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Message from the Principal

Principal Shabir Fazal



All praises to the Almighty, Lord of the Worlds and the Master of our fortunes, and salutations to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the Seal of the Prophets and the guide for all our actions.

Welcome to the Spring edition of our School

Newsletter. This year has provided us with lots of challenges and plenty of opportunities to showcase the amazing talents of our students, staff and parents.

Five weeks of amazing leadership activities to start the year, a seamless move to our state-of-the-art new site, inspiring speakers, fun and educational trips, creative events and special prizes – all taking shape whilst our teachers continue to deliver outstanding lessons and our students demonstrate outstanding learning.

The Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, the Lord Mayor, local councillors, faith leaders, police officers, school nurses, speech and language therapists, professional musicians – it feels like the whole world has been into Eden – we are truly an inclusive and outward looking school, a school where everyone is welcome and where special things happen every day. Cooking lessons, Art, Music, Nasheed, Drama, trips to the Lowry Theatre – you asked us to create more opportunities for creativity and we have risen to the challenge. Our boys have loved the opportunities on offer and there are more to come. They have shown a real passion for creativity and an amazing appetite for new experiences.



New lockers, more creativity, more enrichment activities, online homework platforms – the parent and student shuras gave us lots to think about.



As a listening school, we have made some of them happen already and some are on their way. 180 lockers are in place; Art, Music and drama are happening regularly and enrichment activities are taking place every day. We are exploring the best platforms for communicating with parents on homework, attendance, punctuality and conduct – it will happen once we know the best and most cost-effective solution for our school.

An inspiring and emotional Iftaar event allowed our students to showcase their talents in front of the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and lots of other guests, parents and fellow students. The standard of the performances was brilliant, and 3 winners all received a brand-new bicycle – hopefully that will encourage the winners and others to think about how they can be more physically active!

This year we have further enhanced our reading offer with the launch of the Star Readers Challenge. Our boys are challenged to read at least 10 books from our specially selected list of books, and those who meet the challenge are guaranteed recognition and prizes. There are lots of activities linked to this to encourage our boys to become enthusiastic and avid readers. They read every morning for around 20 minutes, as well as reading at home. It's great to see boys walking around school with a book always in their hands!

So much has happened and so much more is planned – and none of it could happen without your encouragement, support and Du'aas (prayers). Our parents are very special – never afraid to give honest feedback and always willing to step forward to help. To them, I say: You are a great asset to our school, and I feel privileged to have you as part of our great team.





Pupil Voice

Vice-Principal Sarfraz Shah

The whole purpose of EBM and the education it provides is to ensure all pupils are ready for the society we live in. Our aim is to develop the best characteristics in all pupils as well as striving for educational excellence whereby ALL pupils continue to serve the communities they live in.

As far as teachers are concerned, we all believe we are working to the best of our ability to achieve this aim.

However, in order to check how well we are doing, we need to know the views of our pupils – we call this Pupil Voice.



In order to gather the views of pupils, I speak to pupils in groups of three from each form in each year group.

This is an on-going process throughout the academic year. I ask particular questions about school life, for example: do you feel safe in school? Is there an adult you feel comfortable speaking to?

I also ask pupils about their subjects and what they like and any dislikes they may have. More recently, I have gathered views of pupils about homework and about strategies teachers use to help pupils remember more and learn more. As a result of Pupil Voice, teachers have altered their practice.

For example, at the start of lessons all teachers use a recall quadrant.



This recall quadrant is used by teachers to include questions from previous lessons, previous weeks and from the previous term. When I speak to pupils, I also ask them about what they are reading and of no surprise to me, pupils tell me that they read in school and at home and that they thoroughly enjoy reading.

Pupils also tell me the importance of deep marks. These deep marks help pupils to identify and improve areas in their learning where they haven't done so well.



Pupils have also mentioned how well they have enjoyed enrichment activities after school but they have also mentioned that at times, these clash. Consequently, after feedback from pupils, we have amended the enrichment timetable to remove these clashes.

Talking to pupils will always continue as they always provide us with honest and constructive feedback about their learning experiences in school, and how we as teachers can improve those experiences for them.





A Fresh Start

Mr Abdul Limbada

In October 2019, teachers at Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Manchester, said goodbye to their old school and set off on an adventure towards their new one, a custom-built £16m building just a few minutes away. The old site, which was on Larch Gardens and made up of a series of cabins, had been our home for over 2 years.



Religious Studies teacher Miss Butt said,

"It was bittersweet moving from the old site to this new one. We left a lot of fond memories there, but now we look forward to making many more here at the new school."



Head of Year Mr Khan said,

"It was sad leaving the old school. The change is for the betterment of the school and students though. I am looking forward to it. It's been an emotional journey and I look forward to our time at Eden Boys, at the new site."



Students were also sad to leave the old school, but their faces lit up once they saw how big the new school was, and the wonderful facilities that they would now have access to.



Geography teacher Mrs Akhter said:

“Our first days as members of Eden Boys’ Leadership, Academy began in September 2017 with a three week leadership programme. This included a number of trips/visits aimed at allowing our students to take part in a variety of different activities and learn new skills. Although at times it felt like a LONG three weeks, it has been rewarding watching those new friendships formed become a part of the STAR family, which further strengthened as we moved to our temporary site at Larch Gardens where we were worked in close proximity with each other.”



Teaching Assistant Miss Shahbaz added:

“Fast forward to two years later, and it is clear to see there have been many changes from those early days to now. A new building has meant more space, new staff, more facilities and enrichment opportunities. With a permanent home we can also firmly establish ourselves as members of the wider Cheetham Hill community.”





Lord Lieutenant Sir Warren Smith Visits Eden Boys' Manchester Salwan Inayat

On 16th January 2020, Eden Boys' Manchester gave a warm welcome to the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Sir Warren Smith. The school planned a fantastic day for him, in which Sir Warren would get an insight into all the wonderful work our school does, and find out more about our ethos, missions and core values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect.

The Lord-Lieutenant was given the utmost respect and had the opportunity to meet some of the delightful students of our school,

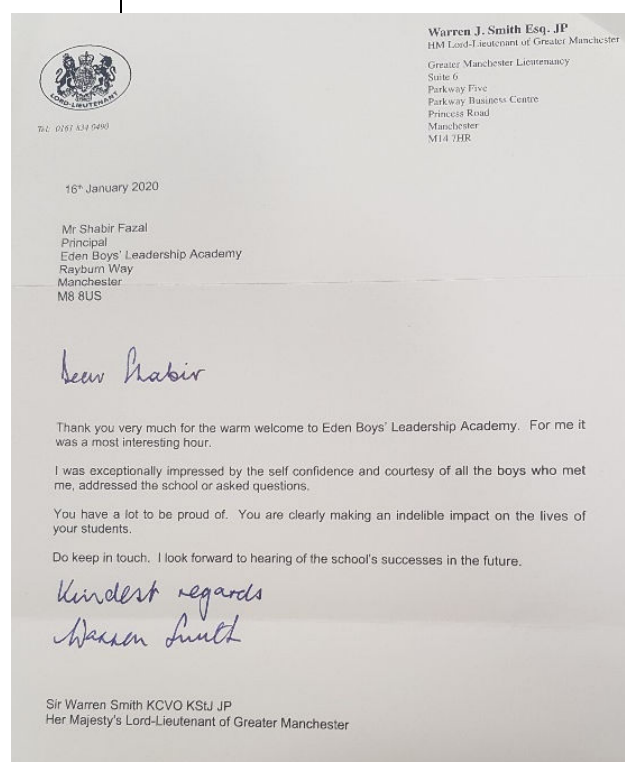
including the Head Boy, student leaders, prefects and other students of Eden Boys.

At the arrival of Sir Warren, he was greeted by our Respected Principal Mr Fazal, along with the Head Boy and his two deputies.

Sir Warren was escorted into our state-of-the-art school and into the Assembly/Prayer Hall, where an assembly took place.

The assembly focused on our school's history and our achievements in such a short period of time and included some nasheeds and Quran recitations to emphasise our Islamic ethos.

After the assembly, the Lord-Lieutenant was given a tour of our school and had lunch. He praised our school and told us how much he had enjoyed the visit through a very kind letter to the principal.





In the Box Marcus Rashford Charity Campaign

Yunus Bobat

Our school took part in Manchester United player Marcus Rashford's 'In the Box' campaign to tackle homelessness across Manchester. This was such a successful event, with lots of students and parents donating essential items for the homeless.

The Student Council Board, along with other students, helped wrap and pack boxes with socks, tissues, gloves, thermals and hand sanitisers. It provided our school with an opportunity to help our local community and gave us a chance to realise that we are in such fortunate places compared to the huge number of homeless people across Greater Manchester. The fact that



Manchester United Striker Marcus Rashford with our students

such an influential Premier League football player recognised our efforts to aid the homeless really depicts the greatness of what took place this Winter.

Our school even received a letter from a homeless person who received one of our boxes and thanked us. He said that it was the first Christmas present he had received since sleeping rough.

I, alongside fellow pupil, Mounif Kelani, got the chance to deliver the boxes to the collection point where we got the amazing once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet Marcus Rashford who greeted us and thanked us for the (large) number of boxes we made.

Overall, I think that this Winter charity event really sums up the generosity of our school, and I hope that there will be numerous more opportunities like these in the near future.

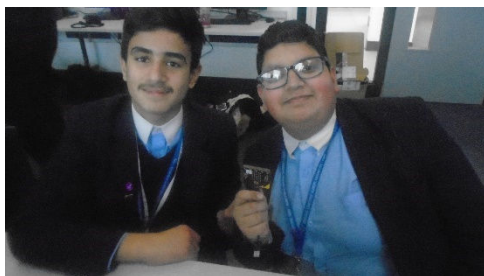


Principal Fazal and year 9 students help pack the Charity boxes



Microbit Mayhem

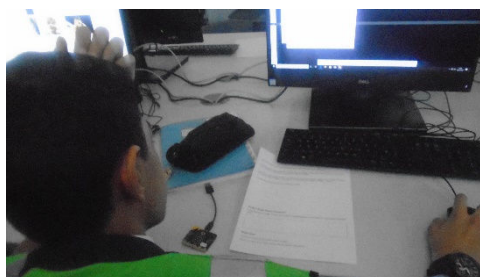
By Mohammed Islam



On 30th January 2020, Year 9 students took part in a BBC Microbit workshop.

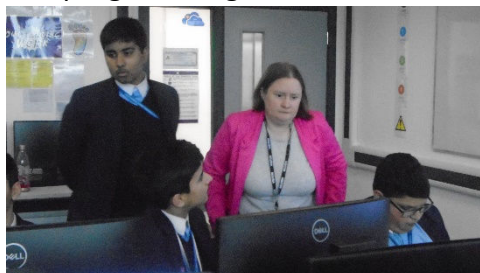
This was very successful as students had different opportunities to learn to program a small computer.

A Microbit is a small computer that can be programmed to play games and work as an electronic device.

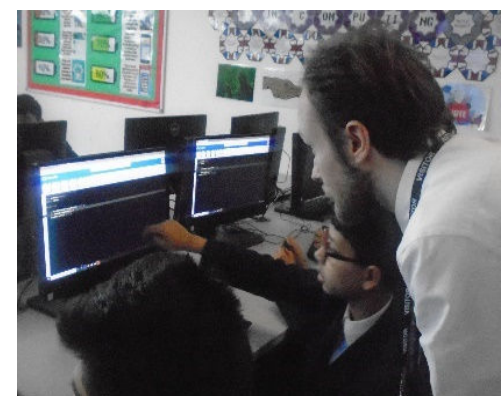


I, alongside my peers, programmed the Microbits to work as an electronic dice.

This was very challenging but equally entertaining and educating task, and many students enjoyed playing with and programming the Microbit.



The staff that taught us about the Microbits were very knowledgeable as well as kind and helpful, and patiently answered any questions we had.



Programming the Microbits was at first challenging, but in the end, when they had been programmed, I felt really good because of the sense of accomplishment I felt.

I look forward to more opportunities like this in the future.



A Fantastic Fundraising Day for Children in Need

By Tariq Ahmed



On Friday 15th November, Eden Boys' Leadership Academy worked alongside the Children in Need charity to raise money for children across the globe who are not as privileged as we are. The school planned a day of fun and excitement. The students worked alongside the staff to create activities which pupils could take part in to raise money for this great charity.



Although the staff assisted the students, the charity was not only a way to help the young children around the world who needed help and education but was a great way for students at Eden to improve their leadership, problem solving and communication skills. Activities which students participated in included: Beat the Goalie,

Sponge the Teacher, basketball and a cake sale. While the event was being planned, students were encouraged to input their ideas. The student team included: The Head Boy along with the Deputy Head Boys, the Student Council and other exemplary students at our school.



The school raised over £700. The students demonstrated the school's STAR Values which consisted of: Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect.

Although we have donated to many Charity events, Children in Need was seen as one of the most important, as it reminded our fellow pupils that we are privileged to work in a great school with outstanding facilities and an exemplary education being delivered to us.





Eden's 3rd Winter Fast Event

By Mr Abdul Limbada

Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Manchester, hosted its 3rd Annual Winter Fast Event, to celebrate 10 weeks of optional Winter fasting.

The event was hosted by Head Boy Yunus Bobat, who was supported by his two deputies, Tariq Ahmed and Sameer Chowdhury.



The event began with a recitation and translation of Surah Fatiha, the opening of the Quran, by Danyal Amin and Shihab Alam.

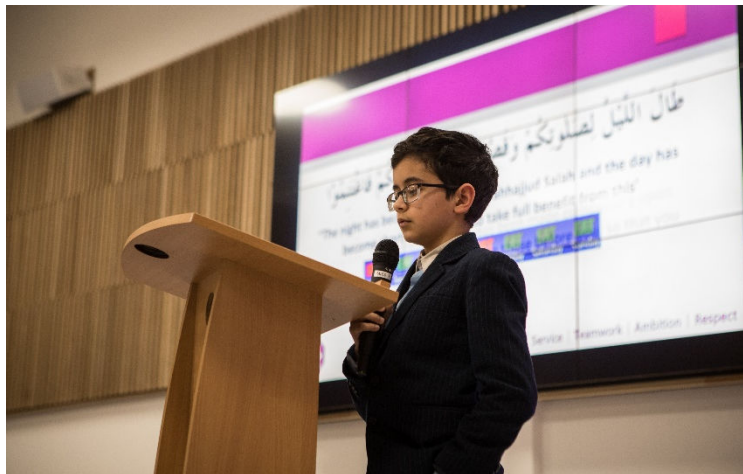


The audience were then treated to a wonderful recitation of some Quran verses on fasting, by Talha Sindhu.





Sufyaan Shafqat then enlightened everyone about the benefits of fasting, and why he, along with others, had chosen to fast.



Once Sufyaan had finished, Tariq and Sameer took over from their line manager, and hosted the Eden's Got Talent grand final.



First, the 2 deputies explained how the preliminary rounds of the competition had been conducted, and then explained that this was now the final, and that they – the guests, teachers and parents – would decide who would be the 3 winners.

9 finalists would battle it out to become the 2020 Eden's Got Talent Nasheed, Quran and Speech champions.

Once the 9 finalists had performed, staff, guests and parents then voted for their favourite acts.

As votes were being counted, Mueez Aslam spoke about the Seerah Mastermind competition that had been held in the Islamic month of Rabiul Awwal, and everyone watched the final of the competition.



Prizes were awarded to the winners, and participation gifts given to those who performed on the day.





The event was a resounding success, with staff, students, guests and parents all visibly impressed with the quality of the contestants, and the confidence of the hosts.

The day was rounded off with a huge iftaar meal, and participants and guests left with a full stomach, great memories and a smile on their faces.





Seerah Mastermind

By Mueez Aslam (Seerah Finalist)

For those of you who are not familiar with the term Seerah, it means “Story of the life of our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)”. Effectively, Seerah is the biography of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Eden Boys’ Leadership Academy launched a competition regarding the Seerah. It would involve every class in the school watching a short 10-minute video every day for 9 days about a different stage in the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

After two intriguing weeks listening to and watching each video, the entire school took part in a multiple-choice quiz about everything we had learnt during this period. The three students who achieved the highest in each form went through to the next round, and then this was whittled down to a final 12 who would compete in the grand final, and I was one of them.

We were given a couple weeks to revise everything we had learnt. Honestly, the time just flew by, and before you knew it, it was the big day. I was anxious. Very anxious. Not only was I up against 3 other year seven students, I was also up against 4 year eight and 4 year nine students.

As I entered and sat down, I looked up and a camera stared back at me. I was being streamed LIVE to the whole school!



But when the questions started, my nerves settled, and I answered quite a few, achieving an excellent score of 21 correct answers in 2 minutes.

But alas, it wasn’t enough. Salwan returned and told me that he had achieved a score of 24 and had beaten me.



I put on a smile, shook his hand and said congratulations, but on the inside, I was gutted.

I returned to my class really downbeat, but as soon as I walked in, the whole class erupted into a raucous cheer – everyone was congratulating me, even though I had just lost. Very quickly, my frown turned upside down, a smile returned to my face, and I thought to myself – there’s always next year...



School Mock General Election

By Yunus Bobat

During early December, our school took part in a mock general election, in order to mirror the UK Parliament general election that also took place in December.

I represented the Conservative Party whilst the two Deputy Head Boys, Sameer and Tariq, represented the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party respectively.

The aim of this was to teach all the students of the school about how decisions are made in parliament through democracy and to allude to the fact that as citizens of the UK, we all have a voice in how we want the country to be run.

Students managed to learn a lot from this, such as varying views on Brexit, immigration, the economy, as well as the healthcare and education systems in the UK. The process really heightened our school's involvement with the legislative process that is undertaken in our country, and pupils got a deep insight into the British

values that positively encompass the nature and embodiment of this great country.

We hoped that through this, students would be more aware of the election process, and I think that this was achieved to a substantial level. It was an engaging event, at the end of which all students cast their votes on which party they supported, and by the end of it, it became clear that the policies of the Labour Party appealed most to the students in school.

This mock election was a medium through which the students learnt so much in the timespan of about a week, and it was successful and was thoroughly enjoyed by my fellow pupils.

I think that this was a great idea, and it should be implemented nationwide in schools across the UK so that the younger growing generation get a first-hand experience of democratic elections, and are able to expand their knowledge of the parliamentary government election process.



Cheetham Clean Up

By Tariq Ahmed



On a cold September morning, the whole of year 9 braved the elements and took part in a community clean-up.

Since we are its inhabitants, the wellbeing of the environment is extremely important to us.



As Muslims we believe God has created us as *Khalifas*, or stewards, of this world and so we should look after it.

Not only did cleaning up Cheetham Hill improve us as individuals who look after the environment, it was done on Active Citizenship Day so we learnt a lot about giving back to the community.

The pupils were invited to Khizrah Mosque where the Imam educated us on the importance of looking after the environment, and the great importance that Islam places on cleanliness.

I was quite surprised at the amount of rubbish that litters our streets. We filled up dozens of black bags, full of rubbish that had been left lying about.

If only each of us, as stewards and guardians of the Earth, was to make sure they put their rubbish in the bin, or even just pick up a few pieces of rubbish every day, our streets would be cleaner, our environment safer and we would be a lot happier living in such a nice, clean area.





Fantastic Food Technology

Sameer Chowdhury

One of the best things about our new school is the food technology lessons. In our old school, we could not do food technology because there was no purpose-built kitchen for it, but at the new school, we have an amazing fully-kitted room. I have never cooked anything at home, so it was really enjoyable learning about it.



This subject has helped me to learn new skills and develop my knowledge about different areas of cooking.

I cooked foods like pasta salad, spaghetti bolognese and chicken paprika. They were quite delicious.

We also went over different types of nutrients and how they benefit us and learnt about food poisoning and how

to avoid it. Unsurprisingly, my favourite part of food technology was cooking the food!

Year 8 pupil Zain Ijaz explained what he learnt from Food Technology lessons:

"I learnt different techniques like how to cut vegetables and how to season a chicken to make a stir fry. Something else I learnt was how to make fruits presentable when we made fruit salads. I also learnt about how a cooker works during a lesson on grills and hobs."





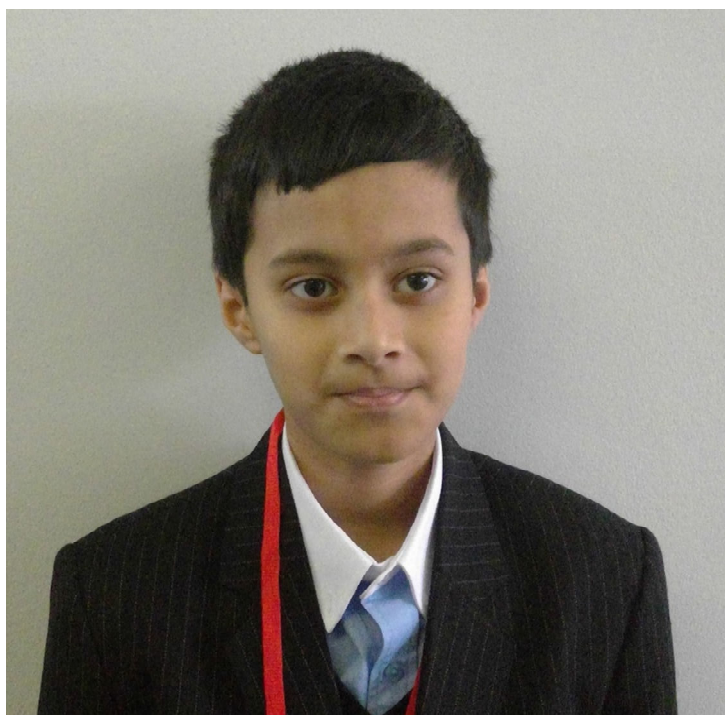
Matrix Challenge

Cyber security competition and events exclusively for young people across the UK



The Matrix Challenge

Sameer Chowdhury



The Matrix Challenge is an exciting free cyber-skills competition open to every 11 to 17 year old in the UK.

The competition began with an online qualification game that consisted of five mini cyber-tasks that went live on Monday 20th January and had to be completed by Friday 14th February 2020.

The top performing North West students were then selected to attend the North West Semi-Final at Liverpool ACC Convention Centre on 21st March 2020. The semi-final will contain lots of 'hands-on' cyber challenges and will be hosted by the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit with support from the six police forces across the region.

I, Sameer Chowdhury, took part in the Matrix Challenge, along with my Computer Science classmates.

The Challenge

When I was first told about the Matrix Challenge, I was intrigued by it, and when I was told about the amazing prizes on offer, my interest peaked further.

I registered for the challenge and went through the 5 mini tasks. Some were quite easy. For example, one of the tasks was to look at a scenario and match it up with its data type. Another activity was to work out a secret word hidden within a picture and type it in at the bottom. There was also an odd word search where we had to search and match up letters to numbers in order to solve it.

At the end, there was a final quiz where we had to answer the questions as quickly as we could. I was happy with my speed and was one of the first to finish. I knew the material quite well and was confident I would beat many of my peers.

Being a semi-finalist

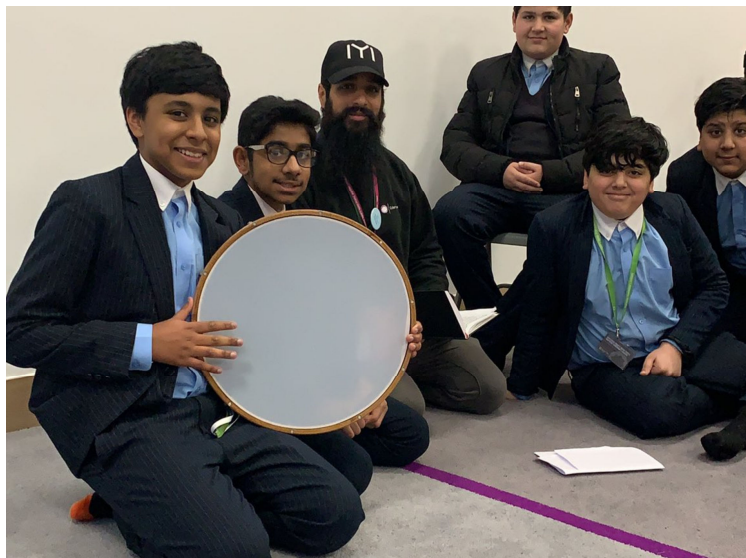
After the competition was completed, I settled back into my normal routine, but received a bit of a shock when a few weeks later, the results came back and I found I had made it through to the semi-final - the only one to make it through from my school. I was quite ecstatic, and I really can't wait for the final.

I have benefitted greatly from the Matrix Challenge. It has improved my coding skills considerably and helped develop my problem-solving skills. I think engaging in scenarios that mimic real-life situations is really engaging, and I look forward to the semi-final, and similar competitions in future.



Music at Eden

By Laith Ali



Recently, we had a Music Drop Down Day, in which we learnt about different ways of making music.

It was a great day: we had a popular Syrian beatboxer called Madz (beatboxing name) visit our school and teach us the fundamentals of beatboxing.

We also learnt how to use traditional instruments. This is how our day went:

First, we were sent to the drumming area, where we were greeted by an instrument teacher, who taught us about how certain instruments were played. We experimented with traditional drums, agogô bells, tambourines and rain sticks. I particularly enjoyed the loud traditional drums - we all did - and we worked well together to create a short song.



Then, we went to the song and nasheed writing workshop, where we had a go at writing our own song or nasheed (an Islamic-themed song). Mine was based on Qiyamah (The Day of Standing) and I did a good job at it!

After our breaktime, we were taken to a different room, where we learnt how to play a couple of ukulele chords, and learnt how to play to the rhythm of a song.



But the best of all was saved for the last session - beatboxing time had arrived! We sat down and were introduced to a professional beat by Madz. We were all so surprised at what you can do with just your voice and a microphone! Then he taught us the basics. In a short amount of time, we paired up and played an 'ask and answer' game, where one would beatbox, the other would respond with the next type, and so on. At the end, we split into 4 groups, where we initiated a beat. We then had a beatboxing battle, and my team drew with another team!



That was our Music Drop Down Day. I hope you enjoyed reading about my experience.



An Inspector Calls Visit to the Theatre

Moaad Benrajab

On Wednesday 15th January 2020, the whole of year 9 went on a trip to the Lowry, to watch a play we were studying – An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestly.



When we entered the theatre, my peers and I felt excited to finally watch this incredible written play come to life.

We were placed at the top of the theatre and had an excellent view of the stage.

As I watched the play, I realised that the director (Stephen Daldry) had taken a different approach to the character build up, as he presented Sheila to be arrogant and quite comical.



I think that watching the play was very beneficial to all the students as we got an insight as to how the stage directions would affect the story. Also, it really helped us to empathise with all the characters and their emotions.

Watching it live was an eye-opening experience and will help us remember the content in future as we have learnt that visual content stays for longer in long-term memory.

It was a good experience for most students, as it gave us the chance to go and watch a play in a theatre – a place where most of the students had not been to before.

I think this ingeniously written play really reflects Priestly's desire to depict what life was like during the 20th Century and introduces the themes of social responsibility, younger vs older generation, and gender inequality. Seeing this impressive play come to life will help us understand social issues better.





Bringing a Smile to those on the Front Line

By Umar Sheikh

I, alongside a fellow pupil, was given the privilege to deliver hampers to local services on a cold, Wintery day in December.

First, we went to Chestnut House Care Home, where our gifts were warmly received by staff.



We then went to Blakley Fire Station, where the hardworking staff were delighted to receive their hamper of Winter warmth.



Finally, we went to North Manchester General Hospital, where the exhausted and hardworking staff were very grateful at our presents.

It was wonderful to see the smiles on the faces of the recipients at the arrival of these unexpected gifts; it really did make us all feel good, and we hope to do it all again next year.