

ISSUE 14  
WINTER  
2022

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**EDEN BIRMINGHAM  
REMEMBERS...**

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**STAR READ ALOUD**

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*Good memories  
of Her Majesty*





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# WELCOME

Sumeya Bhikhu, Principal

As we approach the end of the first term, I am sure everyone is grateful for a sense of normality being restored to our school setting. As the corridors are once again abuzz with students, we truly appreciate what we missed over the past couple of years. I am sure those to benefit the most have been the students who had previously been secluded to their home bases.

As we approach the end of 2022, we reflect on a year of much change. The uneasy political landscape has seen three different Prime Ministers as the country battles against challenges both at home and abroad.

The country also experienced a change in monarchy as the likely unsurpassable reign of Queen Elizabeth came to an end. Her 70 years of unwavering service oversaw the transformation of Britain into the modern society it is today.

This illustrates the importance for students to adapt to a fast changing world and education is a vital component in developing these skills.

Armistice Day saw the school join the country in remembering those service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation. The school came together to pay its respects and joined ceremonies across the city.

This past year has also seen the school continue its support for charitable causes both at home and abroad. Students, staff, and parents deserve to be commended on this achievement in spite of financial constraints due to the cost of living crisis. Amongst the causes we raised funds for was the Pakistan flood appeal and Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Charitable activities help nurture an ethos within students to assist and aid others less fortunate. This goes a long way in developing a respect and forbearance towards people of all faiths and backgrounds - a value our school works hard in instilling in students.

May I also take this opportunity to remind all our students about the importance of reading. The benefits and value of reading cannot be emphasised enough, and the upcoming holidays could well be the perfect time to pick up that book we have been putting off.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD BOY

Hard work, dedication, sacrifice - are all qualities asked of a Head Boy. I began my journey to head boy from the day I joined this school. I used to dream of that coveted day I could apply to become Head Boy. And now in year 11, that dream came true. Over the years, my leadership skills developed as I used my student council experience along with the leadership skills, I learnt through my journey with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets. Becoming a non-commissioned officer in the Air Cadets pushed me out of my comfort zone to develop my qualities as a leader and taught me a discipline I never believed I could achieve. This further pushed me as the Head Boy to put myself out there and lead by example, which has already

had a noticeable impact on many students.

Now as we look to the future, I wish to push the student body to strive for the best. I, as Head Boy along with my Deputy Head Boy will evaluate and discuss any issues, concerns, ideas and suggestions from the Student Voice and try our best along with the Senior Leadership Team to embed these ideas into our school society. As our school motto says: "nurturing today's young people, inspiring tomorrow's leaders".

I wish through my time as Head Boy to bring out the best in every single student across the school in whatever they strive to succeed in.

**Naveed Najib**  
Head Boy



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of October, we at Eden Boys School celebrated the rich cultural diversity of our community by commemorating Black History Month. We firmly believe that black and ethnic history is part of world history and should not be relegated to a single month. During this month we make a special effort to look at the contributions of black and ethnic pioneers, soldiers, and scientists.

We conducted an assembly on Walter Tull - a famous footballer of mixed heritage who played for some of the best teams in the Premier League such as Tottenham Hotspur, Northampton Town and Rangers. Not only was he one of the best footballing talents of his time, but he was also the first player at Northampton Town to enlist in the British Army, serving in the famous so-called 'Football Battalions', made up of Premier League players. He became one of the first

mixed-heritage officers in the British Army. Tragically he was killed in action in France.

We delivered a lesson on Mansa Musa, the famous and celebrated King of the West African Empire of Mali, who by many accounts was the richest man in history. As well as being incredibly wealthy he was patron of the arts and education, founding famous schools and universities such as the university of Timbuktu. He is perhaps most well-known for his pilgrimage (Hajj) to Makkah.

On his one year long journey, he gave out so much gold and wealth that it was common to see even poor people walking around with bars of gold in towns where he had visited.

Students looked at Black influences in our society in lessons such as PSHE and the Windrush migration in Geography. The Art department created a fantastic display inspired by African tribal masks. We will continue to celebrate the diversity of our community for many years to come!

**The History Department**





# QUEENS BATON RELAY

I was given the fantastic privilege to be on the 2022 Commonwealth Youth Voices Group (part of the Birmingham Youth City Board) by our Careers Lead, Mr S Ravat, for which I am very thankful as it has exposed me to countless opportunities. From this position I became a fully-fledged member of the Youth City Board, Youth Voices, Youth COVID Champions and Youth City Board - Education sub-group. Last year, I became the lead for my school for the Birmingham Youth Service - peer action collective (PAC) research project looking into *“What is it that children and young people experience that influence them to become involved in youth violence or not.”*

In addition to this, I was invited to the Youth Oscars where Mr S. Ravat received an email where he was told that he had to make sure that I attended the Youth Oscars but without causing me to suspect anything.

When we arrived at the building, I was looking forward to congratulating those lucky enough to win an award and throughout the night, I was feeling particularly happy for everyone but only half an hour before the event finished, the last award was called, and the host's exact speech was:

“This young person has been involved for about two years now, recently being involved with the Commonwealth. This person came to light and is a quiet young man and has always put himself forward in the group naturally taking a lead in making sure that others get involved with their views. He is always the first to step up and offer support to others. He has found his own voice and is gaining confidence. Ladies and gentlemen for the Outstanding Achievement Award, as the only one of the evenings, can we give a huge, huge carnival roar for... Mikael Sarwar!”

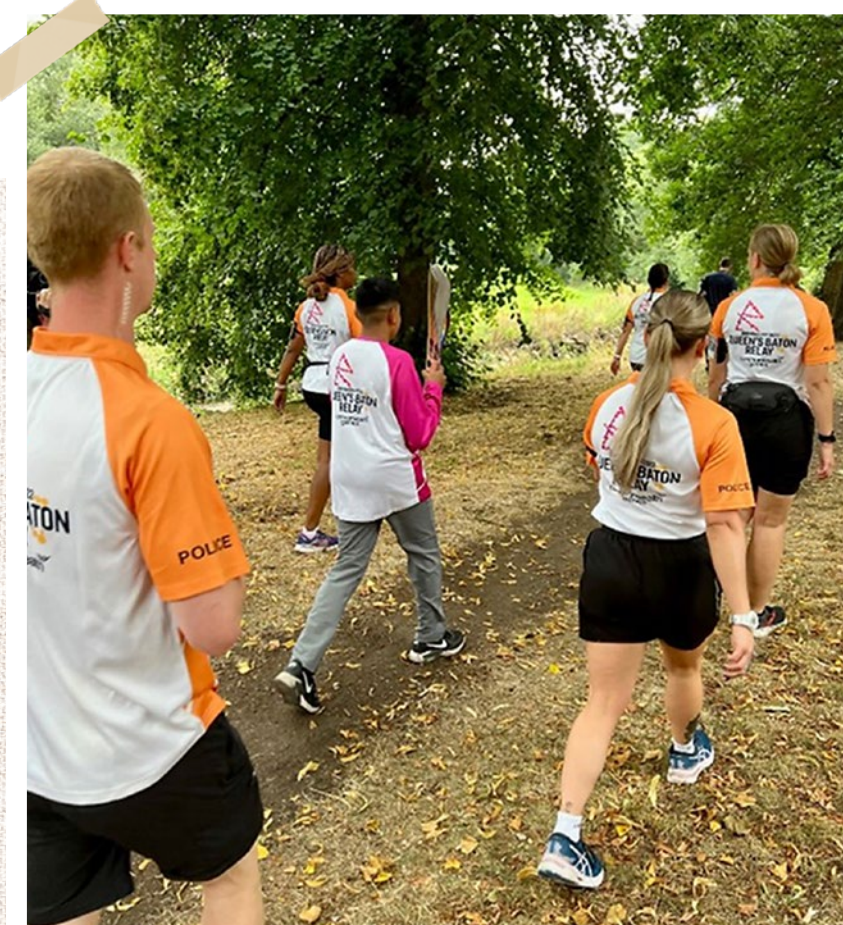
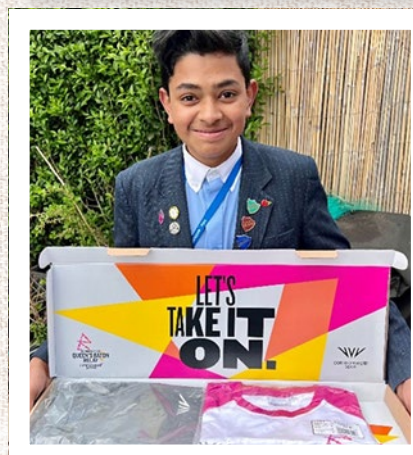
It was a pleasant shock to hear my name being called out and I was momentarily stunned as to what to do. I realised that I was supposed to go up and collect my award and this photo is of the award I proudly received!

As part of the youth groups, I have also been selected for the esteemed positions of sitting on judging panels where the youth are entirely responsible for the decision-making process. I have sat as a judge on the

Commonwealth Games Young Person Grant Panel and was also on the judging panel for admissions to the UK Youth Parliament. All these various roles require me to engage my personal time to attend meetings and training to fulfil my various roles, but it is entirely worth it as it is extremely rewarding knowing as the next generation, it is vital we put ourselves forward to influence decisions of the future and have our say. The meetings I attend have been online - sometimes from school but more often at home, at the offices in the City Centre and Longbridge as well as in Liverpool where we showed them the ropes over the two days we were there when we discovered they were only newly established.

In February, this year I was nominated to be one of the Queen's Baton Bearers for the Queen's Baton relay in the lead up to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022. I was humbled by this nomination but at the same time I honestly did not think I would be successful as there would be a lot of other nominees of an extremely high calibre and realistically, how could I compare?

As part of the Youth City Board, I was also selected to be one of the 5 judges on the Youth Selection Panel (Birmingham) for the Queen's Baton Bearers. When I received the email inviting me for the training to become a judge, imagine the turmoil I was facing as I recognised there was a conflict of interest and believed I could not do both, yet both were considered once in a lifetime opportunity. On the one hand, being a judge on the panel was an esteemed responsibility and an assured position whereas being a Baton Bearer was also an esteemed responsibility but still an uncertain position. Also, I could not judge myself! Somewhat deflated, I declined the training to be a judge, however, the following day I received an email from the content creator for the Commonwealth Games 2022 to confirm I was able to be on the judge's panel as well as be a Baton Bearer nominee but that I wouldn't receive my own application and likewise I would need to flag up any applications of anyone who I may know. Sorrow soon turned to absolute delight!



Baton Bearers had to collaboratively score each of the applications from 0-25 and there really were lots! We had to discuss each application and come to an agreement for each score which took us late into the evening of the final meeting to meet the deadline. Nominations were open to all and the criteria each application was scored on was

- always willing to take on a challenge and has a unique and inspiring story;
- has made a meaningful contribution to sport, education, the arts, culture, or charity;
- is a figure of inspiration that positively challenges others to achieve their best;
- has taken on a challenge or cause and made a positive impact within their community.

On the 26th of April there was an elaborate scheme to make me check my emails, which I will not go into in too much detail, but I was taken out of class which left me pondering what I could have done wrong. Uncertainty soon evolved to euphoria when I read the email confirming I had been selected to be one of the Queen's Baton Bearers and I was also exhilarated the

staff at school approached me to share their support as it really made me feel assured, I was part of the Eden Boys' 'family'. I could not have found out in a better way.

What this means to me is immeasurable, to be a part of history in the making - it is such a great honour to be bestowed upon me. As the host city for the Commonwealth Games 2022, Birmingham is hosting the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay - a journey which brings together and celebrates communities across the Commonwealth, during the build-up to the Games of which I am to be a tiny part of. I feel immensely proud to be given this opportunity knowing the baton has gone from the hands of the Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, on an epic 294-day journey by land, air, and sea through the 72 nations and territories through the Commonwealth and passed through my hands!

My uniform arrived and of course I had to try it on. I am forever grateful to my family and my school (many of them senior members, they know who they are!) as without them and their support none of the above would have been possible.

#QBR2022

The thrill as I saw the Baton coming towards me was incredible, the overwhelming feeling of amazement as it struck me, the Queen and many other important people held and would hold this object! I stood proudly with the Baton before going on the 200-metre walk. Someone told me that it weighed around a bag of sugar but when you are holding it, it feels like lead as you have this silly constant fear of dropping the baton whilst walking with it (seemingly silly now but the fear was unreal!) Afterwards, I was approached by a prominent member of society, none other than Giles Latcham, a long-time BBC Reporter. He interviewed me and my Mum which was so exhilarating in itself! Some photos are below from carrying the Baton and being interviewed by Giles Latcham.

By Mikael Sarwar, Y11  
Eden Boys Birmingham



# EDEN BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERS

As part of the Armistice week commemorations Eden Boys school Birmingham delivered various activities and trips to honour and remember the millions of service men and women who served in the armed forces and gave their lives up in the many conflicts around the world since World War 1.

The Humanities Enrichment students sold Poppies to staff and students and raised nearly £200 for the Royal Britain Legion. Also, during form time students learnt about the significant contributions made by Black and Asian soldiers during the two World Wars.

As part of the remembrance commemorations, the History faculty also organised a visit to the National Arboretum Memorial near Burton on Trent to pray for the fallen and take part in a special Remembrance Day service. They represented the school immaculately and all enjoyed themselves. They even got to take some pictures with her majesty's royal helicopter, the transport for the Duke of Gloucester who was in attendance.

The Geography faculty also took part in the Birmingham City Centre Remembrance Service when they visited the City Centre as part of their GCSE Geography fieldwork trip on Armistice Day.

On Armistice Day the whole school community observed a two-minute silence at the stroke of 11 a.m. followed by the playing of the Last Post.

During assembly to promote Armistice Day, Mr Hussain, subject lead for History and Mr Ravat presented to the KS3 and KS4 on the importance of remembrance and the use of the Poppy as a symbol of remembrance.

In conclusion, Eden Boys School know how important it is for students to appreciate and recognise the sacrifices of service men and women and normal civilians when protecting the freedoms and the democratic society we enjoy today.

**Mr M Hussain**  
**Mr B Ravat**  
History Teachers





# ENRICHMENT

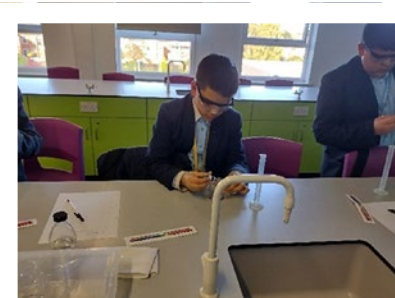
Enrichment is key to ensuring all students can take part in an activity which builds on their knowledge and skills of a subject; increases their enjoyment and love of a topic and gives them an opportunity which is different and exciting and challenging.

This half term at Eden Boys, the staff have worked hard to run a range of clubs which the boys can take part in. Over this term, the students have had the opportunity to build skills in Archery and Fencing which is an innovative and thrilling option for the boys to participate in. The boys have also joined Football and Cricket clubs each week - these are proving to be very popular with lots of attendance and waiting lists! The boys have also been attending clubs such as Chess Club, Nasheed Club, Art Club and STEM club.

In STEM club the boys have had lots of excitement when they have worked on different techniques to investigate which group has developed the best balloon rocket. Pupils were investigating which balloon could travel the furthest and the quickest! Students in Year 7 and 8 are investigating volumes for neutralisation – neutralisation of sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid using Universal Indicator.

The boys have also supported community services around school with good attendance to Breakfast club where the boys volunteer to support staff and students. The boys have also supported the food bank and generously donated their time, every week, to give back to the wider community.

To build on this there are more exciting opportunities for the boys to join many other clubs with spaces still available in Debate Club, Mock Trial, Book Club and Humanities club! It is never too late to join up and develop a new skill!



# BREAKFAST CLUB

Every single morning in the UK, as many as 1.8 million children start the day at risk of hunger. It is shocking to learn the extent of child hunger across the country, but sadly, at Eden Boys School this is the reality for some of our pupils - they arrive at school simply too hungry to learn.

We have witnessed first-hand the positive impact a healthy breakfast has on their education. Since starting breakfast club, we are struck by the difference it makes to our children, including:

- Children who were previously late are arriving on time, and not missing key hours of learning.
- Pupils are noticeably more settled and ready to learn at the start of the school day.
- Our children have better concentration levels and are more engaged with their learning.

Over the years, chronic, even intermittent hunger can take its toll on our children - and it affects their exam results as well as their quality of life. We want to ensure that the children at Eden Boys School have the best possible start to the day, and therefore start in life, and by providing a healthy and nutritious breakfast, we know we are removing a significant barrier to learning.

Providing our children with a free healthy breakfast, has proved to us how vital it is for us to continue to provide a free healthy breakfast to the children at risk of hunger.

This year we are fortunate to receive funding from Tesco. The £1000 grant will subsidise the cost of the breakfast club. Pupils who attend the breakfast club receive orange juice/squash; toast; a range of cereals – Coco Pops, Rice Krispies, Shredded Wheat

and Cornflakes. Eden Boys breakfast club is delivered every day from 7.20 a.m. to 7.45 a.m. This is delivered by the Pastoral Team and Breakfast club monitors:

**Saeed Miah** (yr8),  
**Suleman Adil** (yr8),  
and **Aqeeb Ishaq** (yr8).



# SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Year 9 CWG2022 Connectors attended the Birmingham Connect All Virtual Celebration Event. Developing leadership skills and teamwork.  
#YouthSportTrust



Introducing archery club. Students exploring and developing skills and knowledge of a specific sport.



We are excited to embrace the 2022 #FIFA World Cup hosted in Qatar! Our world cup programme has everyone engaged in following the biggest football competition in the world. The most prestigious football tournament in the world. More than 3 billion viewers watched its previous version. We are keen to embrace the opportunity to bring the Arabic language and culture to life. This will be the first World Cup ever to be held in the Arab World. As part of our whole school World Cup Programme, we have developed a wealth of fantastic resources and events to promote the competition for Eden Boys Birmingham!



Our pupils go the extra mile to fundraise for BBC Children in Need – Our Eden market penalty shootout, cross bar challenge and kick ups competition raised money to support & help improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people around the UK.

Introducing fencing club! Students are developing good sportsmanship, self-discipline, and a sense of accomplishment.  
#Wellbeing  
#Buildingresilience



Commonwealth Games is awesome! Eden Boys' Birmingham pupils trying lots of different sports and activities. Wrestling, boxing, gymnastics, yoga, badminton, tennis, squash, football, cricket, basketball, and even Bhangra dancing! Another great experience for our young people. Pupils also got to meet professional athletes who will be competing in the CG22.



# STAR READ ALOUD

During which pupils listen to a book from our exciting Star Readers series being read aloud by fluent readers in the classroom. Extensive research has proven that purposeful whole class reading strategies can improve engagement, confidence, and fluency in secondary school pupils. Ensuring every child has the necessary skills they need to read is an essential component of literacy education and here at Eden Boys we are doing our utmost to elevate these skills in our students.

By encouraging reading through our Read Aloud and Star Reader initiatives we are enabling our students to not only learn across the curriculum but also to access numerous aspects of daily life, magnifying the opportunities that they have available to them in the future.

All Year groups are regularly reading and enjoy a huge range of books, from The Kite Runner to Artemis Fowl. Here's just a handful of students reviews of the books from this term:

*Kite Runner is a novel like no other, which is why it became a New York bestseller for over two years. Khaled Hosseini beautifully narrates the story of the book's protagonist, Amir, and his inner turmoil with failing to stand up for himself and for his closest friend, Hasan during their childhood years in Afghanistan. The plot revolves around his desire for redemption as well as the tumultuous events that plagued Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion. The book is divided into three sections: Amir's childhood, immigration to the USA and his return to Afghanistan to face his demons.*

*Ultimately, the novel is about relationships -specifically between Amir and Hasan, Baba, Rahim Khan, Soraya and Sohrab- and how the complex relationships in our lives overlap and connect to make us the people we are.*

**Eshan Khan,**  
Year 11 reading The Kite Runner

*The Book Thief is an engaging novel set during the second world war, about a young German girl, Liesel protecting a young German man, Max Vandenburg by hiding him in the basement. As readers, we are immediately involved with these indelible characters who show bravery and compassion. Each character captivates our imagination with their humour and their generosity of spirit. Characters such as Rudy are guaranteed to make you laugh, his hyperactive behaviour carries the story through. I am totally engrossed in this book; I can't wait to discover the fate of these intriguing characters.*

**Nahyan Al Imran,**  
Year 10 reading The Book Thief

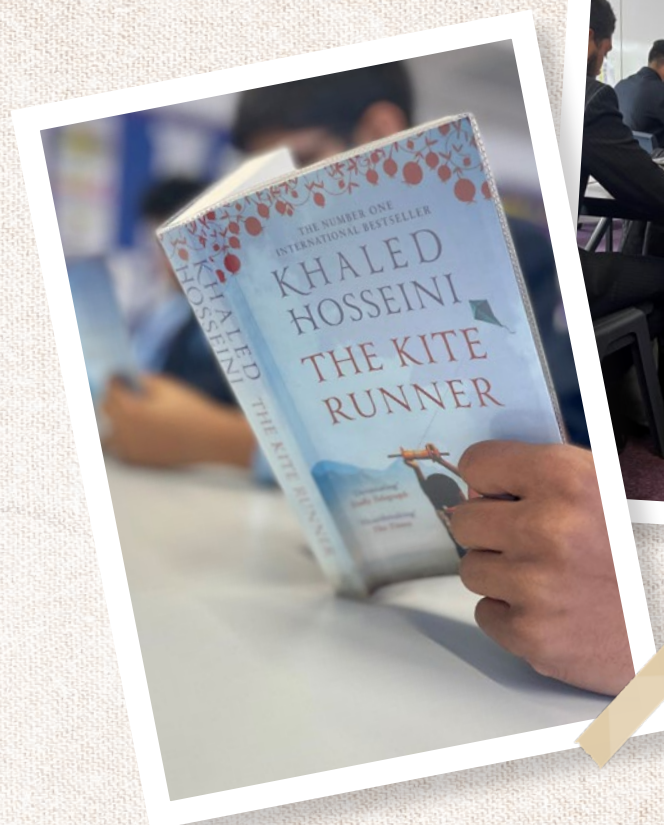
*In the book 'Salt to the Sea' the characters drive to escape the clutch of an unknown fate, in the horror show that was the World War. It is truly intriguing as they strive towards a sanctuary that they fear might be non-existent. My interest has been ignited by our new 'Read Aloud' time in form. The idea that students listen to their teachers and peers builds up the skill of teamwork, and helps you pay attention to fully understand the story. Teamwork is not a one-way street, so the readers are encouraged to be loud, clear and confident to allow listeners to paint a clear picture of the story.*

**Sufyaan Qamar,**  
Year 8 reading Salt to the Sea

In September, Eden Boys Birmingham launched a new reading initiative called 'Star Read Aloud'.

We know that getting literacy right in secondary school is absolutely critical at any time, but particularly right now and our Star Readers programme continues to go from strength to strength. Our students are now able to take out their chosen Star Reader book from the library, giving them more choice and flexibility which have given their reading a huge boost. Many students are on track to receive the Star certificate and our very own Silver, Gold and Platinum awards.

As we continue our World Book Culture throughout the year, we hope to develop all our young readers into 'readers for life' who will transfer all their reading memories and skills into all their future endeavours.





# FAITHS AND BELIEF FORUM

## SCHOOL LINKING PROGRAMME

Eden Boys' has been working closely with interfaith charity Faiths and Beliefs Forum. They have delivered a range of workshops aimed at giving our students a better understanding of beliefs and practices of other faiths and also learning to respect the beliefs and cultures of others. Continuing this work, this academic year the school will be linking with Bartley Green School. School linking will involve 3 link days, one at a neutral venue, one hosted at Eden Boys' and one hosted at Bartley Green School. The link days will provide our students with the opportunity to work collaboratively with students from different faiths and backgrounds on a range of creative and fun projects.



### The Month of Rabee' ul Awwal

Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the Prophet of Islam. Born in Makkah in 570, most of his early life was spent as a merchant. At the age of 40, Muslims believe Muhammad (peace be upon him) began to receive revelations from God that became the basis for the Qur'aan and the foundation of Islam. By 630, he had unified most of Arabia under a single religion before he passed away on 8th June 632. According to the Islamic calendar, both the birth and demise of Muhammad (peace be upon him) took place in the month of Rabee' ul Awwal. Currently, there are over 1.8 billion Muslims in the world who profess a deep, unconditional love for the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him).

In order to celebrate the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), Eden Boys' school encouraged and engaged with a number of initiatives during the month of Rabee' ul Awwal.

- The Salawaat (Durood) Challenge
- Story Time – A Journey with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)
- Form Activities on the life and character of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)
- Sunnah Food Items
- Keynote Assembly on Seerah
- The Dress of Simplicity

*“He must be called the Savior of Humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it much-needed peace and happiness.”*

(George Bernard Shaw)

### Sunnah Fast Programme

As part of our Faith offer, the school launched the Sunnah Fast Programme in Autumn 2. This is an initiative that the school runs every year to encourage staff and students to revive and practise the Sunnah (prophetic tradition) of fasting on Mondays and Thursdays, especially during the winter months. The purpose of the fasts is to encourage our pupils to self-discipline, sacrifice, and empathy for those less fortunate.

### Celebrating the Qur'an

This term, after a lengthy faith audit, we were able to identify over 75 students at Eden Boys Birmingham studying to memorise the Qur'an. That is, inshallah, 75 Huffadh in the making. Subhanallah! We were amazed at the aspirations of our students, their families and the Madrasahs that they attend. We pray that Allah Ta'ala grants our students every success in reaching this great milestone. Ameen.

From amongst this group, nine students have already completed their Hifdh and who are now officially the Imams at our school who amongst themselves lead Dhur and Jumu'ah Salah. Midst these Huffadh is Salahuddin Bin-Adeel who completed his Hifdh at the tender age of eleven and is currently studying in year 7.

# CAREERS

With the pandemic behind us and the country as back to normality, face to face assemblies, workshops, and external trips are also back to normal. This year, careers guidance and support has been full steam ahead. Pupils have taken part in workshops, assemblies from external visitors, educational visits and trips to Universities to attend careers events.

Our year 10 pupils attended The National Apprenticeship and Education Event at the Millennium Point, Birmingham. The National Apprenticeship & Education Event has been designed to inspire the next generation of young people no matter what background. They do this through apprenticeships, traineeships, T-levels and retraining opportunities. Quality advice, guidance and support are vital to ensure young people, school-leavers and pupils are inspired by the prospect of an apprenticeship as well as other career options.

At the national event, pupils received independent careers advice and met a host of employers, training providers and Universities, who provided face-to-face information about apprenticeships and other careers choices across in the Midlands.

Continuing with our Educational Visits, we found that the engineering sector is the most sought-after career options with our pupils. Many of our school leavers choose either civil, structural, manufacturing, chemical, aeronautical and mechanical engineering as their preferred career choice. With the rise in awareness of apprenticeships as post 16 destination Eden Boys pupils were invited to attend Make UK, Future Makers Event was also held at the Millennium Point, Birmingham. The show was a targeted event for those pupils who would benefit from gaining a wider understanding of Manufacturing and Engineering Apprenticeship opportunities.

Our Year 8's visited Oxford University, one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the world and met with lecturers and student ambassadors. The Oxford University trip focused on pupils receiving talks on aiming high, and no barriers to stop them achieving the grades and education to fulfil their dreams. Pupils were given a tour of the University college with the current ambassadors as well as the opportunity to participate in the 'Explore' critical thinking/debating session.

Eden Careers Fair 2022 had taken place in Autumn 1 and all of our 608 pupils had the opportunity to meet employers, colleges, universities and training providers. Pupils were given a practical demonstration in kinetic energy by Balfour Beaty Vinci. Pupils also met with BMet, Sandwell College, Central St Michaels Sixth form, Walsall College, South City College, Birmingham City University, Newmans University, Creative Access College, Civil Service, Cabinet office, Home Office.

Careers Fairs are an excellent way for students to hear what Further Education, Colleges, Universities and employers have to offer. Students can talk to different employers, gain an understanding of what their jobs entail or the different roles available, and the skills that are needed to be successful in today's economy. The aim to enable our educators to connect with a wide range of employers and employees who can speak to young people about their career path. By providing a diverse perspective on how they have approached their careers, students will be able to understand the different academic and vocational routes that are available to them. Careers Fairs are a great setting in which to showcase FE and HE settings in amongst the opportunities provided by other employers.





# EUROPEAN LANGUAGES DAY

Bonjour! Willkommen! ¡Hola! Aloud'

Every year, the 26th September marks the European Day of Languages. This is a day to celebrate the amazing variety of languages and cultural diversity in Europe. Learning a foreign language opens doors to fascinating new opportunities, understanding and immersing yourself in different cultures.

Europe is fortunate enough to enjoy a rich diversity of languages and cultures with 200 European languages, 24 Official EU languages and it is estimated around 60 regional or minority languages.

At Eden Boys' School, Birmingham, the whole school took part in the celebration by completing the 'Guess the country' quiz.

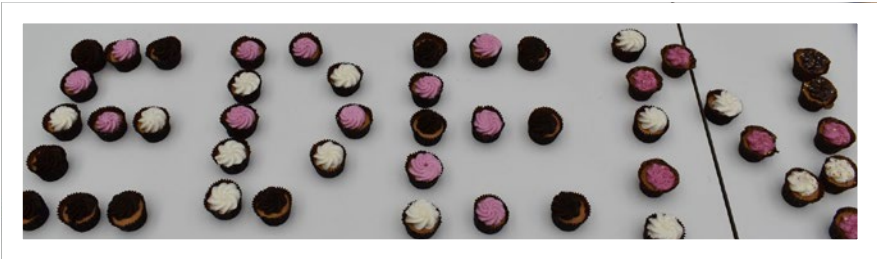
It was great to see our students and teachers getting involved in the celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the European Day of Languages. We all enjoyed the 'Guess the country' quiz which combined fun with learning!



# MACMILLAN CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Our pupils and staff have always been passionate about fundraising for the needy and vulnerable people in our society, both national and overseas. In the last 5 years the school has raised a phenomenal monetary amount of £103,407.

Since the start of the Academic Year 2022, pupils have raised £2100 for Macmillan Cancer. Pupils and staff brought in Cakes and Savouries to sell at the Macmillan cake sale. Some of the cakes were baked by our talented pupils and supporting parents. Many had donated Cakes, Biscuits, and Savouries, to be sold at the sale.



# EDEN FOODBANK

Since 2015 Eden Boys School has been operating a Foodbank, providing food packs to the vulnerable service users within the community. The foodbank is open every Friday from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, providing bags full of non-perishable food to the community who are struggling making ends meet. Families whose Universal Credit does not stretch far enough to cover utility bills and food; families who have no recourse to public funds; Families who have lost their employment due to the pandemic; families who are on low income and families who have no place to live.

Eden Foodbank is led by Mrs Pathan and pupils who encompass the ethos of service to communities. Mrs Pathan will ensure stock is replenished and the right items are available to our service users, including personal hygiene products. Food parcels consists of necessities, tea, coffee, cereals, pasta, rice, oil and other non-perishable items. This year our pupils have brought in non-perishable food for Harvest Time, which contributed to our depleting stock in the Foodbank.

With the rise in the cost of living, and in the aftermath of the Pandemic, the number of service users has increased. People from

diverse communities are taking advantage of the food parcels provided to them. Recently, former student accommodation in Birmingham City University is now being used to house homeless families. According to council documents the site holds 414 En-suite bedrooms, arranged in five-, six- and seven-bedroom flats and ten accessible En-suite bedrooms. Each room has a shower, WC and wash basin along with a bed, study desk, chair and wardrobe. Many of the residents of nearby streets and residents of Oscott Gardens Homeless family's accommodation have been using the Foodbank weekly.

# OPEN EVENING

Each year, Eden Boys Birmingham provides a fantastic opportunity for both parents and children to come visit us and see what Eden Boys is like, and what we are all about.

And this year was no different, because on the 6th October 2022, we had a multitude of families who attended and interacted with our amazing staff, as well as numerous students who volunteered their time to help out, including myself.

Much effort was put in as preparations were well underway days before the event. It was hard work; getting this sorted and getting that sorted, but together, the staff and students co-operated well and managed to host a very pleasant and helpful evening. Many of the Year 11 students who were

present acted as tour guides for every family, escorting them around the school, engaging with the parents and showcasing the various subject departments like Maths, English, Science, Art, History. Each department was represented by their respective teachers and students who brilliantly provided parents with insightful knowledge about the curriculum as well as answering questions that parents had. Each department also offered fun activities to both parents and children getting everyone involved, such as: quizzes, chess, painting and - my personal favourite - experiencing what the WW1 Trenches were like.

During the assembly, students also recited beautiful Nasheed's, showcasing their talent and potential.

On this day, the students really outshone themselves, especially Suhail Nadeem who led the pastoral team, and all the students demonstrated our STAR values: service, teamwork, ambition and respect.

I myself, was present, providing the tours initially, before performing my speech to the parents later on. The Principal, Mrs Bhikhu, also spoke to the parents and it was lovely to witness so many families who were interested in sending their sons to Eden Boys.

Finally, I believe this was our best opening evening yet, and I am positive that each parent and guardian left the school with an exceptional impression of Eden Boys, because at Eden Boys we are exceptional at everything.

# SCHOOL TERM DATES 2022/2023

| Term        | First Day of Term | Half Term                   | End of Term  |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Autumn 2022 | Thur 1st Sept     | Mon 24th Oct - Fri 28th Oct | Fri 16th Dec |
| Spring 2023 | Wed 4th Jan       | Mon 20th Feb - Fri 24th Feb | Fri 31st Mar |
| Summer 2023 | Mon 17th Apr      | Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd Jun  | Fri 21st Jul |

Eid-ul-Fitr 1445 – Thursday 20th April and Friday 21st April 2023\*  
Eid-ul-Adha 1445 – Wednesday 28th June and Thursday 29th June 2023\*  
*\*May be revised slightly according to the sighting of the moon.*



# A FEW OF OUR CONDOLENCES TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

"You have shown dignity in moments of adversity and shown the Royal Family in good light whatever the circumstances.  
Thankyou for your duty and service "

"Rest peacefully your majesty,  
thankyou for your 70 years of Service, not to mention the excitement you would bring to my hometown on your annual visit to Derby "

"Thankyou for your service and determination to our community and commonwealth "

"I am very thankful that the queen has devoted her life to the Country "

"We will never forget about you "



Eden Boys

Eden Boys' School, Birmingham,  
150 Wellhead Lane,  
Birmingham B42 2SY  
Tel: 0121 657 7070

Email: [info@ebbham.staracademies.org](mailto:info@ebbham.staracademies.org)  
[www.edenboysbirmingham.com](http://www.edenboysbirmingham.com)  
Twitter: @edenboys\_bham