

ISSUE 15
SPRING
2023

STAR

Stand Against Racism

How did we do it?

Holocaust Memorial Day

Let us reflect

British Science Week

Lets look at our DNA



*Celebrating
World Book Day 2023*

2

WELCOME

3-4

SERVICE

STAND AGAINST RACISM

HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY

5-6

TEAMWORK

CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE FIXTURE
ENRICHMENT CLUBS
FOOTBALL

7-11

AMBITION

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK
2023

STEM CLUB

BROOKLANDS GLIDER
WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

NEWS ARTICLE ABOUT
THE SCHOOL LINKING
PROGRAMME

GCSE EXAMS

12

RESPECT

THE STAR AWARDS

SCHOOL TERM DATES
2022/2023

WELCOME

Sumeya Bhikhu, Principal

With the dawn of the month of Ramadan, Muslims across the globe are striving to maximise its benefits and reap the rewards that this holy month brings. Along with fasting during the day, nights are spent in prayer with the main aim being to create taqwa within oneself and developing a level of spirituality to be carried over to the remaining eleven months of the year.

“O You who have believed, fasting was prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may attain Taqwa,”
[Quran 2:183]

Ramadan grants the added benefit of receiving multiple rewards for good deeds as opposed to outside of Ramadan. For this reason, charity holds great significance in this month. A single pound spent has the potential to earn up to hundreds and thousands in rewards.

Narrated Ibn ‘Abbas: The Prophet was the most generous of all the people, and he used to become more generous in Ramadan when Jibreel met him. Jibreel used to meet him every night during Ramadan to revise the Qur’an with him. Allah’s Messenger then used to be more generous than the fast wind. [Sahih al-Bukhari 3554]

The students, staff, parents and extended school community here at Eden Boys’ Birmingham have always been a massive support in supporting charitable activities whether it be raising money for the poor internationally or

helping feed the less fortunate locally and this was reflected by Eden Boys’ Birmingham being awarded the STAR award for service. This is a massive achievement and testament to the hard work and dedication that you all put in. May I take this opportunity to thank all involved and I remain optimistic that our Ramadan Charity appeal in 2023 will also be a success, Inshallah.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to parents for always showing great dedication in ensuring their child succeeds in whichever path they choose. The role of the parent in the nurturing of the child is second to none and a child’s education starts way before they set foot in any institute and that is in the lap of the parents. I hope this dedication can continue and working together with the school can bring every success to your son’s future.

These past few months have been action packed with various activities taking place at the school. We recently celebrated World Book Day which serves to create an awareness on the importance of reading. Our Year 8 students created a video on ‘STOP RACISM’ highlighting how crucial it is for young people to learn about equity and social justice so they can thrive in our increasingly global, multilingual and multicultural society.

I pray this Ramadan is blessed for all and look forward to your continued support.



Part of Star
www.staracademies.org

STAND AGAINST RACISM

The students at Eden Boys’ School, Birmingham came together to film a short piece about standing up against racism.

Why did we choose to do this?

We believed that racism was a big problem around the world, and we decided to act. We created this to support people who have or are facing racism and having a difficult time. We felt that racism was irrelevant, and we wanted to stop it. Racism is especially present in children’s lives and affect their mental health.

Why was it important for others to learn about racism?

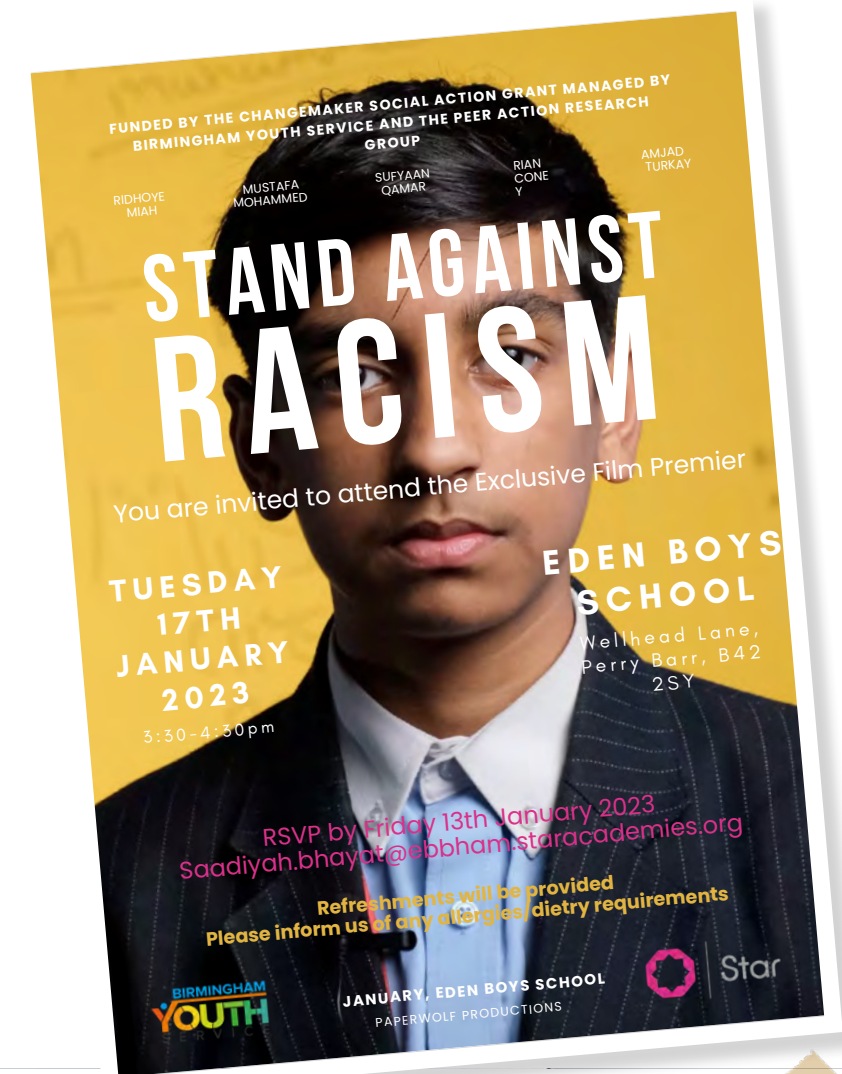
It is crucial for young people to learn about equality and social justice so they can thrive in our society. Racism is a problem all around the world which can hurt people no matter who they are or their importance in their community. People are blamed for things that are out of their control or things they have no relation to such as Muslims and terrorism and black people being criminals.

How did we do it?

This film took hours of brainstorming and filming to organise. We decided to focus on two key factors: racism and stereotypes. Stereotypes can be silly. But we need to understand when things go too far. This gave us a lot of contexts to film about and it was edited into one short film to try and assist the end of racism in our community. We were funded with £2000 to create this film. We premiered the movie on our school site and organised an event where we invited influential members of the community to participate and discuss the impact of racism.

A special thank you to our following pupils:

Ridhoye Miah
Mustafa Mohammed
Sufyaan Qamar
Mustafa Rian Coney
Amjad Turkey



www.edenboysbirmingham.com

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2023

HMD 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 other 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) 2023 was Ordinary people, which highlights the ordinary people who let genocide happen, the ordinary people who actively perpetrated genocide, and the ordinary people who were persecuted.

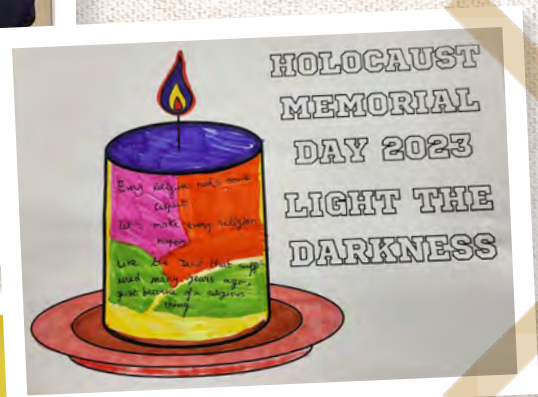
At Eden Boys' school, the students engaged in a wide range of activities to

learn about genocides around the world and to raise awareness of the Holocaust and the work of the Holocaust memorial Trust.

On Thursday 26th January 2023, students and staff joined the nationwide online ceremony to commemorate the Holocaust and listened to messages from important political and religious figures such as the Archbishop of Canterbury. All of Year 8 also joined a live webcast delivered by Trude Silman MBE who survived the Holocaust and shared her experiences of a dark period of human history.

During form time that week students watched videos and got involved in discussions on genocides in Bosnia,

Rwanda, and Sudan. In History lessons students engaged in learning about the Holocaust by studying the 3 stages of the Holocaust in Nazi Germany from the persecution of Jews to the separation, and finally the final solution and the systematic extermination of the Jewish community in Europe. Furthermore, Humanities and Art Enrichment club student produced a thought provoking display in the canteen to promote HMD 2023. This included getting many students to write messages for future generations to warn them of the dangers of genocides.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURE

The pupils had a special opportunity to attend a Champions League fixture between Manchester City and Leipzig. We had witnessed 7 goals! Erling Haaland with 5! Pupils had an absolute thrill, with

front seats at the Etihad Stadium. It was a memorable experience that provided a meaningful impact on the future of our pupils creating long lasting memories.

#STARSports
#ENRICHMENT

ENRICHMENT CLUBS

At Eden Boys' bustling enrichment program, here are some shots of our Rugby club and Gym club; see Zakariyyah Sayfurrahman demonstrating impressive full body strength through Calisthenics! Enrichment is a key part of our after-school provision to support the wider curriculum. The students participate in various clubs on different days, ranging from: Debate club, chess club, film club, to more physical clubs such as football, gym club and kickboxing.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

FOOTBALL

Meet the Year 11 football team who competed in an away friendly fixture. They worked exceptionally hard for this fixture, participating in after school training sessions in our local Doug Ellis Sports Centre.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2023

British Science Week 2023 started with assemblies by Ms Bisht and Mr Khan, informing pupils of the range of activities taking place in the science department during the week. The theme of British Science Week 2023 was connections.

Pupils engaged with a career in science session, where they enjoyed learning about some of the previous careers of teachers within the department. Pupils analysed information given to them where scientific skills were linked with specific professions. Pupils learned about how and why academic results are important and the career pathways that can be provided.

Year 7 pupils learned about the structure and function of DNA. All pupils engaged in extracting DNA from peas, which led to strands of DNA being observed in the pea mixture.

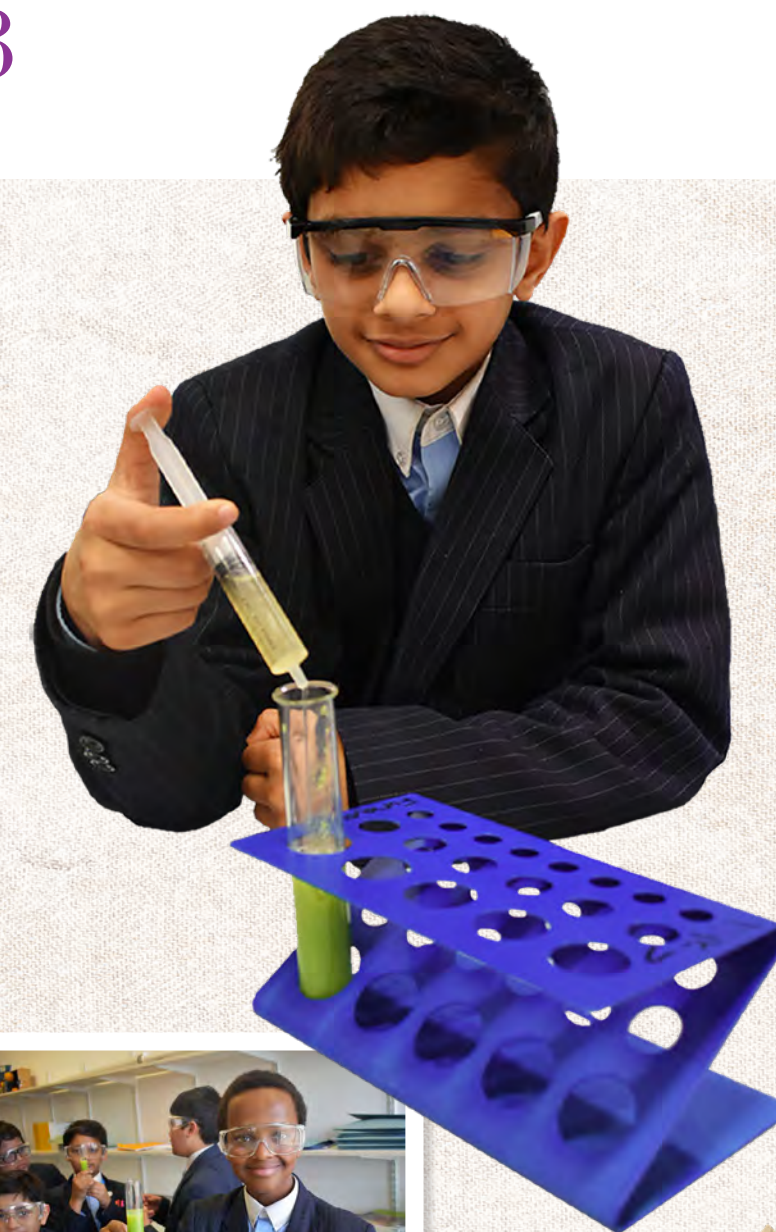
STEM CLUB

At STEM Club, pupils were learning about the usage of electromagnets, which were enabling the launch of paper aeroplanes. This caused a vast increase in attendance after school to STEM club and led to a competition for who could launch their aeroplane the furthest.

BROOKLANDS GLIDER

Finally, during the week, pupils used previous knowledge of polymers to make slime and built a Brooklands

glider. The pupils enjoyed participating in a competition for the longest flight with the glider.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

This year, at Eden Boys' Birmingham on World Book Day on Thursday 2 March 2023, we celebrated the joy of books, authors and reading for pleasure. This year the emphasis was on making it **YOUR** World Book Day and as a school we did just that!

Year 7s created their very own World Book Day lunch menus, and the top dish ideas were selected which the catering team turned into the lunch menu for the whole school. We had Lord of the Onion Rings, Order of the Phoenix Noodles, Gruffalo Pie, Charlie and the Chocolate Chip Cookie and Artemis Fowl Play Tacos!

Key Stage 3 students took part in a fantastic workshop conducted by Ryan Sinclair, a local poet from the Birmingham area and along with the staff, dressed up as

characters from their favourite books. The student who won Best Costume was Aqeeb Ishaq, who came as a rather impressive and convincing 'Gangsta Granny'.

The teacher who took home the prize for Best Staff Costume went to Ms Hayley Morris with her valiant embodiment of the character Banquo from Shakespeare's Macbeth.



We also held a Charity cake and samosa sale with all proceeds going to The World Book Day Literacy Charity to buy books for children who have very limited access to books. In the UK, nearly 500,000 children don't have a book of their own. We distributed book tokens to all students so that they could choose one of the World Book Day £1 books, giving them the opportunity own a book of their own.

"It is really great to see both staff and students get on board with World Book Day. Students clearly enjoy teachers pushing boundaries in their character outfits, but equally, we love seeing what the students come up with – particularly those who became crafty and created their own outfits! Celebrating WBD allows students to form a passion for books and reading; it also enables students to read genres they may have never come across before. WBD is an event that ultimately allows us to celebrate inclusivity too, as there will be something for everyone to read and enjoy, whether this is a brilliant biography or an exceptional fictional fantasy, there is something for everyone."

Ms Morris



Two of the year 8 students who embraced this year's celebrations, were Mubin Rahman and Qasim Bilal:

"From Harry Potter to Sherlock Holmes; from Atlases to World War Two Soldiers, Word Book Day has never been better. With a wide range of characters, across fiction and non-fiction the staff and students at Eden Boys' certainly outdid themselves this year. The day started off, as the students fought for the top spot on the Great Big Book Challenge; a series of questions on a variety of books, forcing them to hit the ground running! In addition, lunches strayed from the 'norm' and took on a twist, based on books. What's better than having some Artemis Fowl Play Tacos with some Lord of the Onion Rings on the side? Moreover, throughout the day, English teachers handed out World Book Day Vouchers to all the students encouraging them to buy a book and get reading. This intense, dramatic day could only have been done with the quick well-planned objectives, set by the English faculty who, all managed to dress up so perfectly as characters from GCSE text 'Macbeth'. Overall, a historic moment for the current students to cherish from their time at Eden Boys' School, Birmingham."

Qasim Bilal

Finally, World Book Day was a huge success and a huge thank you to everyone involved! It is World Book Day's mission, and our vision at the school, to ensure more and more children from all backgrounds are given the opportunities to develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure, benefiting from the improved life chances this brings them.

Bring on World Book Day, 2024!



SCHOOL LINKING PROGRAMME

What did we learn at the school linking programme?

We have learnt many things during the process of Bartley Green's School linking program such as: social interaction, new interactions with different people in our lives etc. This was able to improve our minds and help us with socialising and getting out of our comfort zone.

What did we do at the school linking programme?

We did many activities to help us talk comfortably with each other. We also had many different types of conversations with each other. Some people have different interests to other people and we got to comprehend what others dislike and like, which taught us to help adapt to everyone's preference. We also got to rank what was important in our lives from top to bottom, which allowed us to get closer to the students of Bartley Green.

What were some negatives and positive of this programme?

So, a negative of this program was that it may have made people anxious as they might not be used to this kind of interaction. A positive impact is that students can overcome their problem of anxiety when sharing their problems with others they are comfortable with. This can help them feel calm and help them to forget about being worried.



Improving our minds, helping us socialise and getting out of our comfort zone.

GCSE EXAMS

GCSEs are the final hurdle that we all have to jump. From Year 7 to Year 11, we have spent the last five years rigorously preparing for these final exams that will determine our future and enable us to fulfil our aspirations. At times, we may think whether it is worth all the trouble, or whether we have the ability to pull through, but we must remember to stay steadfast and continue to work harder than ever to achieve the grades that we deserve. All the lessons, teaching, masterclasses and interventions all lead up to this last obstacle-GCSEs.

Wondering about how to start? Here are 5 tips to ensure your success for the exams:

ROUTINE

Organising a structured revision timetable is necessary to do well in all your exams. Often, when we do revise, we just pick up a book and start reading notes. But this is proven to have little impact in exams. Instead, create a balanced timetable where you spend each night revising a certain subject and topic. Start with your weakest subject, and allocate time throughout the week to complete as many past paper questions as possible about that subject. I cannot stress the importance of using past exam papers as this is the best way to revise.

REMOVING DISTRACTIONS

This will significantly boost the quality of revision, and the amount of work you do during each session. We do it all the time: we tell ourselves to study but we have our phones nearby, and eventually many of us end up wasting precious time idling on our devices. This harms our memory retention, and it serves to be counter-intuitive to our learning. Instead, remove any distractions before studying and ideally, work in a quiet environment.

EATING HEALTHY

Although this may not be applicable now as we are in the month of Ramadan, it is important to eat the right foods after a whole day of fasting. Such food could be wholegrain foods, that are not heavily processed and retain much of their nutrients like fruits, vegetables and bread. Exercise is also proven to have a positive impact on brain functionality, so it is important to do physical activity at the right time. Also, keeping away from junk food and sugary foods will contribute to a sharper mind and body, which in turn will reflect onto our quality of revision and effort we put into exams.

HEALTHY BALANCE

Maintaining a healthy balance between studying and personal life. Some people tend to think more is better, but this is not the case - trying to cram hours and hours of revision per night is not an effective way to improve your grades. Often, this leads to forgetting many of the things you have learnt, instead spend at least 90 minutes of quality revision each night. The opposite is also true - playing games and having too much time to de-stress will not get you good grades either. Aim to complete revision first, then have some time to relax after, this avoids procrastination which is something that almost all of us are guilty of.

SLEEP

Some of us struggle to stay awake at school, and lack of sufficient sleep is detrimental to our performance. You don't want to be a person who comes to school for the whole day, and not gaining anything from it because you were tired since the morning. Especially during the exam season, you don't want to be the person who loses out when a teacher covers key topics that come up the day before an exam. Going to bed at the right time will be a major factor in whether or not we can deliver our maximum effort in June.

Our exams are only a month or so away, so it is essential that we all utilise the time we still have and make the most out of it. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to demonstrate to ourselves and the people around us that we are individuals with a clear goal in our minds. It is an opportunity to be better, more disciplined and achieve our goals. Would you rather work hard now, and sacrifice having fun for a few weeks, or live a life with everything you ever dreamed about, free from regret? Of course not, so let's get the best results this summer and make every second count until our last exam.

Ehsan Khan
Year 11



Finally, I want to leave you with my favourite verse that a wise man once said:

'Some trees flourish, others die. Some cattle grow strong, others are taken by wolves. Some men are born rich enough and dull enough to enjoy their lives.'

THE STAR AWARDS



On Thursday 9th March 2023, Star Academies held their annual ceremony that commemorated the hard work and dedication of its 31 schools. Over 400 guests were invited to attend the prestigious event in Blackburn, including students, staff, governors, trustees and the man who started it all: Sir Mufti Hamid Patel CBE.

Of those who attended from Eden Boys' Birmingham, they were Ms Bhikhu, Mr Ravat, Head Boy Naveed Najib, Deputy Head Boy Suhail Nadeem and Eshan Khan. Upon arrival, the school was met with a grand and majestic venue, and immediately upon entrance the atmosphere was electric. There were professional photographers present, snacks and drinks being served, as well as many notable individuals such as Guest of honour James Cracknell OBE, who made a speech about the highs and lows of his remarkable career. The school arrived at approximately 9:30 AM, and the boys were quick to socialise and speak with the other guests, as well as taking photos before and after the event.

After an hour, the schools and guests made their way into the main hall where everyone sat down and gathered at their tables. It was a grandiose hall with a large stage, film crew, and bright jets of light illuminating the stage. The Star Awards commenced promptly, and throughout the awards presentation, guests were treated to incredible performances from talented pupils, including one from the school.

The first performance was recited by one of our talented students Eshan Khan, who had written a beautiful poem about his dreams and how the STAR values have shaped him. It was executed exceptionally in front of the entire Trust, and posted on Twitter.

After the first performance, the Group awards were handed out. There were 5 categories for this award: the Service Award, Teamwork Award, Ambition Reward, Respect Award and Mental Health Wellbeing Award. Out of these, Eden Boys Birmingham had won the Service Award, which would not have been possible without the tremendous and continuous donations made by students, parents and teachers. The school had raised over a colossal £30,000 in the last year, and it was a much deserved recognition to acknowledge the unselfish and generous nature of the school community.

To conclude, the Star Awards was an amazing opportunity for both the students and staff at Eden Boys' Birmingham. The event concluded with a special achievement award recognising the many notable successes achieved by Star schools over the last twelve months. Sir Mufti Hamid CBE also delivered a short speech further recognising the dedication and hard work of principals, staff and students. Principals from each school joined the Star winners parade to celebrate the moment, and altogether everyone had an incredible time at the Star Awards.



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.*



Eden Boys

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