



Eden Boys

Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Manchester



MANCHESTER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 DECEMBER 2017

The Eden Message

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*Nurturing Today's Young People, Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders.*



**Assalamu Alaikum / Hello and welcome to our first edition of Al Risaalah (The Eden Message). The Autumn Term at Eden Boys has been very busy. As the boys take a well-earned rest, staff are continuing to prepare for the Spring Term.**

## **Principal's Welcome**

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During this edition our newly formed student newsletter team looks back on our first term and reflects on the excitement of being the first Year 7 cohort at Eden Boys' Leadership Academy.

I am sending our best wishes to Mrs Rebecca Grantham (Vice Principal) who will leave Eden Boys' Leadership Academy at the end of the Autumn Term as she embarks on a new life with her family.

Our staff are a very important part of Eden Boys' Leadership Academy and one of our greatest assets. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication in setting up Eden Boys' Leadership Academy.

Looking forward, I would like to welcome on to our team Mrs Iram Bashir (Teacher of English and Humanities) who is moving across to the teaching staff from a support role in school. I have no doubt that the new colleagues will complement a highly enthusiastic and dedicated team that we already have in place at Eden Boys' Leadership Academy.

I would like to thank our parents for the encouragement and support that they have given to us during the setting up of the school and the first term. I look forward to working with them in our second term, and finally a big thank you to our governors who work determinedly in support of the school. I hope that you enjoy reading the first edition of the Al Risaalah newsletter.

Yours,

E Merva

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## Student Induction

In the Summer Term of 2017 Eden Manchester's first cohort were invited to an induction day at Manchester City's football ground.

When we arrived we were greeted by our principal Mrs Merva and also our form tutors. Mrs Merva spoke to us about the expectations she had of us as students entering Eden Boys' Leadership Academy.

We then had a tour of the stadium, including the pitch and locker rooms, and we met a famous footballer called Kevin de Bruyne. We also got the opportunity to spend time on the under 11's pitch where we competed in form competitions.

We rounded off the action-packed day with an assembly where a star player in every form was handpicked by the MCFC coaches that had been refereeing our form games.



The day was a truly exhilarating experience and something to remember. " **Hassan**

We officially started at Eden in September by taking part in a three week leadership programme. This involved us being based at **Manchester University** where we took part in different activities and learnt new skills. It also gave us a chance to meet other new students and start making new friendships.

We went on various trips including visits to **Manchester Art Gallery**, the **Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI)** and an action-packed day at the **Anderton Outdoor Centre** near Bolton. This was the most fun day as we got to try activities like abseiling, archery and other team-building skills. Apart from this we also had a competitive sports session at Goals in Cheetham Hill and even a workshop where we learnt circus skills!

To round off our sports leadership induction, we visited the National Football Museum in Manchester where, to our surprise, we met Juan Mata, the MUFC Midfielder.

**We would like to thank the staff at Eden Manchester for the whole induction experience as it was interesting, fun and a good way to make new friends.**

## Enrichment

At Eden Boys Manchester we have different enrichment activities running before, during and after school.

The school has formed a partnership with Manchester City Football Club to coach students every morning before the school day begins. MCFC coach Kieran who runs the sessions says he is impressed with both the boys' abilities and also their dedication for turning up to sessions at 7:30am on these cold autumnal mornings!

Some of the other enrichment clubs currently running at Eden Boys include:

- ✳ **Eco-club:** students are learning about the environment and how to look after it.
- ✳ **The 'Quiet Room':** gives students the opportunity to read, recharge and reflect.
- ✳ **Nasheed Choir:** teaches pupils different Nasheeds and prepares them for performances in upcoming school events.
- ✳ **Film club:** allows students to watch and review different films linked with curriculum learning.
- ✳ **Art and Photography Club:** introduces students to different camera techniques and improves their artistic skills.





## Open Evening

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Eden Manchester opened its doors for potential future students and their parents, with a great amount of hospitality.

Mrs Merva and our dedicated staff set a range of activities to make sure that this was an evening to remember. Some of the activities on the night included:

- ✿ **In the hall** the school's newly formed **Nasheed Choir** performed 'A is for Allah' and Mrs Merva delivered a welcoming speech. Guests were also treated to great Qur'anic recitation by students as well as some 'First impression' accounts of the school given by Eden's very first cohort.
- ✿ **In the Science lab**, Mrs Akhter demonstrated burning magnesium, whilst some students showed practicals with acid and alkalis. There were also kidneys and an animal heart on display which attracted quite a crowd! Mrs Tariq was also on hand with her friend George the skeleton, telling people what they could expect from their P.E lessons.
- ✿ **In the Humanities department**, Mrs Akhter and Miss Butt kept a room full of surprises. Visitors were invited to locate where they lived on a massive Ordnance Survey map and they were fascinated by the various models of places of worship as they circulated the room.
- ✿ **In Art**, Miss Krosschell had a hand-selected Autumn leaf collection, which gave the visitors an opportunity to use water colours to create some wonderful pieces of art.
- ✿ **In French**, Madame Aziz let visitors look at our French classwork whilst telling others of her lifetime experiences of living and working in France. Also Mr Afzal, our Assistant Head Teacher and **Computer Science teacher**, set up fun games on Kodu for visitors to enjoy.
- ✿ **In Maths and English**, visitors got a chance to view pupils' work and ask teachers any questions they had about the core subjects at a high school level.
- ✿ Last but not least, there was a student-led **cake sale** supported by Miss Shahbaz where we sold yummy cakes, sweet treats, savoury snacks and delicious drinks to raise money for the **Rohingya Refugee Crisis**.

## Student Shura Elections

In Citizenship this term students have learnt about democracy and voting in elections. As part of the 'You and Your Student Council' unit students took part in the Eden Manchester Student Council elections.

Students were given a few weeks to prepare for the election day, where students worked with candidates as a part of their campaign team. Tasks included creating posters, flyers, badges and stickers. Students also helped candidates write their council speeches, ready for the big day.

Taking part in the election process helped students to understand what it was like to vote in general elections but also enabled students to use their teamwork skills and work to deadlines. It was a fun experience, as everybody was so excited to take part.

After a couple weeks of campaigning and hearing the applicants' speeches, students voted for the best candidate. The results were announced the following week in an assembly...it felt like the longest wait ever!

The elected Student Shura candidates for this year are: **Hamzah, Shakiel, Ibrahim** and **Basil**. We congratulate them all on their new role and look forward to the exciting and positive changes they will help bring to Eden Boys Manchester!





## Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a part of British life, culture and heritage, and as a school we participated in marking the event this year. Remembrance Day acknowledges the fallen soldiers of World War 1, World War 2 and other international conflicts.

To commemorate the occasion we made poppies in our Art lessons which we then sold. Under the guidance of Miss Krosschell we managed to make over a hundred poppies, and sold them to staff and fellow students during break and lunch. We then donated the money raised to charity.

### Why do we wear the poppy?

During the First World War (1914 - 1918) much of Europe took part in fighting against Germany. Beautiful countryside's that were blasted, bombed and fought over had swiftly become a field of mud and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow. Yet, in the middle of the desolate land, thousands of delicate bright red poppies grew and flourished.

We wear poppies as they are the flowers which grew on the battlefields after the First World War ended. The Royal British Legion is the charity which runs the 'Poppy Appeal' each year and it gives the money to the service women and men who are still alive and whose lives have been changed by war.



## Children in Need

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Eden played their part to raise money for 'Children In Need' by allowing students to wear their own jubbahs. Students attended school wearing their own jubbahs in a colour and design of their choice, all for the price of £1. The day was very successful and money was raised for a worthy cause.



I personally thought that it was a very good idea to change something traditional into something that suited the Islamic ethos of the school." **Sahil.**

## "Nasheed Artist" visits Students

As a treat, students at Eden Manchester were visited by British Nasheed artist **Khaled Siddiq**. Students were very excited as many were familiar with his songs and YouTube videos.

During the session students took part in a lyrical workshop with Khaled and his brother Omar, which consisted of rhymes and creating poetry. The session was fun but also a bit nerve-wracking as students had to think of rhyming lines on the spot!

Students were then treated to astounding performances of Khaled's famous hits such as 'Unforgettable' and 'My Love'. As well as singing, Khaled also shared some of his life experiences with us and his journey in Islam.

**We thank Khaled for his visit to Eden Manchester and hope he comes back to visit us again soon.**





## Reflection on our Personal Character

As part of an extended piece of writing at the start of term, all students at Eden Manchester were asked to write about the characteristics of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and also reflect on their own personal character.

Wherever we go, whatever we do, we have to aspire to be our best and the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was the best, so we should aim to follow him in every way. He carried the best of qualities with him, including honesty, patience, respect, manners and happiness.

✿ **Honesty** is a vital characteristic in Islam, the world would be a horrifying scene if nobody was honest. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: ***"Honesty leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to paradise."*** This Hadith shows how vital it is to be honest as it could help open the doors of heaven for you in the after-life.

✿ **Patience** is one of the few keys to success. How do you deal with the obstacles that life throws in your way? Allah says, ***"Be patient! Allah is with the patient ones"*** This shows us that we should control our emotions and practise being patient.

✿ Islam places much emphasis on how we treat our elders, including teachers, parents and grandparents. It is important that we treat them in a **respectable manner**. One hadith on respect is: ***"Whoever is not merciful to their youngsters and is not respectful to elders is not one of us."***

✿ ***"The heaviest deed in the scale of a believer will be that of good manners."*** Therefore our **manners** are a big part of getting to paradise. Our manners show a reflection of ourselves and our parents and it is important that we show good manners in all areas of our life: from the home to school to the outside world.

✿ The Prophet (SAW) encouraged **smiling** as it is a form of charity. Even if he wasn't in the mood for it, he always had room for a smile. Smiling is sunnah (the way of the Prophet) in Islam and we should smile when we greet our peers and elders and well as guests. ***Smiling is viewed across cultures as a sign of friendliness and it is a natural response that shares our happiness with others.*** However did you know it also has health benefits too? Smiling lowers the heart rate and temporarily reduces blood pressure. It can also help reduce stress. So Smile – it is worth more than you know!

Overall we should aspire to be our best at all times and follow the ways and characteristics of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to get the highest paradise, Jannat al-Firdous, Insha'Allah.

**A massive thank you to all the students that wrote the articles in 'The Eden Message, Issue 1'.**

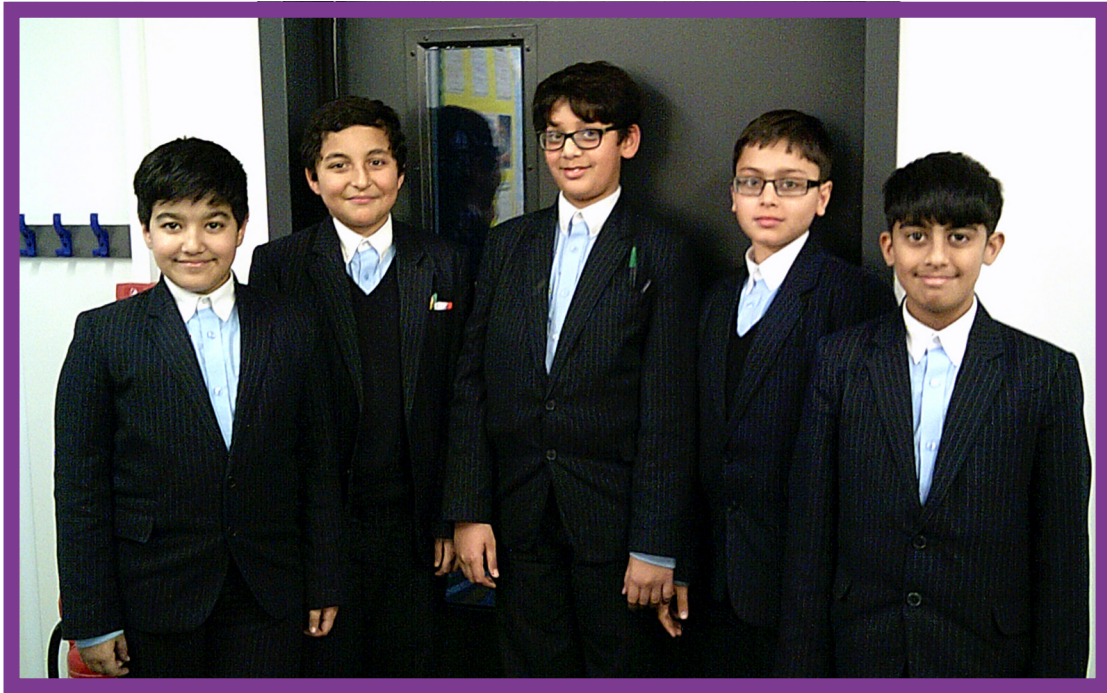
✳ **Hassan**

✳ **Shihaab**

✳ **Sahil**

✳ **Ahmad**

✳ **Ayaan**



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