys won't forget. And before the day was over, we were taken to a nice shopping mall near the Seville football stadium. There, we were able to relax and purchase souvenirs before finally heading back to the hotel to complete our day. That night we feasted on scrumptious pizzas, each of us

having ½ an extra-large pizza – imagine that!

On day 2, after waking up nice and early, we visited the ruins of Madinat al-Zahra, a fallen but truly monumental city. After hundreds of years of digging, archaeologists have unearthed the amazing pillars, arches and collapsed buildings of the city. We also watched a very informative and detailed video which emulated what life would've been like in Madinat al-Zahra by using animation. I'm sure the lads learned a thing or two from it and will keep it in mind. Later that day, we visited another significant attraction, the splendid Mezquita-Cathedral de Cordoba. This place once used to be a beautiful mosque where hundreds would pray peacefully and harmoniously. However, after pointless civil wars and fighting between the Muslim communities, the Christian King seized the opportunity to gain conquest and rule over Spain. This would lead to nearly all mosques being converted into churches and cathedrals, including this one. Fortunately, the Christians were kind enough to leave behind bits of



Islamic history, such as some of the architecture and the Mihrab. In addition to this, some of us picked up some cheap but lovely calligraphy for our families and friends (some went a bit overboard – no names mentioned). Finally, with all our stuff having been packed, we left Cordoba and drove to Granada, where we would be spending our last two days of the trip.

After sleeping the night in our second hotel, we awoke to head to the absolutely astonishing Alhambra of Granada. This Muslim fortress was the last bit of land the Muslim conquerors ever owned, before they too, handed it over to the Christian King. Just touring the Alhambra took a few hours itself, but it was well worth it. Inside, elegant and

UNTIL NEXT TIME

THE SPAIN TRIP

(Continued from page 7)

exceptional architecture surrounded us. Mosaics made from a multitude of colours and designs made for some great photos. There were three main aspects to the architecture: geometry, flora and Islam. Inside the flowers that lined the walls, the phrase *لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ* hid in plain sight and it goes almost unnoticed to the naked eye. In addition to this, in the wonderful mosaics, powerful messages were hidden in plain sight, waiting to be found – like that of the famous phrase *وَمَا كُنَّا لِنُؤْتِيَهُنَّ آلِهَةً إِلَّا لِنَعْلَمَنَّهُنَّ الْيَوْمَ أَنََّّهُنَّ بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ* – from God we were created and to God we shall return. Another hidden meaning could be found on a very special door. In the room, two large doors were built side by side, however one was fake and led to nowhere. This was to deceive any enemies who would invade the palace. Furthermore, on the false door, the architects made a very visible error on it – a bit of the wood was coming out when it shouldn't have. But in fact, this mistake was intentional. It was to highlight the Muslim belief that no one is perfect, only God is. If it wasn't for our tour guide Abubakr, we would've never known! There were also some marvellous views and scenery of Spain that could only be seen from the Alhambra, and luckily for us the weather was rather pleasant. We learnt a great deal about the Alhambra and its collapse, and the experience of exploring it was something that we would never forget. Later that day, we were able to explore the streets of Granada in our groups and get some more souvenirs to remember this trip. Me and my friends went to eat some very delicious churros, one of Spain's specialities; I think the others were a bit jealous. We all had a wonderful evening and retired to our rooms for a good night sleep.

Finally, it was the last day. We packed our things and began our coach ride up to the Alpujarra mountains. When the last Muslim king handed over the Alhambra, he travelled here and lived out the rest of his days here – the Muslim rule was over and the lesson that was learnt from their downfall was very strong indeed. With all the twists and turns on the way up the mountains, I vomited and had to stop the coach to clean myself up. I'm still really sorry about that, but I have to thank Ms Mushtaq for being brave and wilfully helping me out. In the mountains, we walked through a lovely, comfortable village. Everything was bright, refreshing and just remarkable in general. There was also a small chocolate museum from where we bought some good quality, solid chocolate. After enjoying ourselves in this quiet village, we drove to another area. We then had to walk for a good 20 or so minutes to a small remote building sitting in the middle of nowhere. In this small place, the group ate some lovely paella and we even met some cute, adorable cats that were extremely friendly towards us. Once we'd prayed and freshened up, we left and began our journey home.

The 20 of us arrived safely in Birmingham at around 3 am on Wednesday 20th and our trip was over. Going to Spain was absolutely life-changing for me as I had never left the country before to go abroad. Visiting another country – somewhere that's not your home – can be



scary, but with my friends beside me, I was able to make the most out of this once in a lifetime experience. I can't forget to thank with all my heart, Mr Miah, Mr Bhayat and Ms Mushtaq who watched over us throughout the whole trip. If need be, they would sacrifice their own fun for ours and on behalf of the Year 9s that went, I would like very loudly say thank you for your support! We also can't forget Abubakr who provided us with nearly everything. This trip to Spain was incredible and I would highly recommend it to anyone and everyone who gets the chance.

Thank you for reading my article!

Khubaib Ibrahim, 9B.

School Term Dates 2019

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

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

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

Bank Holidays:
Monday 6th May 2019

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



Eden Boys

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