

STAR



ISSUE 8
WINTER
2019

STAR WRITERS

Two winning stories to read

ROYAL NAVY

*Come on and join your
fellow man*

EDEN BOY'S GET DIGGING



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WELCOME

Asiyah Ravat, Executive Principal

As you will know, in August, Year 11 gained some very impressive GCSE results. In fact, they were so good, we were recognised as the second-best school in the country with a progress 8 of 1.7! This is a brilliant achievement that really does make all the hard work and dedication from teachers, support staff, students and parents worth it, so thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Our list of triumphs doesn't stop there though! We are thrilled to announce that two of our boys have been recruited to join the Warwickshire County Cricket Club. Read more about their remarkable story on page 4! Then, read on to page 6

where you can enjoy the short story 'The Drink', written by our very own Yammah Safi who, as one of our Star Writers, was chosen to have his piece of creative writing published! Put your feet up with a cup of tea and enjoy!

I am a very proud Principal this term as whilst writing this, I realise that it is going to be quite a struggle to fit all of our students achievements in to one issue of Star, however, this is a problem I am more than happy to have! Read on to also hear about the Geography field trip to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire and how the staff, students and parents of Eden Boys' have been getting their hands dirty with Lendlease...

CUTTING OF THE RIBBON

Zeeshan Khan year 7 and Navid Najeeb year 8, officially opened Lendlease coffee shop this morning. The coffee shop was named 'Runner Beans' which was a name chosen by one of our students.

The pupils cut the ribbon, met some directors and lead managers, and had a tour of the training centre/hub. Each pupil was also given a £15 gift voucher.

Lendlease had ordered a personalised cake which was delivered to the school by a member of their staff. Of course, the cake didn't last very long!

"We arrived on site at 8:00am and were greeted by a Lendlease official (Jerry). We were granted special entry by security to go inside the project

headquarters. Once inside the Lendlease team greeted us with a very large cake. We then had the honour of cutting the golden ribbon and declaring the coffee shop officially open. The barista then happily gave us free hot chocolate as a thank you for opening the coffee shop. After finishing our delightful hot chocolates, we were taken on a tour around the site. We saw the offices of the workers who were on site and were also gratefully given permission to go out onto the deck and lookout across the road onto the site where the commonwealth village was being built. We are very grateful to the lendlease team for allowing us to tour the site and open the coffee shop."

Naveed Najib, 8B



EDEN BOYS' GET DIGGING



Lendlease is an international property and infrastructure group with core expertise in shaping cities and creating strong and connected communities. In November 2018, Birmingham City Council selected Lendlease as the principal contractor for the Perry Barr Residential Scheme – this is the area opposite the school. The scheme will have huge benefits for the local community including creating 1,400 new homes for the people of Birmingham alongside regenerating the local area.

Rita Miller and Shelley Smith from Lendlease's Birmingham social value team met with our Head of Careers Salim Ravat in July this year to discuss how we at Eden Boys' School as a local business and neighbour, can work with them to provide joint working opportunities for learning, education and other support that will benefit our staff, students, parents and local community partners.

Members of Lendlease's Perry Barr team have also previously attended the lower and upper school assemblies to raise awareness of the scheme and its impact on our community. Students have also been involved in selecting a name for the new local area that will be created and a coffee shop that will be

providing coffee for over 2000 employees until spring 2022.

Rita and Shelley have also worked alongside our students, staff and parents to start to re design a part of the external area of the school to create a new external learning and reflection area. This project will be delivered over two phases.

Phase 1 was to clear the area and create an external raised border of plants and flowers. This was completed with students and parents from our school and Lendlease project staff working together over 4 days during October half term, 28th to 31st October 2019.

591.5 hours of volunteering time was provided of which 246.5 hours was provided by Lendlease and their supply chain. All students and volunteers worked very well together and created a fantastic area for the school to use.

Phase 2 will be to pave the area and add a canopy to provide shelter for the area, this work is planned for March 2020.

Lendlease have planned more joint working initiatives for the school which includes creating a project Newsletter and delivering a single use plastic work placement for 10 students.



WORKING HARD TO STAY IN THE TEAM



Mohammed Umar Shaikh and Hamza Shaikh

Do we have the next Kapil Dev or Sachin Tendulkar?

It all started off when I was 4 years old, my dad used to get a ball and chuck underarm throw downs to me. As I got older and better, I got selected for Warwickshire U-10 at the age of 8. I was delighted about this opportunity. I didn't do as well as I thought, but it was okay. At the age of 9 I suddenly got selected for EPP (Emerging player programme) this was big news for me as I was the youngest player to be in such a high standard age group. At the age of 10, I made a record-breaking opening partnership with my teammate, with a 1992 runs I individually ended up on 94. This gave me confidence to score more runs in the future. Eventually one of my biggest goals was to score a hundred which I completed in a senior men's team (Smethwick 2n XI). This made me so happy. I had become the youngest player ever in cricket to score triple figures in a men's

cricket match at the age of 12. That has been the best year for me so far scoring 2000+ runs including 6 centuries. Lastly, I received my first team debut in the Birmingham Premier Cricket Debut League. This is the highest cricket club standard where I faced some of the best bowlers. Even better than that I also made my 2nd XI Warwickshire debut, just one step behind professional cricket.

In the year 2019 I was selected as Warwickshire Academy Player. None of this would have happened right now if it wasn't for my mum, dad, cousins and uncles who encouraged me and supported me throughout this whole time. Also, my parents dua's for me to succeed. So far so good. Inshallah in a few years' time I will reach the England cricket team.

Hamza Shaikh 9B



I started cricket back in India at the age of six. This is where the love of cricket came in. I was age 9 when I started the hard work, practising daily and staying healthy and fit. My first year as a Warwickshire youth player was in 2016 when I was in the U10's. I have progressed through the years and now I have been selected for the under 14's and most importantly EPP (emerging player programme). Every year has been successful for me from being in U10 to U14. However, the highlight of my running career was in 2019 where I managed to pick up 37 wickets including 5 for 15 against Essex, 5

for 10 against Worcestershire, 6 for 8 against Nottinghamshire and a hat trick against Cheshire.

I am mainly a right arm off spin bowler who bats right-handed. As well as Warwickshire I have played for Knowle & Dorridge 2nd and youth. I have also played in the past for Smethwick 2nd, 1st and youth team when I was only 12.

All thanks goes to my uncle who has worked extremely hard motivating me throughout. I have certainly learnt a lot from him.

Mohammed Umar Shaikh, 9A

ROYAL NAVY



Eden Boys' Birmingham had the honour of spending 2 lessons with the Royal Navy. Petty Officer John Perry and LH Edmund Garrison delivered a presentation on the Royal Navy, the places of interest across the globe and the role of the navy in international waters.

Students were thrilled to hear about the massive fleet of ships, frigates, submarines, aircraft carriers and the latest F-35 lightning fighter planes the British Navy possess.

The Royal Navy support the young generation in joining the Navy through their apprenticeship programme which includes work in Business, Administration and Law, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, Health and Social Care, Information and Communication Technology, Leisure, Travel and Tourism, Public Service and Retail and Commercial Enterprise.

Our 9.1 students also had the opportunity to learn about engineering and how to make a paper rocket. The rockets

were then launched by the team in a Royal Navy commanded fashion using a foot pump and air pressure chamber. The teams competed against one another to see how far the rockets could travel in the vertical position. The activity helped in team building, creativity and understanding of air pressure and gravity.

With our newly found relationship with the Royal Navy, they will be returning back to the school in the new term to deliver an assembly to the whole school with more challenging activities.



MEET OUR NEW ART TEACHERS

Mr Paul Herron

Experienced Art & Design teacher, Illustration degree, free-lance illustrator. Specialises in drawing, oil painting and Adobe photoshop.



Mr Naveed Iqbal

Art and Design teacher, Fine Art Degree, Freelance graphic designer, specialises in drawing and Adobe illustrator.

Mr Iqbal has worked freelance for a number of years and has had clients including Disney, Nike, and worked on ad campaigns for Cristiano Ronaldo.

Here are some samples of his illustration work from Japan FIFA world cup campaign in 2002.



STAR WRITERS

Congratulations to Yammah who wrote a fantastic criminal story for our creative writing competition: Eden Boy's Publishing Inc.

The task was to write a story inspired by Roald Dahl's Lamb to the Slaughter and Yammah truly captured the spirit of the idea and gave it a clever twist.

THE DRINK

The clock struck twelve as the last bird soared through the sky as the last light switched off and as the last leaf fell. The whole street was asleep except one. One person. Mrs Wilson sat in the darkness, rocking back and forth in her favourite chair. As she rocked back and forth, she hummed her favourite song and took a sip of her green tea. She hoped for a knock at the door. She checked the windows three times. Nothing.

"Where is he?" She asked the open air, hoping for a response. As she composed herself, she sat down and continued to rock back and forth but slowly her eyelids grew heavy and she drifted into sleep, too tired to wait. The wind urged the trees to sway in a horrific dance side by side as leaves floated to their demise. The bushes rustled, the dogs barked and the cats hissed. As the clock struck one, Mrs Wilson awoke with a start and looked around. There was still no sign of him. She paced up and down the room, a vicious smile creeping into her lips.

"Is he dead? Has he finally left my life?" She muttered eagerly. Her smile widened as she thought about what they could do without him. "Finally, I'll be free," she whispered.

As the minutes went on, and reality set in, Mrs Wilson's smile faded. She ran to her purse and took out her phone. She rapidly dialled his number. Declined. She tried again. Declined. She couldn't take it anymore. She threw the phone against the wall and let out an ear-piercing scream...

"Deep breaths. Deep breaths," she repeated to herself. She hobbled from side to side to grab the remains of what was supposed to be a phone. Finally, she made it back to the chair and her fatigue slowly, inevitably sent her back to slumber. Hours later, a thunderous knock hit the door. Once, twice, three times. Mrs Wilson shot out of her chair with the speed of a pregnant, swelled bullet.

"What time do you call this!?" Screamed Mrs Wilson, standing adamantly in the doorway. Mr Wilson shook on the spot, struggling to stay on his feet. Violently, he shoved his wife out of the way and stepped inside. "What is wrong with you!?" She asked but she knew the answer. The thing that was wrong with her husband was that he was drunk. Heavily drunk.

Mr Wilson collapsed onto the sofa. "Get...me...a...drink," he slurred.

"No! You've clearly had enough," Mrs Wilson snapped back.

"I said...get me a drink!" His voice echoed from the corners of the room and he threw a glass vase at her which narrowly missed and smashed against the wall.

Mrs Wilson hurried to the kitchen, the cruel smile returned wildly with an idea. She began to search for their finest wine.



She called out from the kitchen: "Okay, wait there - only the finest for you to quench that thirst."

She grabbed the cleanest wine glasses, one for him, one for her, and poured half a glass for her and a full glass for him. That devilish smile widened and she added the secret ingredient.

"Finally..." Mr Wilson said as his wife obediently returned and gave him what he asked for.

In his clumsy state, Mr Wilson knocked his full glass with fat fingers and nearly spilled half.

"Whoops! Silly you, I'll go grab a towel," said Mrs Wilson in pretend affection between frustrated lips.

While she was gone, Mr Wilson stared at the two glasses on the table and greedily grabbed the one with the most still left inside. Mrs Wilson returned again with a towel and quickly mopped up the spillage. She lifted the remaining wine glass.

"Cheers!" She said heartily, grinning from ear to ear. They both drank while watching the other. Mrs Wilson saw her husband gulp down the poison. Mr Wilson watched his suspiciously happy wife's soul seem to fade. She clenched her throat, her eyes widened, and her face grew bloated and purple; the last thing in her distorted sight was her husband's blurry hand reaching out as she drifted away...

Yammah Safi, 10A

We have more to celebrate as the following students won a competition to have their short stories published in the Young Writer's Survival Saga series including 'Mission Catastrophe', 'Mission Contamination' and Mission Chaos:

Ibrahim Hoang (10A), Ismael Hoang (8A), Haseeb Ishaq (9B), Kifayat Chowdhury (10B), Kian-Francis Coney (9B), Rowan Coney-Mohammed (8C), Abdul-Haleem Rumaney (8C), Mohammed Mikael Sarwar (8C), Shamsullah Hosseini (8B), Tijan Jallow (9C), Razaq Mufti (10A), Zain-ul Islam Khan (8D), Yunus Ahmed (8C), Khubaib Ibrahim (10A) and Mohammed Aadam Ali (8D).

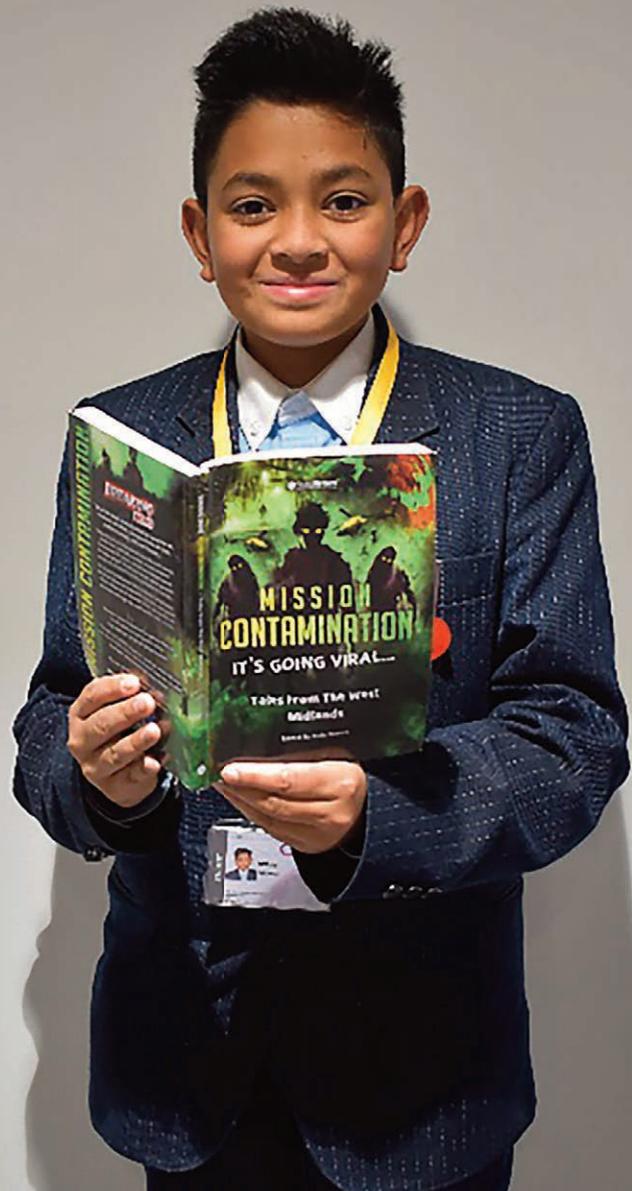
DR ZELDON'S ATTACK ON THE WORLD!

The colossal, poisonous cloud rose into the sky. I instantly knew this was the work of Dr Zeldon.

Suddenly, a metamorphosed spider released another noxious, iridescent smog and I bolted towards the safety of the laboratory's cameras. Through the fuzz, I could hear the doctor coughing and spluttering. "If I don't get to live, then nobody will!"

The cameras revealed streets littered with corpses. From the corner of my eye, I discovered Dr Zeldon's pivotal error. The antidote! Lackadaisically left in a diaphanous viral within the unlocked cabinet; the herculean task of saving humankind was now solely dependent upon me...

Mikael Sarwar, 8C



CARDING MILL VALLEY



On Wednesday 13th November, our Year 11 Geography group went on a field trip to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire as part of our Geography GCSE studies. We were required to complete a study of the local river – Ashbrook – to investigate how its features change as you travel downstream. Being part of our GCSE course, it was important that we were able to collect enough data to support our preparations for our summer exams. Despite the chilly temperatures, we were still able to take a few moments to enjoy the breath-taking natural landscape and scenery, which included unique v-shaped valleys and waterfalls.

We used various equipment such as callipers and flowmeters to measure the features of the river. It was interesting to get an insight in to what geography specialists do on a day to day basis. We compared our results and findings with the Bradshaw Model in order to test the accuracy of our results, and much to our satisfaction, our results indeed mirrored the trends of the Bradshaw Model.

Despite all this work we had to complete, we had a stupendous time climbing over rocky hills, trudging along streams of water and bedrock, and mucking around in fields and plains. It was an exhilarating experience, one full of joy and pleasure, that we all wish could have lasted longer.

Adam Lowery, 11B



UNTIL NEXT TIME

SCHOOL TERM DATES - SPRING 2020

First Day of Term

Tuesday 7th January 2020

Half Term

Monday 17th February –
Friday 21st February 2020

End of Term

Friday 15th April 2020



Eden Boys

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