

ISSUE 18
SPRING
2024

STAR



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Parlez-Vous Français

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WELCOME

Sumeya Bhikhu, Principal

As we approach the end of what seems like a rapid passing month of Ramadan and approach the festivities of Eid al Fitr, we prepare to return to school after the Easter break. For many this break will have fallen at the ideal time in order to maximise benefit from the Holy month of Ramadan.

We hosted our annual grand iftar before the break. This was a wonderful occasion for friends and neighbours, of all beliefs, to come together in the spirit of unity to break-fast. Community iftars also allow people from all social and economic backgrounds to come together and realise that material blessings should not be taken for granted while many around the world suffer without basic necessities. These events help foster empathy and compassion for the school community.

Charity also holds a special significance during Ramadan. As with previous years the whole Eden community came together to reap the multiplied rewards by fundraising for causes both internationally and closer to home. If anyone still wishes to contribute, donations can still be made through parent pay.

Last half term was action packed as a group of students visited France to put their French skills to the test. As well as taking in a well-deserved break they were able to learn and experience firsthand French culture. Year 10 students enjoyed a visit to Bletchley Park. What is now a vibrant heritage site it was once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers.

A group of students competed with other local grammar schools during mock trials at Birmingham Crown Court. While not being successful on this occasion they received high praise from impressed judges.

The young enterprise team have been hard at work showcasing their skills on the enterprise initiative, having a stall in Solihull. They produced high quality personalised mugs while also developing life and business skills. Anyone interested in placing an order contact the young enterprise team at school.



PARIS 16-19 FÉVRIER 2024 BY MOHAMMED KEITA 8C PARLEZ-VOUZ FRANÇAIS

Climbing the Eiffel Tower was an exhilarating adventure. Gazing out from the top and the rush of being so close to the edge filled me with an indescribable sense of awe. The panoramic view was nothing short of breathtaking, etching a memory into my heart that will endure forever.

Disneyland Paris

Visiting Disneyland was not only incredibly entertaining and fun but also surprisingly educational. I found unexpected lessons in language, picking up new French words like “gauche” and “à droite.” The thrill of attractions like ‘Hyperspace Mountain’ left me breathless, with its twists and turns defying gravity itself. Each themed section of the park offered a unique experience, making Disneyland a standout destination for me.

Château de Grande Romaine

My stay at Château de Grande Romaine was a culinary delight. From succulent fruits and fresh vegetables to savoury proteins and a variety of beverages, every meal was a feast for the senses.

Throughout my journey, the warmth and hospitality of the French people left a lasting impression. Their willingness to assist and engage made every interaction a joy. Yet, it was the enchanting world of Disneyland that truly captured my heart and imagination during this unforgettable trip.



TRIUMPH AT EDGBASTON? EDEN BOYS' BRINGING THEIR 'A' GAME

“Wow at Edgbaston! Our Cricket Teams Headed for the Finals!”

Eden Boys' Birmingham has secured their spot in the Finals at the legendary Edgbaston Cricket Ground! This thrilling journey has been all about guts, talent, and brilliant teamwork.

It all kicked off with an epic one-wicket win against King Edward's Handsworth. Led by our awesome captain, Muhammad Amin Nana, who smashed an incredible 42 not out, we grabbed our first victory and took charge of our destiny.

The excitement was sky-high, knowing a win in the next match would launch us straight into the finals!

In our next showdown against local rivals, Broadway Academy, our team brought their A-game, bowling Broadway out for a mere 38 runs. With slick teamwork, we chased down the target in just 3.3 overs, sealing our spot at the top of the table and earning a spot in 'Finals Day'!

Throughout the tournament, our batsmen have been knocking it out of the park with powerful hits and smart strategies, while our bowlers have left opponents stunned with their speed and variety.

The iconic Edgbaston stadium is about to witness our team's magic as they battle it out for the title. Let's show our support and cheer our boys on to victory! Let's also give a huge shoutout to the teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership that got us this far. Go, team Eden Boys' Birmingham – you've got this!



PRE-RAMADAN SOUK

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

“Charity does not decrease wealth, no one forgives another but that Allah increases his honour, and no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah but that Allah raises his status.”
(Source: **Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2588**)

On Friday 1st March, we held an amazing Pre-Ramadan Souk (Market) at school. In the spirit of charity and welcoming the blessed month of Ramadan, staff and students donated various items to sell at the Souk for our Ramadan charity campaign. Some of the items that we had for sale were: Biryani, Halva, Samosas, Pakoras, cakes and sweets.

We recognise that many people in our local communities and around the world are going through tremendous difficulties and there is an unprecedented level of suffering taking place. The Pre-Ramadan Souk also gave students the opportunity to embody our STAR values of: Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect. Our students work hard so that their education at Eden Boys' will allow them to become our future leaders for tomorrow's world.



SPIRITUALITY-DAY

8th MARCH 2024 - (27th SHA'BAN 1445)

The key theme for the day was: Ramadan Readiness. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and it is the best month of the year which has a number of virtues. Spirituality day for our students was packed with a wide range of learning activities where pupils had the opportunity to explore themes associated with the blessed month of Ramadan. The whole school started the day with a keynote assembly in which they learnt about the spiritual significance of fasting, as well the history of fasting in the Abrahamic faiths.

The Year 7s and 8s took part in a dedicated workshop called: 'Journey through Ramadan' in which their learning journey took them from the moment the new Crescent moon of Ramadan is sighted until the announcement of Eid is made by sighting the new moon of Shawwal. They learned about all of the important facts and rulings pertaining to fasting during the month of Ramadan and everything that goes on in between these two key events, including the following:

1. *It was the month in which the greatest and most exalted of all divine books, the Holy Qur'an, was revealed.*

2. *The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "When the month of Ramadaan comes, the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hellfire are closed and the devils are chained."*

3. *Whoever fasts during the daylight hours and stands in prayer at night throughout this month will have his past sins forgiven.*

4. *Laylat-ul-Qadr (The Night of Decree; also called the Night of Power) occurs in this month. The Qur'an informs us that doing righteous deeds during this night is far better than doing them for many years: "The Night of Power is better than a thousand months."*

(Soorat Al-Qadr, 97:3)

Meanwhile Year 9s and 10s took a deep dive into the topic of Ramadan being a true gift and source of blessing that helps those who are fasting nurture self-discipline through the acts of worship. Furthermore, students learned that fasting is a powerful spiritual tool for self-reform, and although it is a personal act of worship, it's also one that is deeply connected to the community spirit of service and charity. Students enjoyed a wide range of lessons in which they took a detailed look at some of the following wisdoms of fasting in Ramadan:

1. *It helps realise taqwaa (righteousness, piety, consciousness of Allah, guarding against evil).*

2. *It provides ample training in refraining from sin and wrongdoing*

3. *It helps us remember the needy and the distressed and encourages us to sympathise with them.*

Finally, students ended the day by watching a short documentary called: 'My very British Ramadan.' This gave students an in-depth insight into how some Muslim communities in the UK support each other to develop resilience in order to juggle between attending school and going to work whilst fasting and performing the communal acts of worship associated with it. Students finally completed a task in which they designed a poster about how they can contribute towards making a positive transformation in their local community during the blessed month of Ramadan.



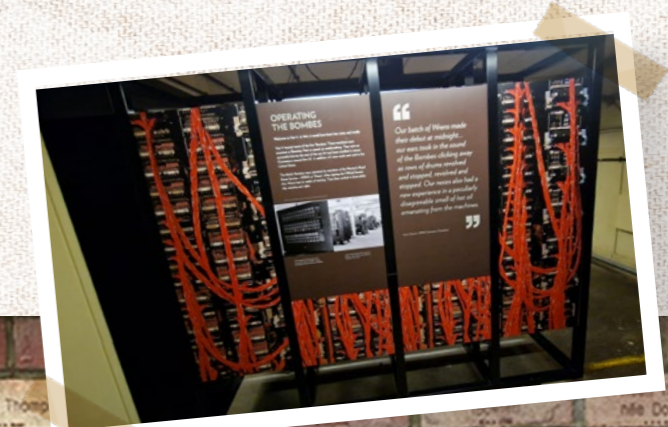
WORLD
BOOK
DAY

7th MARCH 2024

World Book Day is a charity funded by publishers & booksellers in the UK & Ireland. Our mission is to give every child and young person a book of their own.



BLETCHLEY PARK HACKING INTO HISTORY



On the 26th of February 2024 students from Year 9 and 10 embarked on a trip to a site of national remembrance and importance, home of various mathematicians and linguists who became the foundations of modern technology, Bletchley Park, home of the codebreakers of WW2.

Eden Boys' were invited by Bletchley Park to tour the compound to teach and inspire our young students to delve deeper into the field of computer science.

WHAT IS BLETCHLEY PARK?

Bletchley Park is a site in Milton Keynes where, during WW2 was the home of British codebreakers working against the clock to crack the Nazi Enigma code. Experts from mathematics to linguistics were called to this site to aid the Allied forces during WW2.

However, today it acts as a symbol of remembrance and commemoration to unsung heroes who worked for our freedom today, while also becoming the beginning of our modern lives we live today.

ACTIVITIES

Students were given a short tour before having a session on the aspects of codebreaking and how cryptology plays a part in our everyday lives. Interactive activities strengthened the students' understanding of Cryptology while garnering new interest for the field and other fields related to computer science.

THE IMPACT

After the trip students were in awe of the genius of these codebreakers and how intertwined technology is with history. Some students remarked:

"I became really interested in Cryptology; it helped me think about my future career prospects in further depth."

Year 10 student

"This trip was an eye-opening experience; I am thankful we were given such an opportunity."

Year 9 student



This trip could not have been done without the help of the computer science department who are planning to organize more trips like this in the future.

BLETCHLEY PARK CONTINUED

“My experience at Bletchley Park was truly unforgettable. Exploring the historic site, we encountered fascinating artifacts such as cars, passports, and chess pieces, each holding a piece of history within them. Additionally, informative boards were scattered around, providing brief accounts of the roles individuals played at Bletchley Park during World War II.

One intriguing lesson I learned was about the secrecy surrounding the work done at Bletchley Park. Workers, including interceptors, codebreakers,

and translators, were required to sign a decree pledging confidentiality. However, in the 1970s, a former worker defied this secrecy by publishing a government-approved book, revealing the wartime activities undertaken at the park.

During a workshop, we delved into the concepts of encryption, decryption, and cryptography, discovering how they were pivotal during World War II. Analogies were drawn to real-life lock and key mechanisms, explaining how messages were encrypted and decrypted,

alongside insights into various encryption methods and the importance of possessing the correct key to access encrypted messages.

As our visit concluded, we had the opportunity to visit the gift shop, where we could purchase mementos for ourselves and our families, serving as cherished reminders of our time spent at Bletchley Park”.

Jaihun Zegard



“A trip to Bletchley Park is more than just a visit to a historic site; it’s an opportunity to witness the intersection of intellect, innovation, and courage that shaped the course of history. As you walk through the hallowed halls and explore the secrets hidden within, you can’t help but marvel at the remarkable individuals who called this place home. Bletchley Park serves as a testament to the power of collaboration, determination, and the enduring spirit of humanity in the face of adversity.”

Mujtaba Hudsain



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024

Term	First Day of Term	Half Term	End of Term
Summer 2024	Mon 8th Apr	Mon 27th May to Fri 31st May	Fri 19th Jul

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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