

STAR

ISSUE 13
SPRING
2022



GCSE'S
We made it!

70 YEARS YOUR MAJESTY
Celebrating Queen Elizabeth II

EDEN'S LIGHT

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WELCOME

Sumeya Bhikhu, Associate Principal

I am very excited to announce the beginning of the holiest month on the Islamic calendar. "When the month of Ramadan begins, the gates of the heavens are opened" [Al-Bukhari].

With the holy month of Ramadan fast approaching, this is a time of year that many Muslims yearn for, as it brings with it benefits greater than the sacrifices made.

Aside from fasting, Muslims observing Ramadan also increase in spiritual devotional acts such as prayer, giving charity and strengthening family ties. Muslims are also encouraged to share their food with friends, family, and neighbours and to reach out to those less fortunate than us.

May I take this opportunity to remind all of the charitable projects we are supporting both at home and internationally in order to fulfil this purpose. As students and parents have always supported us in these causes, I am sure you will continue in order to maximise rewards during this blessed month.

A man asked Messenger of Allah, "Which act in Islam is the best?" He replied, "To feed (the poor and the needy) and to greet those whom you know and those you do not know." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

This year the month of Ramadan will swiftly commence before the GCSE exams which will be sat by our year 11 students. This is the moment they have to finally bring

to fruition 5 years of hard work and effort at Eden Insha'Allah.

While the past 2 years have been very different with no official exams taking place; students will be looking forward to exceeding expectations by excelling in their examinations this year through what will be a testing time for them. May I remind the students that they are not alone, staff will be on hand to support during the examination period. We want to ensure every student is prepared to achieve their goals and make their dreams a reality.

As ever, the month of Ramadan is the ideal opportunity to perfect our 3 core faith values; ihsaan, itqaan and ikhlaas. This is the perfect time to go the extra mile to support and benefit those around us while striving for excellence to improve ourselves. Perhaps most importantly while we seek to reap the benefits of Ramadan, we need to ensure that we are sincere in our intentions in both our inward and outward actions.

I leave you with this quote from our holy scripture:

"O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may develop God-consciousness."

(Quran 2:183)



A COMMUNITY UNITES

70 YEARS OF REIGN

Congratulations to HM Queen Elizabeth II on the start of her Platinum Jubilee year. HM Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne in 6 February 1952, 70 years ago.

In 2022, the Commonwealth will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. For 70 years since her accession to the throne on 6 February 1952, Her Majesty has served her people with great dignity. In honour of our beloved Queen, we are proud to launch a rich programme of celebration and thanks. Our Star Jubilee Stories and 70,000 Hours of Impact are just a few of the initiatives we're delivering to commemorate Her Majesty's historic reign.



RAMADHAAN

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 Ramadhaan. Let us all shake off the cobwebs and dust ourselves down for this month of spiritual enlightenment. Over the course of the month we hope to deliver a series of activities to help ensure our students are making the most of the blessed months.

1. Quran Circles

During the month of Ramadhaan, the reflection hall will remain open for all students to come in and attend Quran circles. In these circles students will recite the Quran and listen to lessons and stories from the Quran that will help gain a greater appreciation and love for the Quran.



2. Ramadhaan Diary

The school has produced a special Ramadhaan diary which will capture how our students spend each day of Ramadhaan. The students are encouraged to engage in various acts of worship every day to help gain closeness to Allah and gain maximum benefit from their fast.

3. Annual Iftaar Event

Once again, we hope to hold a special Iftaar event for governors, members of staff, students and special guests on Friday 8th April. This is a wonderful occasion where we all unite as a family and partake in the blessed meal. We pray this event is successful and memorable.

4. The importance of improving Character

We will all inevitably face challenges during the month of Ramadhaan, 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. The Prophet 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 able to reap maximum benefit from this blessed month.

BATTLE OF THE BRAWN



Year 8 Basketball Team

The Eden Boys' Year 8 basketball team were victorious in our away fixture against Aston Manor Academy.

Final Score:

Eden Boys: 15 points
Aston Manor Academy: 6 points



Year 8 Basketball Team

Well done to the Eden Boys' Year 8 basketball team who were victorious in our home fixture against Holte School! Our second win this season.

Final Score:

Eden Boys: 12 points
Holte School: 2 points



Year 11 Football Team

Well done to the Eden Boys' Year 11 Football team who were victorious in a very competitive away fixture against Eden Boys East!

Final Score:

Eden Boys North: 3
Eden Boys East: 2

Goal Scorers: **Saif Ali,**
Tijan Jallow, Ilyas Aderigbe.

Man of the match:
Haroon Mahmood
(outstanding performance in defence).

The opening ceremony of the XXII Commonwealth Games

Birmingham,
Thursday 28 July 2022.

It is 132 days until the opening ceremony of the XXII Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Thursday 28 July 2022. Meet our **connectors**, who will lead change in our school, city, and community. Birmingham is an ethnically and culturally diverse city. The aim of the programme is to promote social integration of people from different backgrounds through the power of sport.



GCSE'S - WE MADE IT!



Exams. Exams are what we all have spent the last five years of our lives at Eden Boys' School preparing for. Every moment we have spent leaning and acquiring knowledge in this school all boils down to these exams. These exams will allow us to achieve our goals – aspirations and make it as far in life as possible. These exams are the exams that will enable each and every one of us to live our dreams.

We are the generation that was most damaged by Covid-19. Two years of face to face teaching missed and now with less than 30 school days left we will have our GCSE exams. We have been bombarded with challenges, we have had to adjust to 'the new normal' and yet we continue to show resilience and self-leadership towards our education and strive for excellence.

The next month or so is our opportunity to show the world - to show the world that we were hit hard by Covid-19 but that is not going to stop us, nor will we let it be an excuse for us as a school and a year group to achieve anything less than perfection.

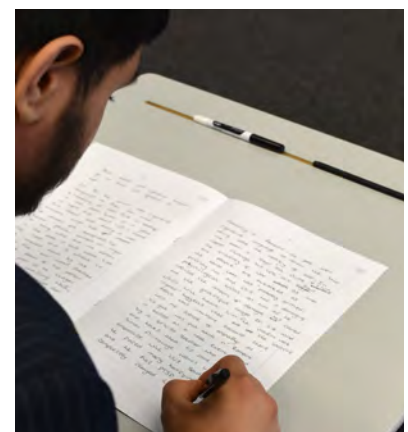
Time. Time as many of our teachers say is not on our side. We have very little of it left, which is why we need to make the most

of every second, hold on to every word of our educators and make the most of all the excellent tools our school provides us with. We have been given a chance like no other year group to complete GCSEs with some removed content or a topic list. Let's not let this opportunity fall out of our hands. It would be foolish to let this opportunity go to waste! We can achieve the best grades in the history of the school; all we have to do is put in the graft for the final stretch to our exams.

Now I understand, sometimes finding that elusive motivation to study can be hard work. Some days you've got it, some days you just haven't and you don't know where to start. But think about this: you have spent roughly eleven years in education so far. These exams will account for the past 11 years of your life! Would you want those grades to show that you're capable of only so much after 11 years of education? Do you want to be looking back to this year saying 'only if I revised more' or 'only if I focussed in class'? Of course, not! So, let's get the best grades we can this summer and make every second count till our last exam in June.

And finally I want to leave you with my favourite verse from the poem 'If' by Rudyard Kipling:

*"If you can fill the
unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth
of distance run
Yours is the Earth and
everything that's in it
And - which is more -
you'll be a Man, my son!"*



**Mohammad Usman -
Head Boy 2021-2022**

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE



So as my plane lands into Manchester, I turn my phone on to see several messages from former classmates about how our former high school posted something about me - when I opened it it really did bring a sense of pride and encouragement whilst being in the very setting I would like to see myself in. I'm proud and honoured to say that I'm member of Eden Boys' School's Alumni

from the class of 2020 (Part of the Star Academies trust). Farhan Bhayat, Saleh Islam, Asiyah Ravat, Michelle Rabicano, Abdullah Dangor as well as many more teachers, non-teaching staff and everyone who's involved within this high-achieving and prestigious school - thank you for always pushing us to reach our potential and then some more. I hope this inspires current students at the school and other schools in

the trust; especially those who are looking into the aviation industry. If you ever need advice, do feel free to drop a message and discuss your thoughts - will do my best to help! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Amaan Ukaye and I left Eden in 2020. If you dare to dream, your aspirations will come true.



HUMANITIES

Being a part of humanities club has really opened up my mind to things that I never knew before. For example, I never knew people travelled so many places the world and knowing that was really an exceptional experience" - **Mikael Sarwar Y10**

Being a part of humanities club is the part of my life that I needed to expand my knowledge. Mr. Hussain has always made the club the best and inspirational towards me and many others. - **Ibrahim Ali Y8**

"Mr. Hickman, Mr Hussain and Miss Farooq make the club fun and also a place where people can socialise about their favourite subjects" - **Zain Mohamed Y10**

We are so proud of our pupils **Hamza & Umar** playing for Warwickshire County Cricket Club in Sri Lanka during the February half term.



Mohammed Umar Shaikh
Y11
Eden Boys School,
Knowle & Dorridge CC

Cousin of Hamza, Umar is an off spinner and right-handed batsman who was a regular for Knowle & Dorridge's 1st XI in 2021. The 16-year-old's skilful spin bowling brought him 46 pathway wickets, many for the U18s, and he also took 19 wickets in the Birmingham League Premier Division.



Hamza Shaikh Y11
Eden Boys School,
Knowle & Dorridge CC

Another batsman full of potential, as shown by more than 1,000 runs last summer, including 921 for the pathway sides. Hamza also looked comfortable on elevation to the 2nd XI and scored his first Birmingham League ton for Knowle & Dorridge against Leamington in July.

'Nurturing today's young people, inspiring tomorrow's leaders'

Our pupils are encouraged to raise their aspirations, 'Nothing is impossible if you put your mind and hard work in reaching your goal'. Careers Education and Guidance in school is meant to help our pupils feel confident about their future. Happy in the knowledge that when they leave school, they will have made decisions about their education and learning that will have been right for them. Education is the key to any sectors of the industry our pupil decides to move into. Young people are our future generation, our future, doctors, engineers, dentists, teachers, footballers and managers.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

*“To forget the dead
would be akin
to killing them a
second time”*



Our year 9 students took part in a Spoken Word Performance, showcasing the poetry of Pastor Niemöller.
“Learning from Genocide for a better future”

“It happened, therefore it can happen again”

Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the atrocities of Hitler’s regime and remember the victims of Nazi persecution, and also seeks to raise awareness of

genocides which have occurred around the world since WWII, such as those in Cambodia, Bosnia, Darfur and Rwanda. The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2022 is One Day, which can be

interpreted in different days . It encourages everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to ‘be the light’ before, during and after genocide.

UKRAINE APPEAL

The conflict in Ukraine has affected millions of innocent families and children. At Eden Boys, we are proud to have once again showcased our tremendous humanitarian spirit and made an effort to help those suffering. In association with UNICEF charity we raised a total of £540.23 to help children suffering in the Ukraine. We hope this effort goes some way to ease the suffering of all those involved.



EDEN'S FOOD BANK



Eden Foodbank upholds the school's virtues of service, teamwork, ambition, and respect (STAR). Our star pupils commit their own precious time to serving their community every Friday from 2:30pm - 3:30pm. Volunteer pupils help package non-perishable food items supporting Mr Hussain who delivers the foodbank every week.

Eden Foodbank offers a large variation of non-perishable food items. These are tinned

vegetables, sweetcorn, pasta, soups, cereals, and tea/coffee. Our foodbank doesn't only provide food, but also distributes hygiene packs, consisting of hand wash, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products. The foodbank is funded by parent donations, and funding received from Tesco's and Lendlease Foundation, who also take pride with our foodbank.

Our pupils develop a sense of empathy in helping the less fortunate within the

community, regardless of their race or faith. They respect all members that are part of their community by not discriminating against them. Our STAR pupils, Mubin, Mustafa, Shahwaib & Rian stay behind every week after school to ensure they provide service to community and work towards attaining their STAR Diploma.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The Science department facilitated and got involved with several exciting national and local opportunities linked to British Science Week. Mars Day on Monday enabled pupils to engage in swapping of ideas on how man can survive conditions on Mars, with pupils from other schools. STEM Club engaged in the theme of the week for British Science Week, which was growth. Pupils swabbed a range of sites around school and cultured micro-organisms, to identify areas which contained the most micro-organisms.

A famous scientists quiz on Wednesday, led to all stakeholders engaging in British Science Week. Pupils and staff engaged in

naming the scientist and which scientific discipline (Biology/Chemistry/Physics). On the final day, Friday, class 7.4 undertook an investigation which applied to a vocational context of which was the best

antacid. Pupils used and applied their knowledge of indicators and neutralisation, to this problem. Pupils in 7S3 undertook a challenge to develop the most stable tower structure using newspaper and Sellotape.



FOR THE LOVE OF READING



World Book Day is always a big event in the Eden calendar, and this year was no exception with many students and staff members coming in dressed in a huge variety of costumes, inspired by comic books, fairy tales, young adult fiction and more! Students in Years 9 and 10 were lucky to witness the exceptional talents of Dreadlock Alien, a performance poet with a knack for rhyming names and breaking down barriers to literacy, whilst our Year 7 and 8 students competed in Eden's Got Talent, a poetry recital competition that showcased the best and brightest of our budding orators. Subhan Ashraf (8D) took the top prize for his inspired performance of John Agard's Flag, with Mubin Rahman (7A) coming second and Ousainou Bojang (8A) in third.

There were plenty of other activities throughout the day for staff and students, including a form quiz, a themed lunch menu (designed by Year 7 students), a Facebook competition in which students had to match staff members' baby photos to their favourite book, and a competition for the best-dressed staff member/student. Overall, the day was a huge success, helping to contribute to the vibrant culture of literacy and reading that is very much alive at Eden Boys'.

The English Department also ran a very successful creative writing and illustration competition to inspire students to respond imaginatively to books they have read throughout the year in Star Readers and beyond. We had some fantastic submissions across the year groups with Zain Mohamed (10C) winning in Year 10, Tanbir Alam (9B) winning in Year 9, Tushar Ahmed (8A) winning in Year 8 and Mohammed Mizan winning in Year 7. (9B) winning in Year 9, Tushar Ahmed (8A) winning in Year 8 and Mohammed Mizan winning in Year 7.



★ ★ ★
STAR
READERS
★ ★ ★

SNOWDON ADVENTURE

Saturday 26th March, Mr. Bhayat and Mr Younis saw a few brave Year 11 students go on an epic adventure to Snowdonia national park. They hiked to the top of the mountain with ease.

We were also the first school in the trust who have conquered Mount Snowdon which is a huge accomplishment. The students all loved the day out and Alhamdulillah they raised over £3000.00 for the Ramadan appeal.

The Year 11s who were our heroes:

- *Riyyaad Salam Y11*
- *Mohammed Yaqoub Y11*
- *Sahil Khan Y11*
- *Ridhwan Hoque Y11*
- *Mohammed Malik Y11*
- *Umar Adam Y11*
- *Mohammad Rahman Y11*
- *Haseeb Ishaq Y11*
- *Mohammad Usman Y11*
- *Shahan Mahmood Y11*
- *Waleed Chohan Y11*

We would also like to urge all students to join our next expedition to Mount Snowdon in the summer. To be eligible, you will need to fundraise £250.00 with all proceeds going to our Ramadan appeal.



FUTURE LEADER

YOUTH CITY BOARD MEMBER FOR BIRMINGHAM

By Mikael Sarwar. Y10

As a member of the Youth City Board, we have many advantages. At one of our meetings previously, we went across Birmingham to Longbridge where we met the Commonwealth Mascot, Perry the Bull! As this was only one of our first meetings, it was understandable to say that we felt quite awkward being there. We hadn't made many friends and our only comfort was having someone there that we knew, each other.

As time went on, we got involved with even more stuff that enabled a wider range of opportunities for us.

Being a part of the Youth City Board for Birmingham has really opened my mind to greater possibilities as we are the next generation so we should be able to make the decisions that we will be living in. We all hear about the phrase "voting" but we may not necessarily want that party to be voted for and we may find it frustrating to find that we don't have a say in what goes on in our city. As members, we can make decisions using our Youth Voice (which is essentially making sure the young people around Birmingham get their thoughts and concerns heard and made aware of) which can influence major things. For example, I went to Liverpool to meet with their youth group for the Commonwealth Games and found that their group wasn't as proficient as our own one here in Birmingham. To ensure, they didn't feel as important as us,

we played a few ice breakers and got to know them and how their group operated. Upon realising that they hadn't been formed until recently, we decided to help them and show them how things are done. When the time came to leave, we looked back and saw what a difference us helping them made, which was incredible to see with our own eyes.

I also got a chance to be on a Grant Panel. This essentially was a panel that allowed the youth, from the ages of 11-18, to apply for the grant of an individual (£150) or a group (£300). They were notified through a leaflet that went out to all the Youth Groups around the country and allowed them to apply for this. We had their grants on one side and the checklist on another. Me and the rest of the panel got together and went through each one. On the application form, they had to include why they wanted the grant obviously but also, how it would affect/improve their mental, physical, and emotional states. This intrigued me because we could only give the grant to one individual/ group so we had to be very strict. Furthermore, it opened my mind to how other people's minds worked, and it was very interesting to see the kinds of things that would improve people's mental health.

As well as this, I was chosen to be a judge on a panel for the Baton Bearer Operations Team. For those who don't know what the Baton bearers do, I can tell you now, they hold a big responsibility. They carry the

Queen's Baton that was passed around throughout all participating countries and then back to the host city – Birmingham! They carry the Baton all through England until it reaches Birmingham and the Commonwealth Games cannot start until the Baton is passed around and goes through all of the Commonwealth countries. What happened with this was they had to apply to become a Baton Bearer and we got trained how to score these applications from a 0 to a 25 which is still ongoing. The criteria they had to ensure they had was to have the trait of a good role model, willing to partake in physical activities and more.

Overall, we are grateful to Mr S. Ravat for firstly, getting us involved right from the beginning and secondly, always making sure we were kept up to date with everything and making sure we got enough time to do the things we needed to do with the Youth City Board. We believe that it was not only each other's encouragement to become a member of the Youth City Board, but it was also Mr Ravat's.



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021/2022

Term	First Day of Term	Half Term	End of Term
Autumn 2021	Wed 1st Sept	Mon 25th Oct - Fri 29th Oct	Fri 17th Dec
Spring 2022	Wed 5th Jan	Mon 21st Feb - Fri 25th Feb	Fri 8th Apr
Summer 2022	Tue 26th Apr	Mon 30th May - Fri 3rd Jun	Wed 20th Jul

Eid-ul-Fitr 1440 – Tuesday 3rd May and Wednesday 4th May 2022*

Eid-ul-Adha 1440 – Monday 11th July 2022*

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



Eden Boys

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