

ISSUE 7
SUMMER
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STAR

MY EXPERIENCE

at Kingswood School

EDEN COMMUNITY IFTAR RAMADAN

1440/2019

HEAD BOY

*"I will look back fondly
upon these years"*



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WELCOME

Asiyah Ravat, Executive Principal

Complicated choices and difficult decisions are something that we all have to deal with in life. From childhood to adulthood, we face these decisions every day, but as we get older they gradually become more complex and much more influential on our lives. Year 11 have been making important decisions for a few years now. What secondary school would I like to go to? What GCSE subjects shall I study? But more recently, they've been faced with one of their more challenging decisions, what would I like to be when I am older? We tend to be asked this question from a very young age, and whilst a crocodile hunting astronaut is a good answer to give for a certain amount of time, there comes a time where you have to give this question some real thought.

Of course, this won't be the first time that they have thought about this as their likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses will have come into consideration already whilst choosing

GCSE subjects. But of course, over the past few years, they may have changed their minds as they continued to grow, mature and learn even more about themselves.

The choices that they have ahead and the decisions that they have yet to make will shape their futures so they aren't decisions to be taken lightly, but we have been so proud to see how much thought our boys have given things. They have all chosen to attend college, which we are of course thrilled to see as they all have a lot of potential to achieve so much more in education. However, it is also very important to remind the boys that these are very big decisions and it is alright if they don't have an answer yet. These decisions are not to be rushed and there is no need for panic. At just sixteen years old, they have their whole lives ahead of them. This is a very exciting time and we can't wait to see just how far they can go. The world is your oyster boys', go get them!



PERSONAL REFLECTION

Maulana Mohammad Shabir Miah



Assalaamu Alaikum,

I would like to begin in the name of Allah the Most Merciful, Most Beneficent. Before I continue to write further, I would like to say that I am a little hesitant to write an article which is purely about myself, so I would like to say that whatever I have done, in terms of achievement and success, it comes from Allah and only Allah and is for His sake alone.

When I was a young boy, I was blessed with the opportunity to receive a traditional 'Islamic' education at Madinatul Uloom Al Islamiya Kidderminster, where I memorised the entire Quran. Subsequently, this paved the path for me to embark on the Aalim Islamic course, an intricate study of the Arabic language and core Islamic sciences. I had invested over a decade of my life, the best proportion of my life, in my studies so when I was asked what I wanted to do after I had graduated, it was obvious. I was not about to waste my efforts, or the efforts of my teachers who had guided me, on something else. I wanted to follow the same path I had taken all those years ago and pass on the mantle of knowledge to the ardent seekers of it who will inevitably come after me, and make that my main objective and focus in life.

Inspired by the prophetic saying (Hadith): "The best amongst you is the one who studies the Quran and teaches it", I began teaching at Madinatul Uloom and I have not looked back since. I also worked extensively with the youth in my community for a significant amount of time, which led me to my current role in Eden Boys' School. The 'Head of Year' role really appealed to me for several reasons, but more than others it was the STAR values which spoke to me. I have always wanted to serve my community and what better way than to give back to the local community by being a guide and role model to the youth of today? This is a type of Sadaqah Jaariyah (continuous charity) for me: whatever I study and teach will, hopefully one day, be passed on to another generation and it will continue to help people in much the same way. I hope my role in Madinatul Uloom enhanced and strengthened, physically, mentally and spiritually, the generation of tomorrow.

I have been lucky enough to have had inspirational parents, scholars, teachers and even peers to look up to and I hope to be able to have the same impact on the boys at Eden Boys' Birmingham – Inshallah. My vision is to facilitate, mould and empower our pupils to become the best practising Muslims in

British society. I want them to know that they can be a practicing Muslim in the 21st Century and be highly successful in academia and business too. There is no contradiction. I endeavour to act as an example to the pupils; I remind them when they go astray, guide them and advise them and draw on my own experiences as a young Muslim boy growing up in the same community. My faith is an integral part of who I am and I incorporate my faith in everything I do. Islam has taught me to be compassionate, patient, resilient and tolerant and these are all key traits that reflect the STAR values and ethos and which I endeavour to instil in the pupils in this school.

I want to impart a love of learning in the pupils, driven by their faith. I want to put faith at the forefront of their minds and put it back on the agenda - to teach them not to be afraid or ashamed of who they are. I want the pupils to know that faith is a driving force for good and will teach them to become better, caring and compassionate humans. Ultimately, my duty here at Eden Boys' is to 'nurture today's young and inspire tomorrow's leaders'.

MY EXPERIENCE

at Kingswood School



When we arrived at Kingswood, we all relaxed in our dormitories for a short while. Our rooms were decent and they were perfect for a group of friends. We went to pray in the pool room and it felt very congregational as we were all together and we then went straight back to our rooms.

Personally, I think it was a lifetime experience where we faced thrills and pushed ourselves to do what we could so we would be involved in the activities. I am very afraid of heights and I learnt to overcome this fear and to push myself, otherwise I may have regretted not taking this opportunity to challenge myself.

There were also many moments where we were together with our friends such as the scavenger hunt where we got to know more about each other and encourage each other to succeed. In my opinion I believe Kingswood is a fantastic opportunity for us to co-operate and get to know each other and create memories for us to share amongst family and friends.

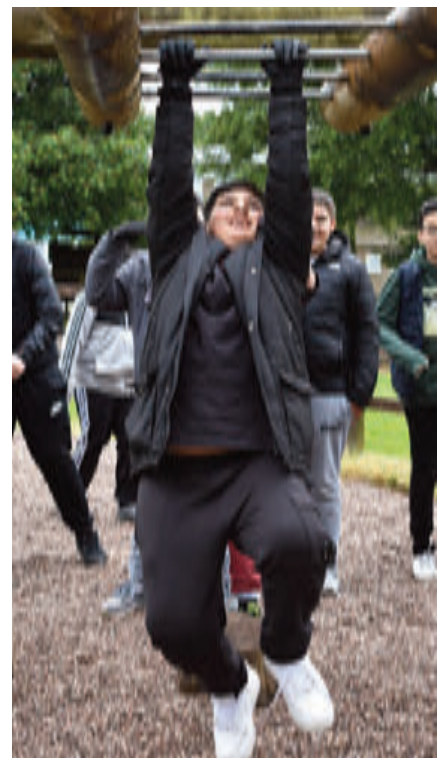
Ibrahim Ali, 8A

My experience at Kingswood was thrilling. I took part in a lot of activities filled with adventure and joy. When we arrived at Kingswood I could not wait to do the activities with my friends. Before the fun started we had to load our suitcases into a bay. We then waited in the meeting room and we prayed Jummah and in congregation listening to Mr Miah's harmonious voice.

We then had our second activity led by an amazing instructor named Elizabeth. The experience of the obstacle course was amazing and challenging and I found it difficult to get myself across the bars because of the rain. My favourite thing about the course was when we used teamwork to climb the obstacle walls.

Overall, the dormitories we stayed in were amazing, the activities were challenging but also fun, but the best thing about it was I got to share the experience with my friends.

Yusuf Suheyl, 8D



“I WILL LOOK BACK FONDLY UPON THESE YEARS.”

Mohammad Faizan



As Mr Miah said on the last day of school, we will only realise this when the dust settles, however, we should try our best to realise this before it becomes too late. As a wise man once said, “a grateful heart is a magnet for miracles”, and so, gratefulness will always lead you to success.

Thank you to everyone at Eden, we will always remember you with a warm heart.

Mohammad Faizan, Head Boy

QURAN QIRA'AT COMPETITION



The last four years of my life at Eden Boys' School have been the best so far. These years have etched some great memories into my mind, alongside providing me with the education, characteristics and mannerisms I need for the oncoming years. However, these qualities have not only been instilled in me, but in every other student in the year, and I hope they remain with us for the rest of our lives.

Over the course of the rest of my life I will look back fondly upon these years. But in particular, I will remember the efforts of all the staff. The staff who came in on the weekends, those who gave up their holidays to teach us, those who stayed behind extra hours after school, to these people, their job isn't just a job, they do not have the mentality of a 9 to 5 job, they have given up all they can to help us, and hopefully their efforts will pay off on the 22nd August. Kind words and praise will always be linked with these people.

Although the majority of these four years have been based around education, I think there are some moments we can all cherish together. Kingswood was my first and maybe the first secondary school residential for many other students here. For me, it was a time in secondary school that I could really enjoy myself in the outdoors. It was a time not only to get to know my friends even better, but to become familiar with all the other kinds in this cohort. The best part for me was when we all sat around the campfire and enjoyed both the entertainment provided by Abdul Wali, and also reflected on our time there.

When it comes to learning lessons, I think that one of the most vital lessons I have learnt from my time at Eden Boys' is to always be grateful for whatever you get. As I have mentioned before, this school has worked extremely hard for us, and they deserve respect for this.

In March, Eden Boys' Birmingham held its first Quran Qira'at competition. Qira'at is the science of reciting the Quran in a harmonious, but very slow and deep voice and requires a high level of Tajwid mastery. Though we had many boys sign up, only half were able to attend the practice sessions with me and even fewer entered the end competition. Alhamdulillah, the boys tried very hard and displayed a great love for the Qur'an and a passion for its correct recital. The Finals were held in front of the whole school on 28th March 2019. Despite some experiencing stage fright, the boys all performed brilliantly. May Allah increase our love for the Qur'an and make our actions as in accordance to its teachings. Ameen.

I must end with thanking our parents who ensure their children attend an after school setting to learn about Islam and how to recite the Qur'an. It is evident from the participants that your sacrifices are reaping reward. I pray that your children become the ultimate sadaqa jariyah (reward) for you in every goodness possible. Ameen

Maulana Nasir Akhtar

EDEN COMMUNITY IFTAR

RAMADAN 1440/2019



In the spirit of Ramadan, Eden Boys' School, Birmingham and Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Birmingham East held a joint Iftar celebration for our boys and community. Alhamdulillah, we had an excellent turnout from students, staff, local guests and school partners.

Generosity is a major aspect of our faith and is there a better way of expressing this than by holding an Iftar? By coming together as a community and feeding guests, we were truly able to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan. The event was chaired by our FCE Lead, Maulana Nasir Akhtar and we were joined by our friends from Lozells Methodist Church, Rev Philip Nott from Aston & Nechells Church and PC Sarah from the Royal Navy.

The event began with a recitation from the Qur'an by Year 10 student Sayem Ridwan Ahmed. The chair of governors welcomed all our guests, after which our Executive Principal, Mrs Ravat, addressed the audience to thank the staff and students for their hard work in preparation for the GCSE exams. Rev Philip Nott and

Moulana Nasir spoke about messages of peace and reconciliation and how communities must work side by side despite our differences emphasising that "Aston and Birmingham is our home and we must take care of all that live here". This was followed by Year 9 pupil, Dayaan Ukaye, singing a beautiful Nasheed of Salutations to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that brought many to tears. Finally, we ended the gathering with a moving dua by Head of Year 9, Moulana Shabir Miah Sahib. Hafiz Muhammad Talhah Khan of Year 11 also called a beautiful Adhan for Maghrib which was a wonderful way for him to make his farewell to the school as he completes Year 11. A great Jazakallah to all the staff and students who made this evening so exceptional – a special mention to Mr Ebrahim Ravat who organised all the delicious food! May Allah accept all our good deeds in this blessed month and forgive us our shortcomings. Ameen.

YEAR ELEVEN GRADUATION

On Saturday 29th June we held our first graduation dinner at the Botanical Gardens to bid farewell to our Year 11's.

Here are some of their thoughts.



“Everyone is approachable”

“Listen to your teachers”



“Work hard to achieve your grades”



“Make the most of it”



“Revise early”

COMMEMORATION OF OUR YEAR ELEVEN AS VOTED BY THE CLASS OF 2019

Haris Ilyas	Junaid Shah	Qasim Javid	Muhammad Ahmed	Sameen Choudhury	Dawood Ahmed	Waleed Azam	Ismail Muhumed
Loudest	Most changed	Comedian	Brain box	Best laugh	Most gullible	Always eating	Teacher's pet
Ibrahim Hanif			Adam Mahmood and Ibraheem Fiaz	Ayman Ahmed			Ali Hamza
Chatter box	Mohammed Abir Ahmed	Asad Khan	Best double act	Most competitive	Ismail Muhumed	Rajin Ali	Memelord
Hasan Mahmood	Least likely to be in school	Most likely to win the lottery, but lose the ticket	Faical Maaroufi	Suaib Nistar	Most likely to become Prime Minister	Most likely to start a meme	Mohammed Abir Ahmed
Class clown			Most likely to go viral	Most likely to work for MI6			Always ill
Nyim Hussain	Adam Delair	Mohammed Alam	Ismail Muhumed	Humaayan Ahmed	Eesah Holder	Nyim Hussain	Muhammad Ahmed
Superman (always saves the day)	Most likely to save the planet	Most likely to become famous	Most likely to win a Nobel prize	Most likely to teach at this school	Most likely to win an Olympic Gold	Most likely to go into outer space	Most likely to become a super villain

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019/20

AUTUMN TERM 2019

First Day of Term
Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Mid Term Closure
Monday 28th October –
Friday 1st November 2019

End of Term
Friday 20th December 2019

SPRING TERM 2020

First Day of Term
Tuesday 7th January 2020

Mid Term Closure
Monday 17th February –
Friday 21st February 2020

End of Term
Friday 3rd April 2020

Easter Holiday
Monday 6th April –
Friday 17th April 2020

SUMMER TERM 2020

First Day of Term
Monday 20th April 2020

May Day Closure
Monday 4th May 2020

Mid Term (and 'Eid ul Fitr) Closure
Monday 25th May –
Friday 29th May 2020

End of Term
Wednesday 15th July 2020



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