

ISSUE 9
SPRING
2020

STAR



UK PARLIAMENT

Holding the Government to Account

SMITHFIELD

Meet Our Winning Team

MOCK TRIALS

The Good Fight

*World Book Day
Practically perfect in every way.*

2 WELCOME

3 SERVICE

WELCOMING RAMADAAN
A Spiritual Month

4 TEAMWORK

SMITHFIELDS
Meet Our Winning Team

5 AMBITION

UK PARLIAMENT
Holding the Government to Account

6 RESPECT

STAR READERS
A Passion for Reading

WE CHARITY
Empowering Young People

7 WORLD BOOK DAY

Practically perfect in every way.

8 EXPERIENCE

MOCK TRIALS
The Good Fight

UNTIL NEXT TIME

SCHOOL TERM DATES
SUMMER 2020



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WELCOME

Asiyah Ravat, Executive Principal

We are currently living in a very confusing and complex time. For many, the upcoming weeks and months are set to bring a lot of uncertainty and concern for the health and livelihoods of loved ones. However, it is often during these times of crisis that we witness the most heart-warming sense of community spirit as we all come together to tackle these challenges together. This is of significance for Muslims as we approach Ramadaan, a time to come together in celebration of faith. In preparation, read Moulana Miah's article on page 3 advising you on how to prepare both physically and mentally for the upcoming events so that you can receive the maximum benefit from this beautiful month.

Eden boys had a lot of fun celebrating the Annual World Book Day! From Spider Man and Harry Potter to the modern and literary classics, we had it all! I must say I was very impressed with the staff costumes; this year will be a tough act to follow! We couldn't believe that Mr Sherlock Holmes' himself turned up to celebrate with us! Or could it have been Yusuf Said Yeslam of 7B? Turn to page 7 to decide for yourself and read

Mr Darby's words on the rest of the characters that have inspired our students to get their nose stuck in a book! This was the perfect way to kick off our Star Readers Initiative, a challenge that sets out a list of recommended books for all year groups to encourage them to read as many as possible.

On page 4 read about our year 8 dream team who succeeded in winning the Smithfields Market Design competition, bagging Eden Boys £2500 to spend on technology!

It is in times like the present that a little bit of positivity can go a long way, after all, it really is needed at the moment to keep our spirits high. We hope you enjoy reading about what Eden Boys have been up to recently and that it provides some comfort in knowing that regardless of what we face in the upcoming weeks and months, Eden Boys continues to be a family. A family that encourages hard work, supports success and thrives on its incredible sense of community. I am extremely proud of my school and its reaction to what is going on around us and I hope that you feel the same way. From all of us here, take care.



WELCOMING RAMADAAN

A Spiritual Month



We are about to welcome an honourable guest into our midst once again. We will soon have the pleasure of receiving the blessed month of Ramadaan. Let us all shake off the cobwebs and dust ourselves down for this month of spiritual enlightenment. Before we welcome this month, it is exceptionally important that we prepare ourselves both physically and spiritually. Listed below are just a few changes we can make in our daily lives in order to receive maximum benefits from this beautiful month which is a time when the rewards for good deeds are multiplied.

Fast Voluntarily

The month before Ramadan, Shabaan, is the prime time to start fasting those extra fasts. As we are currently in Shabaan, we should be preparing our minds, bodies and souls for fasting.

Usamah ibn Zayd (may Allah be pleased with him) said: 'Oh Messenger of Allah, I do not see you fasting in any other month like you fast in Shabaan.' He said, 'That is a month to which people do not pay attention, between Rajab and Ramadaan, and it is a month in which deeds are lifted up to the Lord of the Worlds. I like for my deeds to be lifted up when I am fasting.'"

The best way to prepare fasting for a whole month is to start fasting often, in order to gain control over your actions, stomach and desires. Voluntary fasting can enable us all to enter into Ramadaan fully prepared for the physical and spiritual journey.

Fasting on Mondays and Thursdays:

In another Hadeeth Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the most the Prophet ﷺ would fast on Mondays and Thursdays. He was asked about that and he said: "The deeds of people are presented to Allah on every Monday and Thursday.

Recite and Reflect Upon the Qur'an

Recitation of the Qur'an should be embedded into our daily lives. During the blessed month of Ramadaan our recitation of the Qur'an should be increased. If we begin reciting more often now we will be in good habits by the time the month of fasting arrives. It is also important for us to reflect on portions of the Qur'an to get closer to Allah and understand our responsibilities. Every single time we read the Qur'an, we will uncover deeper layers of meaning and benefit in this world and the hereafter.

Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) related that the Prophet ﷺ said: "Indeed the one who recites the Qur'an beautifully,

smoothly and precisely, will be in the company of the noble and obedient angels. As for the one who recites with difficulty, stammering or stumbling through its verses, then he will have twice that reward."

Improve Your Character

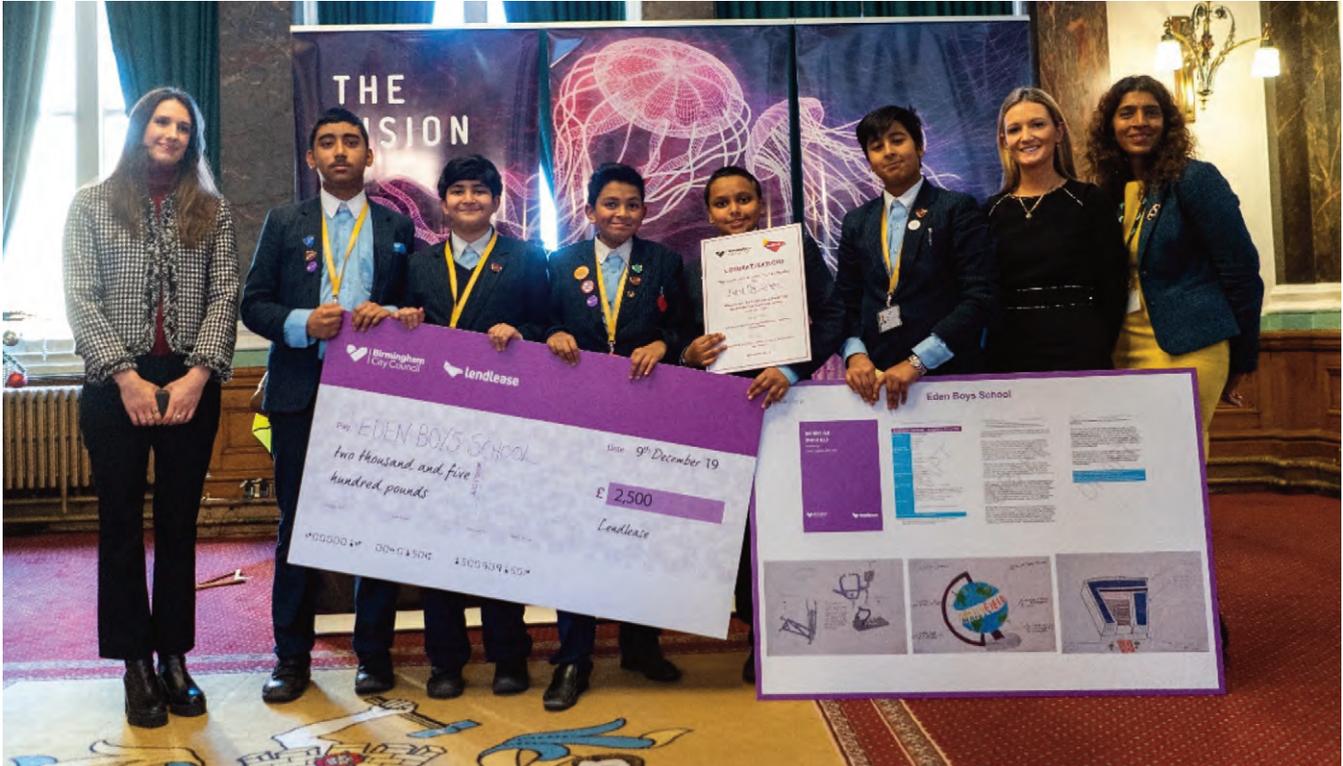
We will all inevitably face challenges during the month of Ramadaan, which will be a true test of our character. Everyone can be a little bit more kind and work on different aspects of their character. Charity is encouraged as well as kindness and forbearance. Remember, smiling at your brother is a form of charity. Be mindful of your manners at all times and your character will shine.

The Prophet ﷺ used to say: "The best amongst you are those who have the best manners and character."

May Allah give us all the ability to act upon the above and be in a position to receive this blessed month in the best possible manner. Ameen.

BIRMINGHAM SMITHFIELD

Meet our winning team



In January 2019, Birmingham City Council announced Lendlease as the preferred development partner for Birmingham Smithfield. Lendlease are a leading international property and infrastructure group with operations in Australia, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The vision of Lendlease is to create the best places; places that inspire and enrich the lives of people around the world.

A key part of the Birmingham Smithfield project is to maximise the opportunities that the project will create for jobs, skills and education and create a legacy for the city. Lendlease together with Birmingham City Council are committed to ensuring that young people benefit from this project and can be involved from the very start.

Edén Boys' School year 8 pupils entered the secondary school competition to create a Market Design challenge. The competition was designed to benefit pupil's learning and support curriculum areas such as English, Mathematics, History, Science, Art and Design and Geography to name a few.

Our pupils had to create a vision which sees Birmingham Smithfield as a major mixed-use urban quarter that will include a new home for the City's valued historic Bull Ring retail markets, a family destination that includes a unique leisure and cultural offer, independent retail and business space, a major new public square, integrated public transport and more than 2,000 homes with a public park and community facilities.

Our students won the competition with a £2500 prize money to spend on technology for the school. Furthermore, the pupils will also be part of the 'Young Market Design Group' which will help Lendlease to ensure that the new Market remains an inviting place for children and young people in the city.

A huge congratulations to Mr B Ravat and the year 8 team who won the Smithfield's Market competition on Monday 9th December 2019.

Edén Boys were up against Sutton Coldfield Girls Grammar school, Great Barr Academy, Waverley School and Holte School.

Our dream team were:

1. Mikael Sarwar
2. Adam Ali
3. Naveed Najib
4. Eshan Khan
5. Abdul Haleem Rumaney
6. Rayan Faruki
7. Mohammed Marjan Joly

Smithfield broadened our mind with the experience of competing against other secondary schools across Birmingham. The competition was to redesign the area which expanded our knowledge on the place. We worked in pairs on separate ideas which meant we had more time to work and discuss the 1000 word essay. Our teacher, Mr Ravat, supported us throughout the process. The project allowed us to experience what it would be like to work in a professional business.

On the day of the results we were all anxious waiting for the results and hoped for the best, fortunately we won and were presented with a cheque for £2500.00 for the school.

Mikael Sarwar 8C

UK PARLIAMENT

Holding the Government to account

With brexit and general elections dominating the news in the latter part of 2019 and start of 2020, our pupils have been overwhelmed with UK's democracy and how it works. With a huge thanks to local MP's and the UK parliament our pupils have become more knowledgeable on elections and democracy.

Claire Mullin, from UK parliament delivered an informative and educational assembly to all our year 7 and 8's. This lively, interactive assembly introduces students to what UK Parliament is and how it works. More importantly, they learn what it means for their lives as citizens.

The UK Parliament has two Houses that work on behalf of UK citizens to check and challenge the work of Government, make and shape effective laws, and debate/make decisions on the big issues of the day. Claire tailored the session to suit KS3 pupils and provided knowledge on:

- *How does UK Parliament create new laws?*
- *How does UK Parliament hold the Government to account?*
- *How do elections and voting work?*

“Thank you so much for welcoming me into your school today, it was great to work with your staff and students during my Parliament Education Outreach visit. I hope the students enjoyed the assembly and hopefully it supported Democratic education and knowledge of Parliament for your school.

I would like to particularly mention the excellent behaviour and engagement of your students, who were keen to participate. Their answers to my questions demonstrated the school is embedding this topic. I was also impressed with their genuinely thought out and intelligent queries about the role of the UK Government and UK Parliament and how to contact their MP.”

Claire Mullin, UK Parliament, Senior Education and Engagement Officer for the West Midlands



STAR READERS

A passion for reading

The STAR Readers initiative has recently been launched at Eden Boys, it's a challenge that sets out a list of recommended books for all year groups and we encourage students to read as many books as possible from their year group reading list. We want our boys to build a love for reading, and of course this love will then help them greatly in their studies - it will allow our students to gain familiarity with language forms and develop their fluency, something that is imperative for academic success.

Students have already got on board quickly with the programme, with some of the most avid readers flying through the challenge and moving onto their next book. But it's not just the students that have got on board, teachers across the school now role model what it is

they're reading. Teachers and other staff simply promote reading for pleasure by having their chosen book to hand and on their door poster to showcase – this is something they can then readily discuss with students if they ask.

Eden will continuously work on driving this programme forward and enjoy every moment watching it thrive. We are currently in the process of arranging a group of students to go to Dorrington primary, as we believe this programme is also a great opportunity to promote and develop students' leadership skills whilst building a love for reading. Other initiatives such as having our own Reading Ambassadors, starting Word of the Week and Creative Writing competitions have been launched in the school to ensure STAR Readers is a success.

WE CHARITY

Empowering young people

WE Charity is an international charity and educational partner. The organisation is unique in that it operates collaborative programmes, both domestically and internationally. In the UK, U.S. and Canada, WE Day and WE Schools are initiatives of WE Charity that educate and empower young people. WE Schools is a year-long social action programme that nurtures compassion in students and gives them the tools to create transformative social change. And WE Day is a series of inspiring events that celebrate young people making a difference in their local and global communities.

Eden Boys' School has been working collaboratively with WE charity. Empowering our year 9 students particularly, Adam Masood who joined the panel of WE Birmingham Youth Advisory Board.

Adam has been engaging in regular meetings to discuss issues affecting the local community and the world as a whole. The panel then puts actions in place and students are encouraged to be activists in implementing the plans.

Joel Dowson, programme facilitator ran an assembly for our students, and after delivered workshops which identified the main issues affecting Birmingham. Students came up with ideas to fundraise and ways to raise more awareness about the issues.

"I just wanted to send you an email to say thanks so much for inviting me to your wonderful school. It was a pleasure visiting your school, working with the students on gaining greater knowledge about water and helping them to create their action plans. I was so impressed by how engaged they were and how respectfully they debated all of the topics."

Joel Dowson, Program Facilitator - WE Schools



WORLD BOOK DAY

Practically perfect in every way.

Eden Boys' Birmingham celebrated World Book Day in fantastic style as students and staff dressed as a myriad of their favourite characters from fiction. Amongst the Spider-Mans and Harry Potters there was a range of costumes from the modern to the literary classics.

Mr Dangor, inspired by last year's Superman costume, was sporting 1940s Metropolis fashion as Clark Kent (glasses included to protect his secret identity) which also doubled as an Inspector Goole disguise by equipping a hat. He said: "When I found out that the boys study *An Inspector Calls* in English it suited perfectly. The Inspector almost reminds me of Robin Hood in the way he attacks the rich and defends the poor. Actually, Clark Kent and the Inspector have a lot in common - both powerful and want to protect the weak and vulnerable."

Yusuf Said Yeslam (7B) caused no mystery with his brilliant costume as it did not take anybody long to deduce that he was Sherlock Holmes. We asked him what caused him to draw the conclusion of becoming this legendary detective and he reasoned: "Well, I love the stories like *The Speckled Band* and his side-kick Watson. I also love the way he dresses and always manages to prove people wrong and solve the mystery. I don't think anybody could dress as Sherlock without a magnifying glass and a pipe. My favourite costume though was Mrs Shaban's *Mary Poppins*."

Thank you to all that took part by dressing up or baking as it was all for a great cause: promoting literacy and reading among young boys and raising money for the charity Books For Africa.



MOCK TRIALS

The Good Fight



At the Mock Trials we had an exhilarating experience. We all contributed and played essential parts.

There were many other schools at the competition, and it was good to meet the students, however we were all fighting to reach the top. It was also a nerve-racking experience as some of us had to think on our feet and give questions and answers. There were lawyers, magistrates, defendants, ushers and legal advisors. We all put up a good fight and overall it was a nice experience to learn how the justice system works and how it is all played out. I really enjoyed the trip.

Eshan Khan 8B

“The pupils who took part were a real credit to Eden Boys’ Birmingham and to the STAR values. I was very proud at how well they did in the mock trial’s competition, they faced up against some of the best schools in Birmingham and managed to argue their cases very well. In particular I would like to pick out Eshan Khan for showing tremendous leadership throughout the competition. Well done!”



UNTIL NEXT TIME

SCHOOL TERM DATES - SPRING 2020

First Day of Term

Monday 20th April 2020

Half Term

Monday 25th May –
Friday 29th May 2020

End of Term

Wednesday 15th July 2020



Eden Boys

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