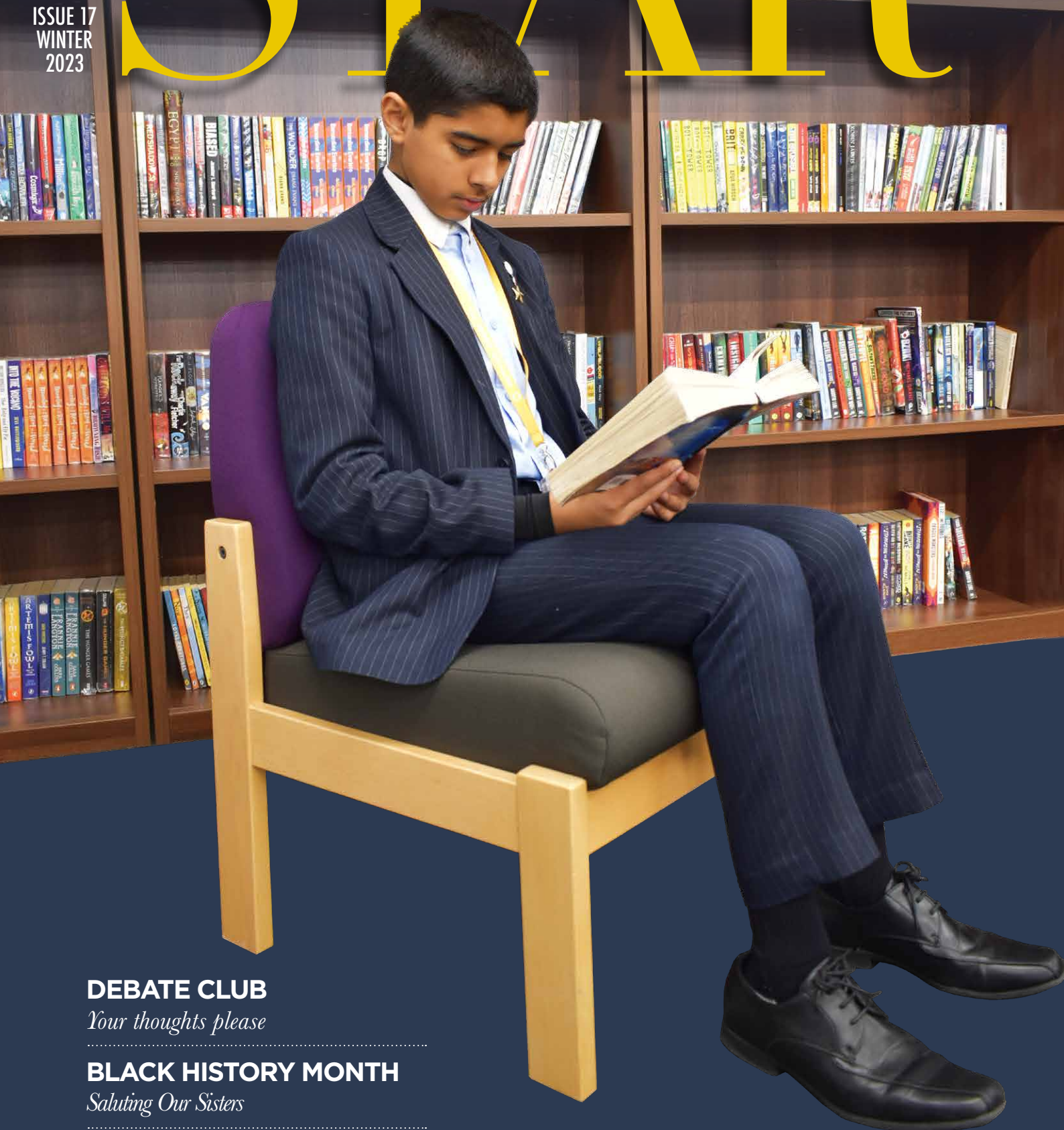


STAR

ISSUE 17
WINTER
2023



DEBATE CLUB

Your thoughts please

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Saluting Our Sisters

TURKISH EXCHANGE TRIP

Experience of a Lifetime

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WELCOME

Sumeya Bhikhu, Principal

As we approach the end of the year, at Eden Boys' we find ourselves thinking of the less fortunate.

As always at Eden Boys', we pride ourselves on our generosity to those in need. The students have been involved in a range of fundraising activities and as a school community we raised over £22,000 which can not have been possible without your generous donations.

We launched our Winter Gift Program this month, designed to provide food, gifts, and warmth to all, it has also been initiated with the aim of assisting the most vulnerable during this season. Students and staff supported with the "Big Sleep Out" which gave the students an opportunity to reflect on the needs of others.

In fostering holistic development, students have actively participated in a variety of enrichment activities, such as cooking, chess, debate club, STEM club, and various sports, contributing to the enhancement of their personal skills. Additionally, a group of students embarked on a captivating trip to Istanbul, immersing themselves in the cultural capital and visiting significant Islamic landmarks – an experience that will undoubtedly leave lasting memories.

As we enter the winter months here at Eden, we've inaugurated the Sunnah Fast Program, aligning with the Prophetic tradition of fasting on Mondays and Thursdays. Given the shorter days of winter, many may find value in embracing this sunnah to reap its rewards and associated benefits.

As we approach the holiday period, let's seize the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends, nurturing our personal relationships. May this time serve as a rejuvenating break, allowing us to return fully charged and ready for the new year ahead. I wish you all a good rest, and I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2024.



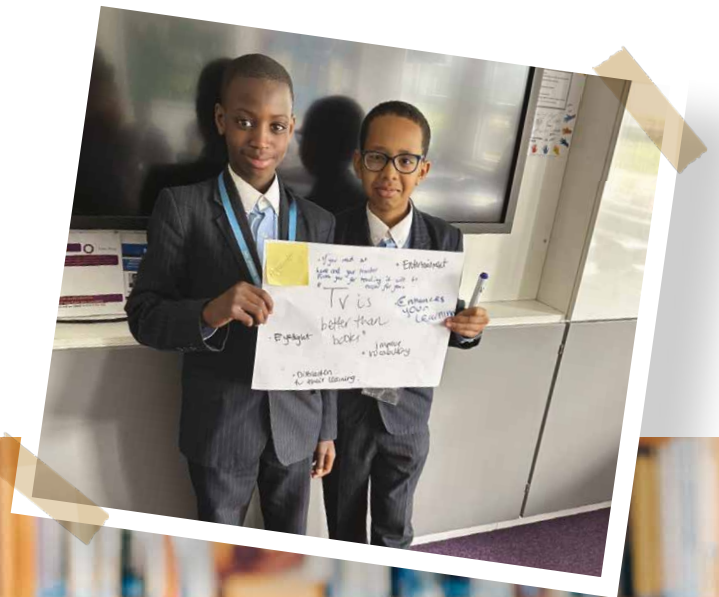
DEBATE CLUB: YOUR THOUGHTS PLEASE...

“**T**aking part in these extra activities has been really enjoyable! I’ve had a great time with the debate club, it’s got me interested in lots of different things and helped me speak my mind with confidence. Talking about different subjects has made learning a lot more fun and hands-on. Being part of this has made me feel more self-assured, especially when I’m speaking up in discussions. I’m much better now at sharing my thoughts and ideas with others. My speaking skills have improved a ton – I can explain my ideas clearly and really listen to what others have to say. I want to keep using these skills to explore even more

topics and join in more during lessons and beyond. I’m really excited about getting more into debates, questioning what I think, and getting better at public speaking. Being in the debate club has been amazing, and I’m looking forward to growing even more.”

Below photo: Book debate club hosted by the English faculty provides a safe space for pupils to share their ideas on different topics of discussion.

Article assisted by: SALAHUDDIN BIN-ADEEL IN 8.1



A MOMENT WITH OUR FAITH AND CHARACTER LEAD MR AHMED

At Eden Boys', our commitment to embodying the core values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition, and Respect has been truly evident in our response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. In the footsteps of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who was renowned for bearing people's burdens and being the first to support in emergencies, our staff and students have dedicated themselves to making a positive impact.

The collective efforts and organisation put forth during this term have resulted in a remarkable achievement – the school has successfully raised over £22,000 for various charities:

Morocco/Libya Appeal

£4,451.08

Macmillan Coffee Morning

£501.56

Gaza Appeal

£17,528.00

This substantial contribution reflects not only the generosity of our school community but also our shared commitment to alleviating the suffering of those in need.

As said by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):

"Kindness is a mark of faith, and whoever is not kind has no faith".

Our staff and students display resilience and determination as they continue to strive towards educational excellence. Every day, they create outstanding learning opportunities for our pupils, recognising the transformative power of education in shaping the future. By instilling the values of empathy and mercy in today's young minds, we aim to inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

May Allah (SWT) grant us the wisdom to utilise our God-given humanity for the greater good, and may our innate virtues of empathy and compassion serve as catalysts to alleviate all forms of human suffering. In our collective prayers, we beseech Allah to accept all of our charitable efforts and Sadaqah for this noble cause – Ameen. Together, let us work towards a world where compassion triumphs over adversity.





SCHOOL ENRICHMENT: MEET THE TEAMS

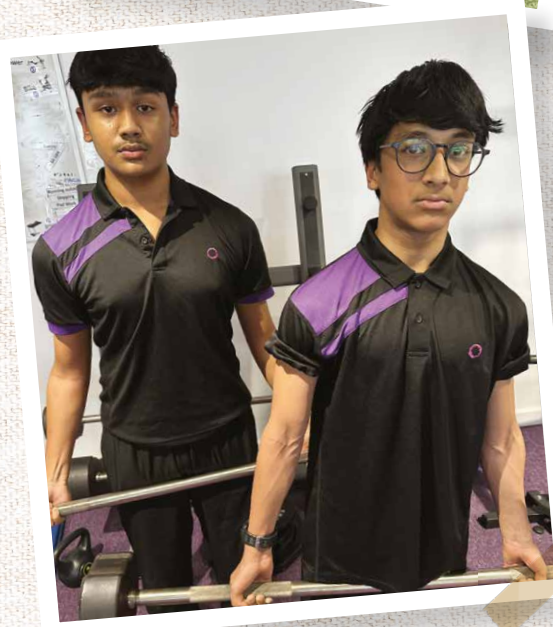


Meet the school Rugby Team. They train on a Thursday and are seeking their next opponent in a friendly fixture.

Well done to Saeim Ali for achieving the player of the term award in football club.



Congratulations to Moustafa Dafalla for demonstrating excellence beyond the PE curriculum and achieving awards in mixed martial arts, our PE ambassador.



Welcome to Gym Club. An opportunity to develop your confidence and develop your physical and mental well-being.



Year 9 Interform Competition:
Pupils donate towards the Gaza Charity Appeal to help improve the lives of children and their families in Gaza by competing in a Charity football tournament.

Students mastering the handball shooting technique in isolated drills as part of the Autumn Term PE curriculum.



KS3 and KS4 Enrichment Activities Autumn Term 2023-24:

Day/Time	Before school 7:30am-7:45am	Lunch (Year 7, 9, 10)	Lunch (Year 8, 11)	Afterschool 3.00pm - 4.00pm				Sports Clubs		
Monday				Ecowarriors Club Lead by: Mr Hickman Year 7-8 Spaces: 15	Mock Trials Lead by: Mr. Ravat G5 Year 8-9 Spaces: 15			Racket Sports Badminton, Table Tennis & Squash Lead by: Mr Qabil Year 7-8 Spaces: 24	Gym Club Lead by: Mr Dangor Year 8-10 Spaces: 15	
Tuesday	Breakfast Club Lead by: Mr Ravat Location: Dining Hall (Every Morning)	Drumming and Keyboard Club Lead by: Music Year: Open age Spaces: 7		Micro-bit Programming Lead by: Computer Science Year 7-9 Spaces: 20	STEM club Lead by: Science Year 7-9 Spaces: 20	Qur'an Club Lead by: Mr Ahmed Location: G7			Football <u>External coach</u> Year 8 Sports Hall Spaces: 20	
Wednesday		Food Club Lead by: Ms Barrett Year: Open age Spaces: 10	Islamic Circles Lead by: Mr Ahmed Location: Library	Languages Club Lead by: MFL team Year 7-9 Spaces: 20	Art Club Lead by: Ms Chapman Year 7-9 Spaces: 25	Chess Club Lead by: Mr Choudhary Year 7-11 Spaces: 15	Qur'an Club Lead by: Mr Ahmed Location: G7	Health and Fitness Intervention		
Thursday		Book Debate Club Lead by: Ms Ahmed KS3 Spaces: 20	Islamic Circles Lead by: Mr Ahmed Location: Library	History Club Lead by: Mr Adair Room 4 Year 7-9 Spaces: 15				Cricknet Club Lead by: Mr Qabil Years 9-10 Spaces: 20	Rugby Lead by: Mr Turner Year 9 Spaces: 20 During Lunch	Football Lead by: Rotation AMI, SGO Year 9 Sports Hall Spaces 20
Friday		Drumming and Keyboard Lead by: Music Year 8 12:30-1:00pm Spaces: 7		Foodbank Lead by: Mrs Pathan Year 7-10 2.30pm-3.30pm	Nasheed Club Lead by: Mr Ravat Year 7-10 Spaces: 15 2.30pm- 3.30pm			Football <u>External coach</u> Year 7 Sports Hall 12.30pm-1.30pm		

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER 2023



During the month of October, 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 the history of the world and should not be relegated to a single month, however during this month we make a special effort to look at the contributions of black and ethnic minorities and their positive influence on British society.

This year's theme for Black History Month was saluting our sisters. Students in History lessons and form time learnt about the contributions of black pioneers such as Mary Seacole, Diane Abbott, and Yvonne Conolly who was the UK's first black headteacher. She was also part of the Windrush generation from Jamaica who arrived in Britain during the 1950s and 60s and faced many racial hardships. Black women have been at the heart of social justice movements throughout history, courageously battling oppression and advocating for change. However, their accomplishments have frequently been neglected or forgotten. The theme of saluting our sisters emphasises the vital role black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities.

We also looked at Black influences in our society in lessons such as PSHE, we looked at the Windrush migration and the impact of the Black Lives Matters movement in recent times. Furthermore, to promote Black and Ethnic culture, the canteen served up a fantastic treat of West Indian jerk chicken with rice and peas as part of the school menu for all staff and students to enjoy.

We will continue to celebrate the diversity of our community for many years to come!





African Masks: A Symbol of Tradition and Spirituality:

During Black History Month the Art department discussed famous black people who have contributed to the development of our society, such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. They also painted an African mask as part of their activities. African masks have been an integral part of the continent's rich cultural tapestry for centuries. These masks serve various purposes, ranging from ceremonial rituals to theatrical performances. Crafted with precision and imbued with cultural symbolism, African masks offer a glimpse into the beliefs, traditions, and spirituality of different African communities.

*An example of a painted mask by:
YEAR 7 RIDWAN AMIN*



NATIONAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LEAVER FESTIVAL – THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE



Hudayfah Idrees: 'Personally, I have dreams of being a psychiatrist (specialising in diagnosing and treatment of mental illness) I discovered that I would need to get 3 A's in my A-level's and would need to apply to medical school. From the festival I gained the knowledge of requirements and everything else to do with this profession to make a well-versed decision. Overall, the festival was very educational as well as entertaining.'

Eden Boys' Year 10 and 11 SEN students were chosen to attend the National School and College Leaver festival on 7th November at the NEC. Accompanied by SEND coordinator Mrs Hassle and Business Support officer Mr. Ravat, pupils had the opportunity to learn about different companies, the products and services they provide, career pathways and what they can pursue in the future. There were a range of exhibitors ranging from the NHS, The Institute of Medical Science to the Army, Bank of England and regional Police Partnership. This allowed students with varying aspirations and goals, to ensure that they are informed about the role and how to reach the occupation that they desire. This is an opportunity to decide potentially to enroll at a university, secure an apprenticeship or continue with a higher degree apprenticeship at the Dyson institute of engineering+ technology.



OXFORD UNIVERSITY: A VISIT TO REMEMBER

On Friday 20th October, our Year 10's had the privilege of visiting the world's most prestigious academic institution, the University of Oxford. The University of Oxford was ranked world's No. 1 in 2023. Oxford is a unique and historic institution where thirty British Prime Ministers have been educated.

This was Eden Boys' 4th visit to the University of Oxford campus Keble College. Keble College has come a long way since its opening in 1870. The first Oxford College of the modern era, it was founded in memory of John Keble (1792-1866), well known for his best-selling Christian verse and a key member of the so-called 'Oxford' movement.

University of Oxford's Access and outreach officer organised an inspiring day for our pupils. Year 10's had an insight into Keble College and were informed about the importance of attaining high grades at GCSE and A level to secure a place at the University.

Student ambassadors studying at the University provided tours around the student union, library and the great 'Hogwarts' style dining hall. The University provided complimentary lunch to all the pupils.

Our students also visited the world renowned Natural History Museum of Oxford established in 1860. The museum housed life like dinosaur fossils, birds and other animal specimens. One of the highlights was the world's first scientifically described dinosaur – *Megalosaurus bucklandii* – and the world-famous Oxford Dodo, the only soft tissue remains of the extinct dodo.



TURKISH EXCHANGE TRIP



In November, 31 students from Eden Boys' Birmingham and Eden Boys' Leadership Academy went on an exchange trip to Turkey, Istanbul in partnership with Maltepe Orhangazi , a Turkish boarding school.

DAY 1

After arriving to the Orhangazi school, students were shown their dormitory rooms where they would be staying for the remainder of the trip. Students then prayed Esha and headed to bed for an early morning. We awoke at Fajr time, at 7.00am to pray in congregation at the in-school prayer room and indulged in the breakfast all provided by the Turkish hosts.

Our first visit was the the Princes Islands via Port Marina. We spent 3 hours enjoying the tour of the island and the beautiful scenery. The island had picturesque architectural buildings, shops, monastery, and parks. In Buyukada, we walked past the lovely wooden mansions which are fascinating examples of the island's late Ottoman-era architecture.

We were treated to fine dining at The Acyudiz restaurant, being served chicken soup, rice and a meat dish.

Students then headed to the Viaport Marina, housing the ViaSea aquarium a theme park and shopping mall. The aquarium/sea life centre was filled with a vast array of reptiles, fishes, insects and other wildlife.

After the mall we were invited to an in-school event hosted by Orhangazi at the Kubbealti Hall. Parents of the Turkish partners and other special guests delivered a warm welcome speech, followed by ice breaker activities and a hearty dinner.



DAY 2

At 5.30am we headed to Mimar Sinan mosque to pray Fajr. After morning prayers we headed to Emirgan Park. The Emirgan Park (Emirgan Grove or Woods) is situated in the pretty Emirgan neighborhood by the Bosphorus shores and covers an area of 325,000 square meters. We then enjoyed a hearty breakfast prepared by the parents of Orhangazi pupils. Consisting of fresh Turkish bread, traditional Turkish soup, eggs, salad, pastries and a variety of sides.

Our next stop was the Yeni Cami (New Mosque), in Eminounu. semi-domes. Later in the day students were paired with their Turkish au pair and sent to the Spice Bazaar to do some haggling and shopping. After heading back to the dormitory a football match between our host, OrhanGazi and ourselves was arranged. Teachers, Principals and parents were all invited to watch the exhilarating football match. Our host school defeated Eden Boys', with a 4:1 victory.

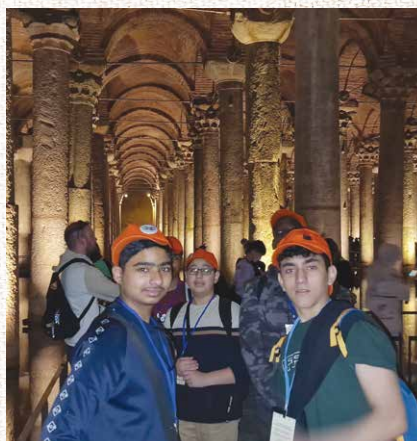


DAY 3

Early in the morning, after prayers, we embarked on a coach ride to Riva, a village in the north of Istanbul known for being the location of the Turkish TV series hits "Diriliş: Ertuğrul" and its sequel "Kuruluş: Osman." There, we enjoyed a traditional Turkish breakfast and were pleasantly surprised by a live action show of "Diriliş: Ertuğrul," featuring horses, actors in Ottoman-style costumes, and a swordfight, led by the famous Turkish actor Gunkut. We explored the Sultan's camp, complete with authentic artifacts. Our journey continued to the opulent Dolmabahce Palace on the European side, followed by a visit to the Museum of History of Science and Technology in Islam, which showcased Muslim inventions from the golden age. We prayed Zohr at the magnificent Hagia Sophia, an architectural marvel echoing with the call to prayer, and visited Topkapi Palace before enjoying a traditional Turkish lunch. In the evening, we marveled at the beauty of Sultanahmet Cami, also known as the Blue Mosque.



DAY 4



Today, we travelled from Maltepe to Sultanahmet via the underground tube, and the journey was quick and amazing. Upon reaching Sultanahmet, we visited the Basilica Cistern, constructed by the Eastern Roman Empire's Justinian I in 542 A.D. to supply water to the Great Palace. Following a visit to the Nuruosmaniye Mosque for Zohr prayer, we headed to the Grand Bazaar with Turkish partners for shopping.

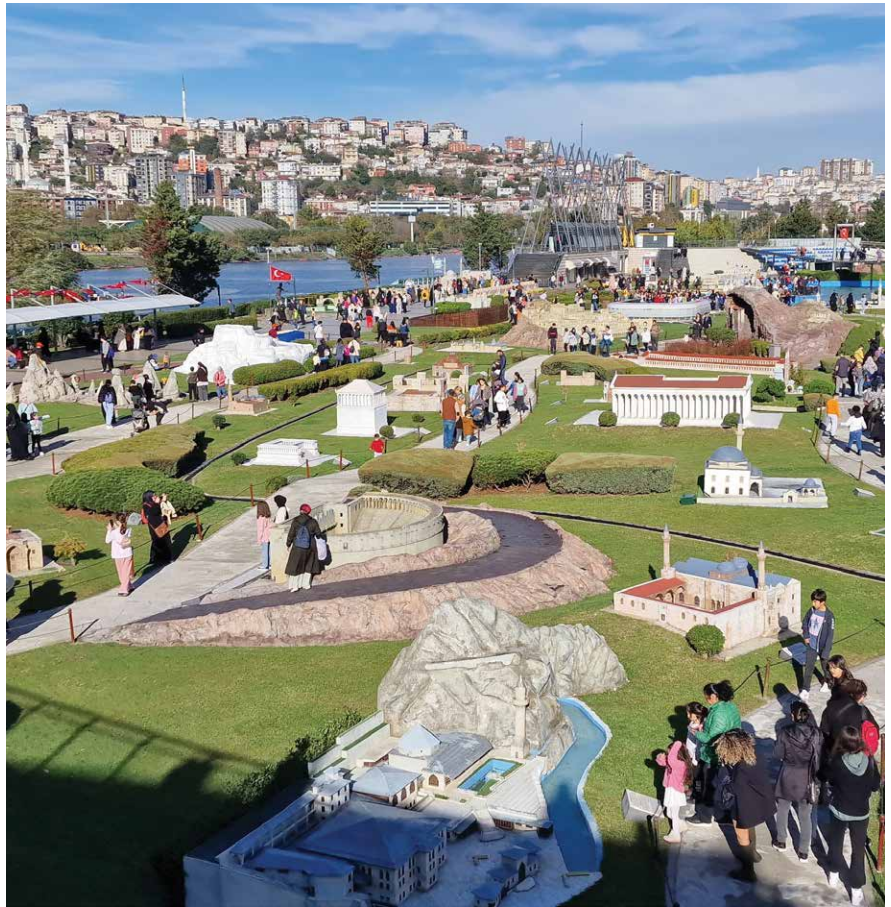
The day concluded with us being invited to a meal at the Turkish partners' families, this gave us an opportunity to experience genuine Turkish culture, home-cooked food, and daily life.

DAY 5

Something different today, we explored Miniaturk. Imagine seeing all the famous landmarks, monuments, buildings of Turkey located in one place. Yes, that's Miniaturk a wonderful open-air museum that displays tiny versions of Turkey's most famous attractions and architectural structures. It's also known as the miniature Turkey museum.

Our day continued with a visit to the Eyup Sultan Mosque, constructed in 1458 outside the city walls after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople. We also visited the grave of Sahabi Abu Ayyub al-Ansari, a companion of Prophet Muhammad.

The day concluded with a moving Mawlaw Ceremony at Mawlaw House, showcasing the Whirling Dervishes. Originating from Konya, this mystical ceremony represents a spiritual journey for a closer connection with God, highlighted by the dervishes' profound dedication.



DAY 6



Our host facilitated a meeting with the Istanbul Planning Agency to discuss Turkey's comprehensive "Vision 2050" for the future of Istanbul. The Vision 2050 Office aims to address the city's priorities, objectives, and potential problems, with a focus on achieving sustainable development.

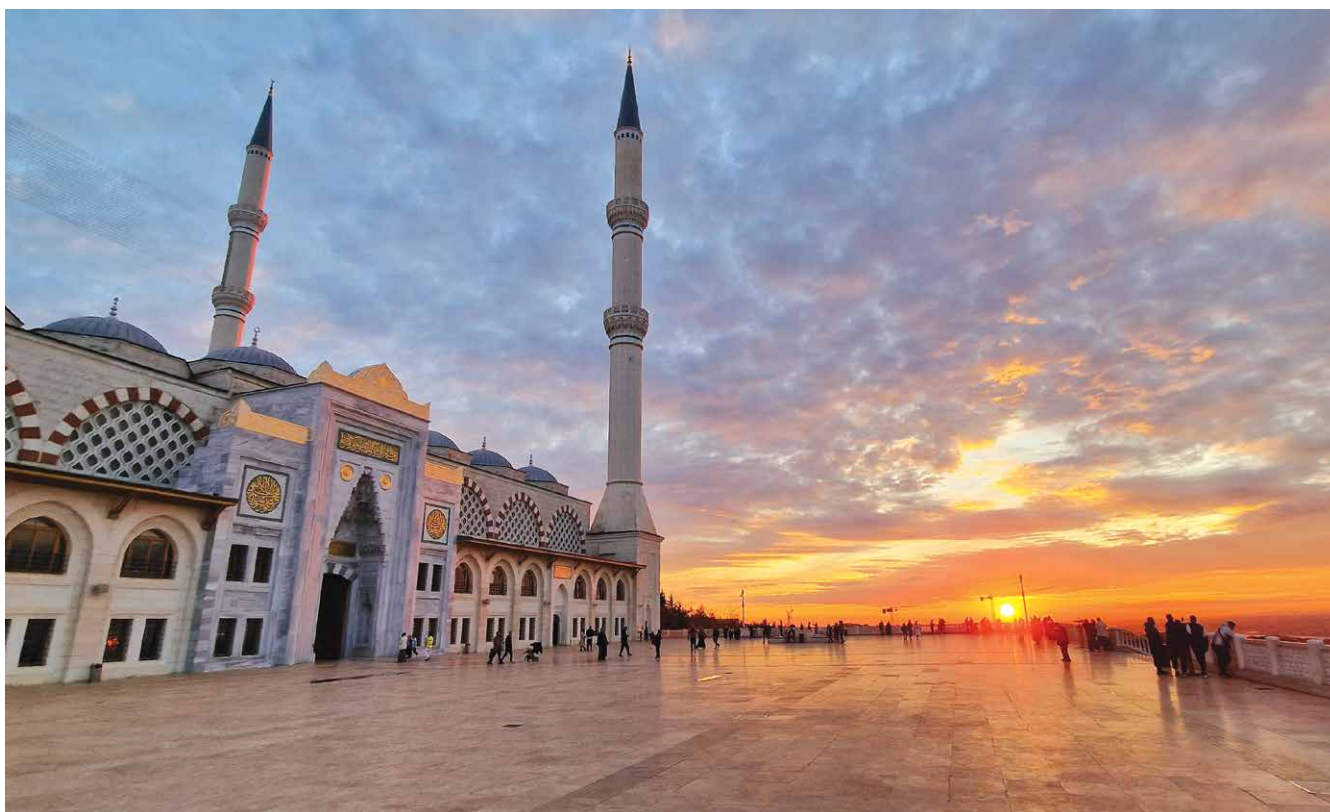
Following the meeting, we explored Taksim Square, the modern heart of Istanbul known for cultural activities and commerce. The vibrant area, surrounded by historic landmarks like the Ataturk Cultural Center and the Monument of the Republic, is a popular tourist destination. We enjoyed shopping on Istiklal Street, a bustling pedestrian avenue filled with shops, restaurants, and street shows. Some of us ventured to see the Galata Tower, a historic structure from 1348, renowned for its various uses over the centuries and its association with Hezarfen Ahmet Celebi's 1638 flight, considered the world's first intercontinental flight. Unfortunately, access to the tower was closed due to renovations.

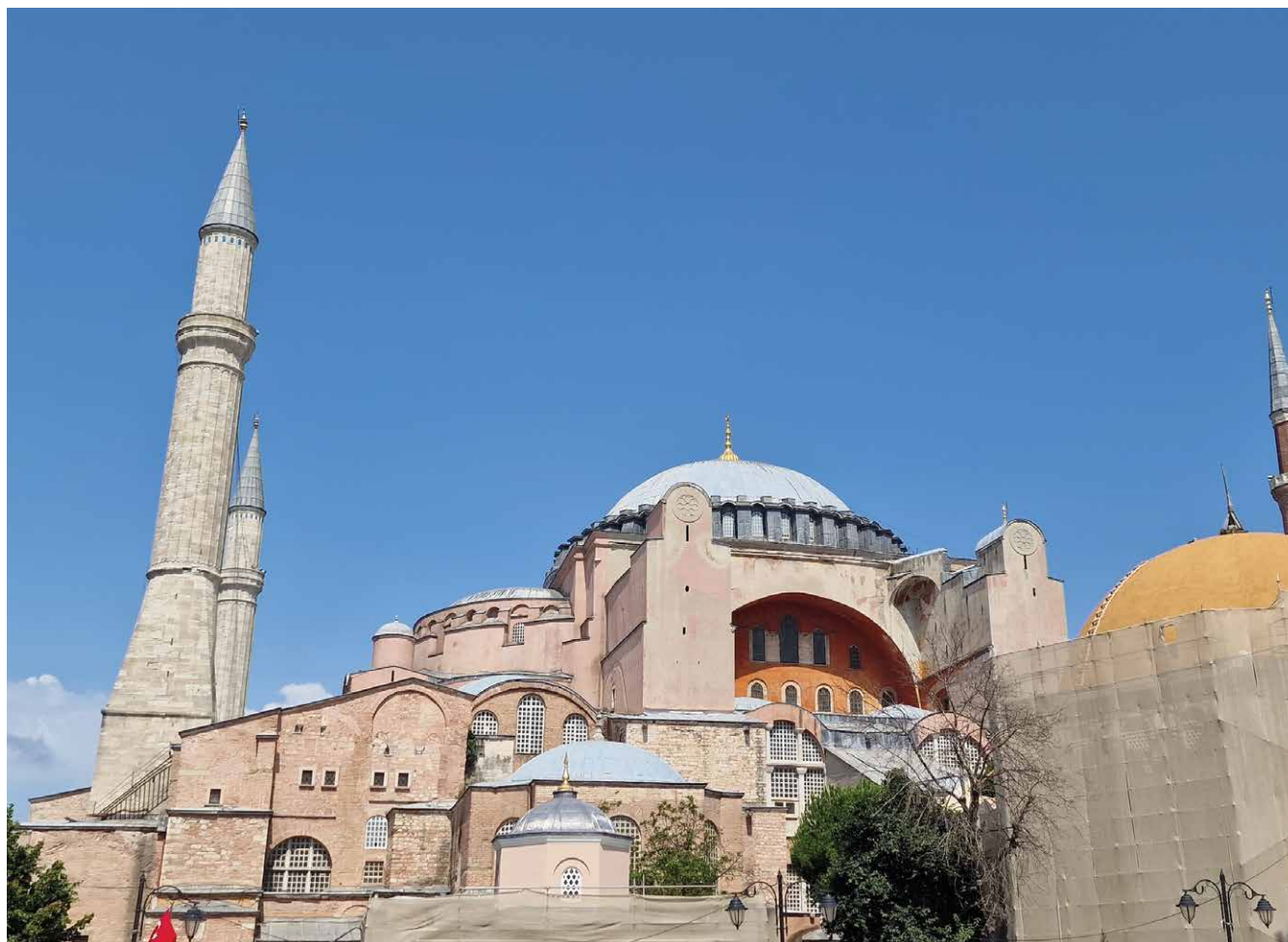
DAY 7

Our host surprised us on the last day of our exchange trip with a visit to the Camlica Tower, Camlica Mosque, and a Bosphorus cruise. Despite the Camlica Tower's usual 10am opening time, the host arranged for an early 9am entry for our group. Located just 3 kilometers from the 15th July Martyrs Bridge, Camlica Hill has been a favoured spot for panoramic views of Istanbul since the Ottoman era. The Camlica Tower, standing at 587 meters above sea level, is the tallest structure in Istanbul, offering a 360-degree viewing terrace and restaurant with a sleek tulip-inspired design.

Following this breathtaking experience, we crossed the 15th July Bridge for a Bosphorus cruise, enjoying views of Maiden's Tower. The week concluded with a visit to Camlica Mosque and museum, where relics and belongings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and artifacts from the Kaaba are displayed. Inaugurated in 2019, the mosque, designed by female architects Bahar Mızrak and Hayriye Gül Totu, can accommodate 63,000 people and features various facilities.

Back at the Orhangazi dormitory we were greeted by parents who wished us all farewells and awarded medals to all the students as a token of remembrance.





SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023/2024

Term	First Day of Term	Half Term	End of Term
Autumn 2023			Fri 22nd Dec
Spring 2024	Mon 8th Jan	Mon 12th Feb to Fri 16th Feb	Fri 22nd Mar
Summer 2024	Mon 8th Apr	Mon 27th May to Fri 31st May	Fri 19th Jul

Christmas Holidays: Monday 25th December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

Easter Holidays: Monday 25th March 2024 to Friday 5th April 2024

Bank Holidays: Monday 6th May 2024

Eid Holidays:

Eid-ul-Fitr 1445 – Wednesday 10th April and Thursday 11th April 2024*

Eid-ul-Adha 1445 – Monday 17th June and Tuesday 18th June 2024*

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



Eden Boys

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