

ISSUE 10
WINTER
2020

STAR

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SINGLE USE PLASTICS

You are what you throw

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We age not by years but by stories

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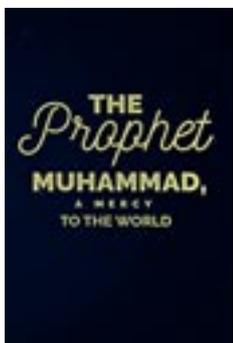
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WELCOME

Asiyah Ravat, Executive Principal

Well here we are, the end of 2020. The most bizarre year for so many of us and I think it is safe to say, a year we won't be sad to see the back of. Nobody could have been prepared for what 2020 had in store, but as we close the door on it and look on to a brighter and more certain future in 2021, we can reflect on this year's events as yes, there have been many challenges, but in every challenge is a lesson.

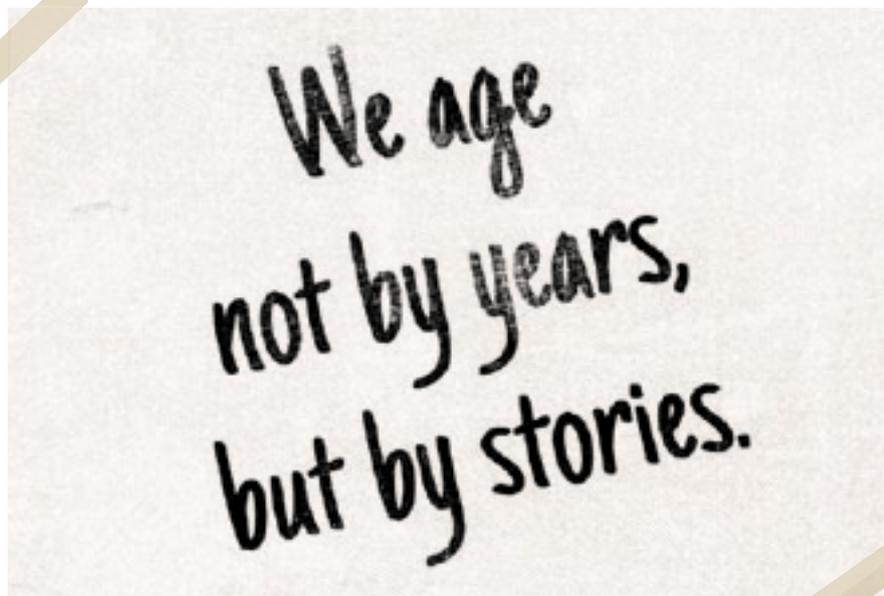
I am extremely proud of how Eden Boys has adapted and overcome to allow 2020 to be a year of success, unity, empathy, respect and despite everything, another year of outstanding education. Along with the rest of the world, we learnt how to adapt our lessons to move online so that our boys could continue to learn and progress amidst the chaos around them. I am so thankful to our wonderful teaching and support staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that our boys could still access their education but I am equally as proud of our boys who demonstrated their commitment to

learning. Then, albeit gradually, we were allowed to return to school but we stayed alert, wore masks and kept space to protect those around us. A very different environment in school to the one we left in March, yet we continued to learn and adapt to allow Eden Boys to remain the warm and welcoming hub of education for our boys that it has always been.

Now, in December, we have rejoiced at the prospect of a vaccine that could allow our country to return to a sense of normal. So, now that we can look back on 2020, we can see that amongst the uncertainty, chaos and frustration, we learnt how to be patient. We learnt how to protect ourselves and our community's. We learnt the value of friendship and family. We learnt the value of what our school means to us. We learnt that we can always look forward to a brighter tomorrow. We learnt that in every negative, we can find a positive and with that in mind, I hope you enjoy this edition of Star as a chance to reflect on just what those positives were.



STORIES ON INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS



Umar Faruk Shaikh from 9B said:

“I have found the stories to be very insightful and have deepened my understanding of how these inspirational people lived during their times. I feel these stories help us to develop good qualities as people whilst also drawing us nearer to our faith. They help develop a greater interest in Islamic History which the younger generation may not be so familiar with”.

We have introduced an exciting new project where students in Year 9 learn about inspirational leaders in Islamic History. These sessions take place weekly on a Friday and students began by learning about Prophet Adam (peace be upon him). Subsequent sessions will cover topics ranging from the ‘Women of Paradise’, the wives and daughters of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the Prophets mentioned in the Quran, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), his caliphs and senior companions.

All students have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions with overwhelmingly positive feedback from students and staff alike.

These stories are delivered to all students in Year 9 remotely via MS Teams with a clear view to help them become more attached to their faith and become well-rounded individuals who champion Islamic and Fundamental British Values, thus developing a cohesive identity.

MY BELOVED PROPHET MUHAMMAD *(peace be upon him)*

Hamza Ali Mansoor - Year 8

Winning poem from poetry competition to ‘write a poem in honour of the prophet’

*Muhammad is my hero of knowledge, Muhammad is my leader
If you read it till the end you will become a follower
I have not seen my Prophet Muhammad, but I love him dearly
I salute all those companions who saw my Prophet clearly
I love you my Prophet and sing your praise, and follow the Sunnah, your prophetic way
Rabiul-Awwal the birth, that is when he came into this world, to show us the straight way
There is a month that is certainly blessed,
In which Muhammad delivered the message of the Quran to all of us being addressed.
He is our role model, the best of mankind
Who has left an amazing legacy behind
He is called As-Sadiq and Al-Amin
Trustworthy, sincere, and always clean*

RABIULAWWAL ACTIVITIES



This year the Islamic month of Rabiul Awwal (month of the Prophet Muhammad's birth PBUH) was commemorated with a series of activities which all students engaged with.

Every morning during breakfast club, the school played the Durood, a special prayer of salutation in respect of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), in the dining hall and across all year group home bases, thus reverberating around the entire building. This allowed a beautiful harmonious entrance and beginning to the school day for all. Students found this to have a calming effect during these testing times and helped them to begin the day in a positive and reflective manner, growing in attachment to the Prophet Muhammad. (peace be upon him)

During the month of Rabiul Awwal, students from all year groups participated in a series of special sessions on the life and character of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). During these sessions students learned about various aspects from the personal life (Shamaail) of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Topics discussed in these sessions included; The Prophet Muhammad's physical appearance, his way of dressing, walking sitting, eating drinking, use of perfume, speech, way of laughing, joking, sleeping, his worship, devotion, worship at home, fasting, recital, weeping, humility, his noble character, habits, his modesty, his living, his age and

death. Students and staff were thoroughly engaged throughout these sessions and learnt a great deal about the Prophet Muhammad. This project was very effective in engaging students and teachers alike and helping them become more attached to the Prophet Muhammad's way of life and behaviours (peace be upon him).

Mahamadou Sankareh from 9C commented: *"I learned a great deal about the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) which I previously did not know. I was very excited to share this with my family at home too. I have tried to implement what I have learned about the Prophet's life to become a better person"*

Mrs Asha Parekh, Science teacher said: *"During the week I learned a lot about the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), particularly his choice of lifestyle. I was fascinated by his simplicity and the way he carried himself in his daily activities. I was pleased to see the students take on board the positive characteristics the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) embodied"*.

In addition to this, the school also provided specific 'Sunnah' food items for the students to enjoy at the start of every day during breakfast club. These are food items the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) loved to eat and we should include in our diet. These included dates,

grapes, pomegranate juice, honey, and olives. Students were enthusiastic about eating these food items which were placed in all year group home bases from 7:30am onwards by student entrances.

The fantastic English department helped launch a poetry competition which involved students producing poems in honour of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The winning poem was written by Hamzah Mansoor in Year 8 and has been included in this edition and posted on the school's Twitter page.

To conclude the week's activities and the half term; all staff and students took part in a day dedicated to 'The Dress of Simplicity'. On this day everyone was encouraged to come to school dressed in a Jubbah, preferably white, in honour of the Prophet and his simplicity. Students were also invited to donate £1 each that would go towards the school's ongoing appeal for Children in Need. On the day, students raised a total of over £380.00! This was also in line with the Prophet Muhammad's profound love for children and mercy towards them. We hope these activities have helped the students draw nearer to and grow in reverence to the Prophet Muhammad PBUH.

STAR READERS – HOW MANY BOOKS HAVE YOU READ?

The Star Readers Competition launched on Monday 14th September and we have seen some fantastic interest from the boys. At Eden Boys' we believe that reading is the foundation of everything, it builds the core skills for academic success including the very skills required for comprehending exam questions in all subjects. Our plan is to raise your son's academic success through encouraging the development of voracious reading – reading more and as widely as possible. We endeavour to improve literacy skills and enhance vocabulary. Wider reading will also allow your son to gain familiarity with language forms and develop his understanding of different ideas. Meaning the more your son reads; the more easily he

can learn in all subject areas. And hopefully he will learn to love reading along the way.

Without a doubt there is a huge range of texts for your son to choose from – from best selling series like Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, and The Hunger Games to classic texts from the literary canon like Lord of the Flies, Pride & Prejudice, and Dracula. Although there is variety, all the texts are designed to challenge readers in thought-provoking ways that stimulate their brains and build literacy skills. Whether you are investigating an unsolved mystery with Sherlock Holmes in The Hound of the Baskervilles or exploring the effects of racism in society in Noughts and Crosses, there should be plenty for your son to explore.

The aim of the game is to read as many of the books from the recommended book list for their year group as possible before the end of the year. After completing a book, the pupil submits a book review for the text they have read. Each completed book review will award one point in the competition, both for the pupil that completes it and their form.

Winners are those who have read the most books in their year group. There are separate prizes for individual readers and collectively for forms.

I hope you will support and encourage your son to participate as much as possible in this exciting Star Readers Competition and to all the competitors: good luck and have fun reading!



“I’m really enjoying the Star Readers competition because I get to read new books that I’ve never read before. The books are full of stories and new morals for me to learn. My favourite books are the Harry Potter series because they are filled with magic and mystery. I particularly like the villain, Lord Voldemort, as he is full of surprises. The way he created horcruxes was really clever and the curses were dramatic and thrilling. I can’t wait to read the Year 8 and 9 books, I just want to read as much as possible and win the competition. I want to win the individual Star Reader prize and use the book vouchers to buy the next book in the Shadowhunters series.”

Aidan Yasin 7A

“I love reading so this competition was perfect for me. There’s such a variety of books to choose, from classics to books that seemed like they are just for me. So far, my favourite has been the first book of The Divergent series. The cliff-hanger at the end was immense and I just had to read the next one. Next I’m looking forward to reading Caravel because my friend, Abdul-Haleem, is enjoying it and we have similar tastes. I’m trying my best to win so that my form has the best chance at getting a pizza party at the end of the year.”

Mikael Sarwar 9A

STAR READERS BOOK REVIEW: THE HOBBIT

I have rated this story 5 stars because of the description and also the adventure. This book is all about adventure and mythical creatures like goblins and dwarves. It is unbelievable all the experiences Bilbo has throughout the story. He learns a lot about himself and we learn lessons with him. For example, at the beginning he wants a boring life but Gandalf teaches him the fun of excitement and adventure. He also doesn't think he has any talents and is a burden on the dwarves but, in reality, he was crucial to their success and could do things that they could not with his agility, small stature and cunning. This is an excellent child-friendly prequel to The Lord of the Rings.

Mikael Sarwar 9A

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE AMBASSADORS - YOU ARE

Lendlease Social Value Lead, Rita Patel Miller developed and designed a five-day Virtual Work Experience for Secondary Schools to raise awareness of the impact of Single Use Plastics (SUP) on the environment, people and Wildlife. The programme has been designed to enable young people to become Single Use Plastic Ambassadors and identify ways in which they can promote best practice and new ideas to reducing and/or eliminating the use of SUP in their school, business and community environments. The programme has been developed in partnership with the Careers and Enterprise Company Cornerstone Employer group in Birmingham. The programme has been accredited by the Engineering Design Trust for the Industrial Cadet Silver Level award for all students who complete the five-day programme.



'I am extremely grateful that I was chosen for this work experience. In the week I met many professionals, experts and important people, such as Dr Gatrad, founder of WASUP (world against single use plastic), Pinto Donna, Lendlease Design Manager, Jose Mattos – Munnellys Operations Director, and many other people'

Hassan Uddin Farooqi

'I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I received to work with Lendlease. It was spectacular and informative, being exposed to the professionals of many fields. We worked with Lendlease, Munnellys, Willmott Dixon, and Professor Gatrad. We learnt that before construction the carbon emissions are taken into consideration. We also learnt pollution increases every year and the plastics we dispose kills millions of marine life each year.'

Wahab Shah

'I found this work experience really fun and interesting. I didn't think single-use plastic was this badly affecting the world and the marine life. The work experience included making posters, writing poems and making a big mural. It was really exciting and it gave me a chance to bond with my peers'

Zeeshan Hussain

'This experience has been incredible. I was completely unaware of the use of single use plastic and how blind we have been harming our environment. I want to say thank you to Rita, Dr Gatrad and my classmates'

Muqtada Arrazi

'Before taking part in the single use plastic project, I had absolutely no idea how bad plastic was for the oceans. I knew it was harmful but ever knew it was so bad that 100,000 marine animals died every single year.'

Mohammed Umar Siddique

PLASTIC - SINGLE USE PLASTICS ARE WHAT YOU THROW

Our Planet - written by the students who participated

Wahab Shah, Hassan Uddin Farooqi, Mohammad Sufyaan, Zeeshan Hussain, Muqtada Arrazi, Mohammed Umar Siddique.

*Around the world, plastic bottles and rubbish are polluting the sea
Plastic garbage builds up on land
However, we are too blind to see this tragedy
Our world is falling down a slope
WE must get together and give our world hope*

*Cling film, packaging, bags, and cutlery
We use in our everyday life,
So small, yet so valuable
But we ignore our environment, our planet
Just one bag costs one life
Polluting oceans as if it is not valuable
Polluting the world as if it means nothing to us*

*We have papers, bamboo straws and glass,
Yet we still decide to take a pass
Mankind is too dependent on plastic
Blind to the harm, the pain
The government does not care about our land
So, this is OUR TIME TO STAND*

*This is where we can rise,
Let's improve our environment,
Let's help improve our environment,
Let's help the wildlife
Let's clean the oceans
Let's save our PLANET*

EDEN'S FOOD BANK – ALWAYS READY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Eden's Food bank is open every Friday 2.30pm to 3.30pm, providing bags full of non-perishable food to the community who are struggling to make ends meet. We help families who struggle to buy food due to low income, loss of employment due to the pandemic or have no place to live.

Eden's food bank are also supporting Birmingham crisis centre who are housing families that have experienced domestic violence and temporarily providing shelter. Unfortunately, during the lockdown period there has been a rise in domestic violence and more families are seeking support and a haven.

Eden's food bank is conscious of the homeless, and Vanguard Direct is an agency in the West Midlands who are providing sheltered accommodation to the homeless.

The homeless are temporarily housed and supported by Vanguard Direct who provide clean clothes and bedding, however at times they do rely on food banks to support the increased numbers of residents who now require accommodation due to the pandemic.

The pandemic has brought the community together and we have had overwhelming support from pupils, parents and companies donating non-perishable food items. Companies such as KTC, Costco and Tesco's have generously donated pallets of water, soft drinks and tinned food items. Local businesses have seen many people struggling and have also supported with the replenishment of our food bank stock levels.

Lendlease who is the main contractor for the Perry Barr Residential Scheme and

our neighbour at Eden Boys' School have supported the Eden Boys' Community Food Bank. Lendlease and their Supply Chain collected non-perishable food items and toiletries for local communities around the school and Perry Barr area, in addition to this the Lendlease Foundation donated £1500 to the school to support further food donations and to fund the distribution of items to the local people in most need.

During this pandemic our communities have faced so many personal challenges. These donations will make a significant difference to families, elderly people and those people experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence.

RITA PATEL MILLER, SOCIAL VALUE MANAGER FOR LENDLEASE SAID

"We are so pleased that we have been able to support the Community Food Bank. It is a brilliant initiative which has enabled us to donate to those in need during this difficult time"

UNTIL NEXT TIME

SCHOOL TERM DATES - SPRING 2021

First Day of Term

Monday 4th January 2021

Half Term

Monday 15th February –
Friday 19th February 2021

End of Term

Thursday 1st April 2021

Eid-ul-Fitr 1442 – Thursday 13th and Friday 14th May 2021*

* May be revised slightly according to the sighting of the moon



Eden Boys

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