



EDITION 10 - THE PEN
March 2018

puj



The Principal's Welcome...

Assalaamu 'alaikum / Peace Be Upon You.

I take this opportunity to write for the first time in the 'Al Qalam' School magazine as the new Principal of Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School, having started in January 2018.

My opportunity has come at a time of excitement at the school. A new adventure to be built on the strong foundations. An opportunity to be risk taking and daring, knowing that the school has achieved great success in such a short space of time.

TIBHS as a school, is currently in the best place to help me realise my dream and vision for the school – to be the best boys' school not only in Blackburn, or Lancashire but nationally and internationally. The way to achieve this will be to strive for the GOLD STANDARD in everything we do and everything we stand for. Nothing less than the best is practised, delivered or accepted – a buy-in from one and all. This will in itself continue to create a 'World Class' learning environment which is not only rated outstanding by Ofsted, but is rated as a beacon of excellence – beyond outstanding – by staff, parents, the Local Governing Body, the Trust and most importantly by the young men who attend the school.

I truly believe that if the young men believe they are part of a concept that is magical, then they in turn will be the greatest benefactors who will reciprocate and give back tenfold.

I have the opportunity to not only realise the vision of Tauheedul Education Trust, but also to embed our leadership specialism throughout the school's systems, structure and processes. I stand bold, ready

and excited, backed by a committed, hardworking and talented team, to truly 'nurture today's young people to be the inspirational leaders of tomorrow', who will go on to be the movers and shakers, the decision makers and policy shapers.

I believe the sky is the limit for the young men – there is no mountain too high, no ocean too deep. The young men, with the will of the Almighty, will attend the best Russell Group Universities; they will secure the best apprenticeships with global firms; they will be the key ambassadors for social mobility and change and they will travel to parts of the galaxy which you and I may not have dreamt of. More importantly, the young men will carry the torch of Islam with them to guide them along the way and use their faith to be a force for achieving good in their lives and around the world.

I have embarked on a journey to carry on building a school which has no limits and no ceilings. I want the young men, the parents, the staff to belong to a school which is rich in diversity, but cohesive in identity. There is so much to look forward to in the immediate future Inshallah. The current Year 11 results will continue to demonstrate a positive year on year upward trajectory.

The exciting work on the new state of the art school is also expected to commence very soon. I will oversee the construction of this spectacular building and

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ♦ Page 2 ♦
- ♦ The Insider
- ♦ Page 3 ♦
- ♦ Cruising with Etihad
- ♦ Page 4 ♦
- ♦ Cumbria Calling
- ♦ Liverpool Cathedral
- ♦ Page 5 ♦
- ♦ A Plethora of Trips!
- ♦ Pitch-Perfect Poetry
- ♦ Page 6 ♦
- ♦ Commonwealth Commemoration
- ♦ Page 7 ♦
- ♦ TIBHS Students Restoring Justice?
- ♦ Quick Maths!
- ♦ Page 8 ♦
- ♦ The Coming of Brilliance... Of Oxford
- ♦ Game On
- ♦ Page 9 ♦
- ♦ Careers Convention
- ♦ Redemption Time
- ♦ Page 10 ♦
- ♦ Year 7 Faith Trail
- ♦ Head Boy Corner
- ♦ Page 11 ♦
- ♦ Holocaust Memorial Day
- ♦ Priceless Gifts for Precious Souls
- ♦ Page 12 ♦
- ♦ Upcoming Events at TIBHS



The Principal's Welcome...

Continued from Page 1

ensure the transition to this building, is seamless, smooth and slick in September 2019. With this, the space for the much anticipated Sixth Form will also be planned to open its doors for the first time in 2020.

In helping shape the school, it is important to listen to the viewpoints of all the different stakeholders who belong to the TIBHS family. For this reason, I will continue to consult the young men through questionnaires, the Year 11 Leadership Team and the Student Shuraa (Council).

To this end, parental contributions are also of vital importance to me. May I take this opportunity to thank all the parents who completed the online questionnaire. An analysis of this questionnaire has been done and the school will look at how things can be further improved using the feedback. Other platforms of providing valuable and constructive feedback that I am working with include the monthly Principal's Surgery and the Parent Shuraa (Council). Staff questionnaires, 1 to 1 consultations and a planned Staff Shuraa will also support the school

when making changes to have a positive impact on the exceptionally talented and hardworking staff at TIBHS.

I foresee a TIBHS that will develop young men with many positive attributes and a strong character and an even more powerful moral compass. They will be ready to grasp the wider world with both hands, so they can go on to be the best neighbour in a noisy, busy neighbourhood, the best employee/employer in industry and the best role model in a family setting of being a husband, a father and the most amazing son for their loving parents and carers. In essence, the school will shine brightly under the Tauheedul STAR values – of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect.

Finally, I pray that the Almighty continues to shower his blessings on the school for its continued success, and for all the stakeholders who invest their time and energy to better the school on a daily basis. Aameen.

Majid Ditta (Principal)

The Insider

An exclusive with our new Principal, Mr Majid Ditta, by our 'The Insider' correspondent, Amine Gherensi.

As many of you know, Mr Ibrahim, had recently moved to pastures new from his previous post of Principal of TIBHS and in his stead is Mr Ditta, former Principal of Olive School, Preston. As our new Principal, it is prime time to get to know Mr Ditta's ambitions and thoughts. As the correspondent for The Insider of this issue, I was honoured to have had the unique experience and admirable opportunity of quizzing our Principal. Read on to find out 'the insider' perspective!

Can you describe yourself and what is it that motivates you?

Mr Ditta – I would describe myself as somebody who is enthusiastic, passionate and, very focused in the job that I love doing. I am grateful of the opportunity to serve others and I want to make a difference to young people through education. My main motivation is the young, and when I am around them I feel privileged because I learn so much from the young people on a daily basis and I would want to be a little part of something which is hopefully going to make them into something incredibly successful.

Why are you interested in being the Principal of TIBHS?

Mr Ditta – I didn't imagine becoming the Principal at Tauheedul Boys. I only wanted to be part of a school that could take massive steps to really get the best of the best for the children at the school. When I was asked to be the Principal at Tauheedul Boys, my ambition of making a difference was truly superseded because I was going to see if I could make a difference in a school that was remarkably successful. That excited me because there were new challenges. How do you continue to build up the current academic success; the school being the third in the country for Progress 8?

Not just that though, how do you get this school to be the best boys' school in the whole of the Kingdom and where are these boys going in the future; which part of the globe are these boys going to venture out to make a difference? I know that Tauheedul Boys has the opportunity to create true leaders and I truly believe in the vision of Tauheedul Education Trust, which is about nurturing today's young people and inspiring tomorrow's leaders.

Is there any advice you would give to students and staff alike?

Mr Ditta – If I were to take students first, I would be saying to them that the education at Tauheedul Boys is recognised as being outstanding and that you should make the most of this opportunity whilst at school because clearly there is a proven track record towards

success. So, work to your strength and maximise the opportunities made available to you by the school. Alongside the academia, I would say be proud of the faith you belong to and use Islam as a force for good – making you the best person you can be, demonstrating and living values of unity, compassion, kindness and humbleness.

For staff – you are an incredibly talented and committed group of people, who work tirelessly for the students. The staff here are instrumental in making the success of the school, and the staff and the students both belong to an organisation, which is not only outstanding but is ranked amongst the best schools in the country. So the hard work, the endless marking, the planning on the weekends, no part of it is going to waste, but instead is going into making the school one of the best in the country, so continue with your unwavering dedication. I would request for their continued efforts and commitment and reinforce to the staff that they are the best resource the school has – an outstanding school is only as good as the outstanding teaching and learning.

What would be your ideal school environment?

Mr Ditta – The ideal school environment for me would be where everybody in school exceeds their potential. They are connected with the school in such a way that not only do they have to come to school to study, but they want to come to the school to be part of a football club, a debating club, poetry and cooking skills team. I want the young men to come to school because they want to help the school feed and serve the homeless people, they want to come to school because they want to help preserve the environment so... I would want the ideal school environment to be somewhere where everybody is respected, everybody is included and where, we, together make this school a special environment where you can recognise and feel the tangible magic, if you are part of it.

Cruising with Etihad

On Wednesday 7th February 2018, our Year 11 cohort were privileged to have the opportunity to attend the Etihad stadium for an inspirational careers day. By providing an extensive range of future choices, students were given a careers direction to enable them to achieve their academic goals in the future. They visited workshops and stalls which motivated them with the prospects of further education and university!

The supportive mentors at the event ensured that all TIBHS students were given relevant information, advice and guidance on a university of their choice. To augment this wonderfully bespoke service, a brilliant Oxbridge seminar was even delivered.

As students from dozens of schools, brought together from across the country, collaborated together at the stadium, we swiftly realised that further education was not as foreboding as some of us had expected. The volunteers delivered life changing talks in a student friendly manner. Feedback from the Year 11 students was invariably positive as they described the experience as phenomenal, remarkable and simply impeccable.

"It was a fantastic experience and most definitely unforgettable,"



remarked Imran Ali. He went on to say, "The atmosphere, buzz and positive engagement we experienced at the Etihad has most certainly increased our endeavour in choosing our post-sixteen career path with insight."

To conclude, this immaculate visit transpired into a real success. Exemplary seminars, a energetic atmosphere and a unique experience helped us visualise what life may be like post-TIBHS! It was an experience to shape the minds and the hearts of whom we call the leaders of our society.

Absorbing. Resourceful. Life changing. An experience like no other.

By Hamzah Desai, 11M1

What are you hoping to do to further aid students with college, sixth form and work?

Mr Ditta – Our School is not only about getting the best GCSEs for our young men, it's about supporting the parents and the madrasahs in helping to shape the young men to have the best of character, so that they are the best sons, the best neighbours and the best ambassadors of our faith wherever possible. So I do not see the young men within an age category of 11 to 16, I see them as 11 to life. What I mean by this is that I will take every step needed so the young men from TIBHS can pursue their dreams. They can go to the best colleges, they can get the best apprenticeships at the best firms if that is what their heart desires and, we can help get them to the best universities so they can be the future leaders of tomorrow's society. This is what I have in mind when I am planning for the TIBHS Sixth Form in the years to come.

Will you increase the types of extracurricular activities available?

Mr Ditta – I am currently working with the Student Shuraa (Council) on an exciting proposal to write a student survey. This will be an opportunity to ask the student population about a variety of initiatives, asking them whether they have had enough extracurricular opportunities. If the feedback indicates that there is not enough, then we will reconsider the current provision to ensure there are sufficient activities for all interested. Whether they are linked to subject areas for example, technology clubs or science clubs to physical and expressive arts ranging from basketball through to poetry and drama. In essence, we aim to try our very best to provide an enriched extracurricular timetable because I personally believe that belonging to a club, taking part in an activity or playing in a team strengthens the development of an individual to make them a more well-rounded person which would have a positive impact on their schooling and future life.

Are there any 'food for thought' questions you would like to communicate to parents, students and staff?

Mr Ditta – The questions I would like to leave with all are:

Students:

- Do you believe you attend a school which is outstanding?
- Do you believe that you could be the next Prime Minister, politician, olympic gold medal winner? The next pioneer to influence social change and social mobility for masses? Because if not, why not?

Staff:

- Is what we are doing today, preparing the students for what they will be doing tomorrow?

Students, staff and parents:

- What would education look like in a classroom setting in 2035?

Finally, I will close by saying that Mr Ditta comes across as a man driven by ambition and a desire to advance the untapped potential of TIBHS' students. Willing to make sacrifices, the motivation to pave perfect paths for the young shows a Principal who has a caring and compassionate nature. His leadership is one destined to see many great things for the school ranging from moving into a state-of-the-art brand new building to the establishment of a Sixth Form.

This may be something you think of when Mr Ditta comes to mind, **"Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others,"** John C. Maxwell, American author.

By Amine Gherensi, 10L4



Cumbria Calling

9 February 2018 was the date GCSE geography students had been counting down to. It was the residential that would be one for the books. It had been the talk of the class since the trip was announced! And sure enough when the moment arrived, everybody was buzzing.

The bus ride to Cumbria lasted around 2 hours, but every minute was worth the wait. We arrived at the Centre around 11am, and as you may have expected, the view was simply breathtaking! Standing before us were amazing mountains that were perfectly topped with pure, white snow. Reaching minus temperatures, this destination proved to be a hotspot for all, whose elegant beauty could not be argued with.

After a quick tour of our residence for the day, we entered a classroom and prepared for a lesson on the wonderful surroundings and the study of the rivers that flowed through. The lesson mentally prepared us for the task ahead. Students were 'Of course' thrilled to learn that as well as aiding them for their GCSE preparation, the next few hours also offered them with some fun.

We rushed to get our waterproofs and wellies on and set out on a trek. Who would have thought education would give students such a brilliant treat? Having walked on a path on the mountain climbing up ever so steadily and many slipping back down, we reached a waterfall that flowed into the river which we had to measure. It was truly 'rolling your sleeves up time'. The purpose was to see the difference in depth and width of a river as we descended down the mountain from the upper course making our way to the lower course.

Measuring the river was itself a challenge - an experience which won't be forgotten any time soon, probably because of the freezing and fast flowing water! It was no doubt difficult, and it took long, but the teamwork and resilience rewarded us with results that were correct. It also enabled us to see information on how the measurements changed further down. Having completed the measuring activity, we made our way back to the Centre to return to the class and share our findings. After completing a few graphs and recording our data, we compared results.



Perhaps, as some may say, the best part of our trip was we also got to relax in our rooms. The amazingly catered meal was thoroughly enjoyed by all too! The night passed with much excitement and a lot of fun, but the morning brought new challenges with an early wake-up call and to freshen up for the day's activities.

A big, hearty breakfast of egg, toast, tomatoes and other items was just the right sort of start to the day. From breakfast, we dashed to a neighbouring Carlisle City, which has a growing population. The focus of our investigation was measuring housing inequality from the outskirts to the City Centre. We analysed the types of dwellings we could see, detached, terraced etc.

Our route ended in the City. Along our route, we saw considerable housing inequality leading into the City Centre. It was around lunchtime, and so we scurried off to fill our bellies before bidding farewell to the village.

As the saying goes, 'time flew', and within the hour we were back in the bus making our way return to Blencathra Centre. We recorded our results on paper, produced our graphs, collected our belongings and made our way to finally leave Blencathra. But one thing was for sure – our learning memories were certainly not left behind. They will remain with us even beyond our GCSEs!

By Muhammad Karolia, 10L4

Liverpool Cathedral

On 16th January 2018, TIBHS embarked on a journey to one of the UK's most astounding architectural wonders – Liverpool Cathedral. It was a practical trip for GCSE Religious Education (R.E.) students to complement their curriculum studies.

A lucky and eager group of 58 students from Year 10 were first in queue with their confirmation slips! There was some disappointment of course because it has historically been a 'not-to-be-missed' event. Despite the disappointment, the competition for places certainly added to the excitement and anticipation.

Arriving at Liverpool Cathedral, staff and students went off in three different groups; the first group was led by Miss Yakub, the second by Maulana Usman Kothia, with Maulana Mohammed Daji leading the third group.

There were three parts to this trip, which consisted of two workshops; the Eucharist workshop, the Baptism workshops, and a guided tour. The Baptism workshop showed them how a baptism took place and what happened during it, reminding students of the purpose and the significance of baptism.

Students were given the opportunity to think about what the Eucharist meant, why it happened and the symbolism surrounding it. Some artefacts used in Communion services at the Cathedral were also on display for the groups. The guided tour showed staff and students around the church and allowed them to view the full church, appreciating its architectural grandeur, silence and historical significance. This visit proved to be instrumental, enhancing visual learning which enabled everyone to actually witness and experience the different aspects of the R.E. course.

Miss Yakub commented that, "Staff have seen first-hand the importance of learning outside the classroom - RE has been brought to life from within the classroom to Liverpool Cathedral. This has allowed Year 10 pupils to take part in the learning of two sacraments which are important to both Catholic and Protestant Christianity. Being able to study this has now enabled students to have a long-lasting understanding of what they covered in class, and they are now in a stronger position to answer GCSE questions in May 2018! Students were intrigued and asked many questions."



The organisers were very impressed with the behaviour and the attitude of our young men."

Miss Yakub went to a lot of effort, time and energy to organise this important trip and tried extraordinarily hard to maximise experiential learning for students at TIBHS. Hopefully, TIBHS has more opportunities in store for its students, but until then it's back to learning in the classroom!

By Yoosuf Nadat, 10L2

A Plethora of Trips!



There were two incredibly memorable Saturdays on January 28th and February 17th that have imprinted so many fond memories on the Year 11 cohort! We had the unique opportunity of participating in a special series of social trips, to help us feel refreshed, ready and raring to go for the GCSE exams looming ahead. And they were all for FREE!

The first trip consisted of a truly terrific visit to the 'Hollywood Bowl' in Bolton, whilst the second trip was to the fascinating two-part Laser Quest and Escape Room, in Preston. The Year 11s thoroughly enjoyed these well-deserved trips, ahead of a busy few, burning the midnight-oil months!

Hollywood Bowl offered bowling, arcading and pool. This fun-packed day of enjoyment came just after a two-week slog of mock assessments. The afternoon panned out initially with multiple groups coming together, challenging one another in games of bowling. The stiff competition between us lasted a couple of hours, before we faced off with each other over pool.

Deputy Head Boy, Qaasim Suleman, commented, "The trip to Hollywood Bowl was a smashing start to the New Year 2018, with a reward for the full year to keep us on track and refreshed for the upcoming term." In a nutshell, Hollywood Bowl was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Then came the long awaited, renowned "Escape Room", in Preston. By this point you can imagine just how much of an escape we were after! The afternoon was split into two: the first dedicated to the Escape Room, and the second towards Laser Quest. The entertainment began with the Escape Room: trapped in a room, with only our wits as our escape tool.

Escape Room is an interactive and intuitive, real-life escape game. Locked in a room with a group of 2 to 6 people, participants have 60 minutes to solve challenging puzzles to escape the room. Whilst some of us found it something more than a challenge, most were out in less than half an hour! There were some seriously comical moments, with staff having more than their fair share of chuckles.

The latter part of the day was the Laser Quest. Roaming around with a hi-tech laser gun and hunting down people in a state of the art, multi-level, UV filled laser arena. What wasn't there to enjoy for the adrenaline fuelled teenagers? One student who found the experience exhilarating, Muhammed Yamin Ali, couldn't help remark, "The full day in its entirety, was such an amazing and amusing experience, seeing my friends



Pupils eagerly anticipating their arrival at Escape Room

struggle for sight in the dark rooms really made my day! A huge thank you to all those who made it possible."

Overall, the duo of trips the Year 11s were given proved to be more than worth it, both mentally and physically. Not only did they inject motivation to the coming months of hard work, but also gave them some long-lasting memories of their final months at TIBHS.

A big thank you to Mr Kazi, (our former) Student Services Officer for Year 11, who made the trips possible, and even for organising future trips! Hopefully through these trips, we will have a more refreshed mind-set, and take on the following weeks with a successful attitude.

It has truly been a once in a lifetime opportunity that we will find hard to forget in life after high school; making it one of the most spectacular ends to the series of trips during our time at TIBHS.

By Aqeel Adam, 11M2

Pitch-Perfect Poetry

A day packed with poetic goodness, a day filled with knowledge and sessions loaded with valuable insights building our students' poetic knowledge. "So what was it?" Engaging poetry sessions were delivered to Year 11 students by our renowned guest, Zahid Hussain.

On Wednesday 17th January, Zahid Hussain visited our school to share and deliver innovative and detailed accounts on the poetry anthology - giving students an inspirational insight to poetry. This burst of motivation that Zahid Hussain offered spurred our students on to push for the finishing line; to succeed in their GCSE English literature examination. Shakeel Ibrahim, who participated in one of the sessions commented, "Zahid Hussain was a huge inspiration, allowing me to find my inward passion towards poetry." Clearly there were some magical moments in Mr Hussain's luminous lessons.

The passionate poet assisted the year 11 pupils in many ways, shapes and forms. He started by delivering a short presentation on his background in poetry, which really motivated the pupils into working hard and to understand the deeper meaning behind the significance of poetry. Zahid Hussain then revisited some of the poems in the Anthology with the group of students; this

allowed them to be able to have deeper meanings about the poem and to understand the poem considerably better- improving their ability to write in exams, thus enabling the students to 'smash' their exams. To top off the fantastic day, the mastermind in Zahid Hussain then gave the students priceless preparation tips for the final exams- giving them what it takes to achieve, the expected top grades in their GCSE exams.



So, who is Zahid Hussain? Zahid Hussain is no ordinary person off the streets, in fact, far from it. Mr Hussain, a poet and novelist based in Manchester, has a HUGE reputation.

The highly educated poet is multilingual and has travelled to universities, colleges and schools around the country - making him perfect for the Tauheedul students. His natural ability in conveying information and poetic perfection to the students paved the way for further progression for the final GCSE exams. His amazing array of special skills made him the ideal candidate to lead these sessions here at Tauheedul Boys.

Zahid Hussain came to Tauheedul Boys to heroically assist a group of students, who were looking for some added inspiration, and they got more than that! His experienced career in English literature and delivery method certainly helped boost the confidence of students at Tauheedul Boys, who are aiming for the top grades.

By carefully devising a plan and giving the students a structure that they can add to their toolbox of success for examinations, the participants now have a greater and wider understanding of poetry which increases confidence, competence and competition! Who says boys can't do poetry?!

To conclude, this marvellous morning of poetry, delivered by Zahid Hussain, unlocked oceans of knowledge and understanding within the students.

By Yusuf Adam, 11M2



Commonwealth Commemoration



Believe it or not, you and I have a lot more relatives than we first thought – over 2 billion in fact! That's because we're all part of the Commonwealth, a diverse family of 53 nations from around the world, all working together to promote peace, prosperity and democracy.

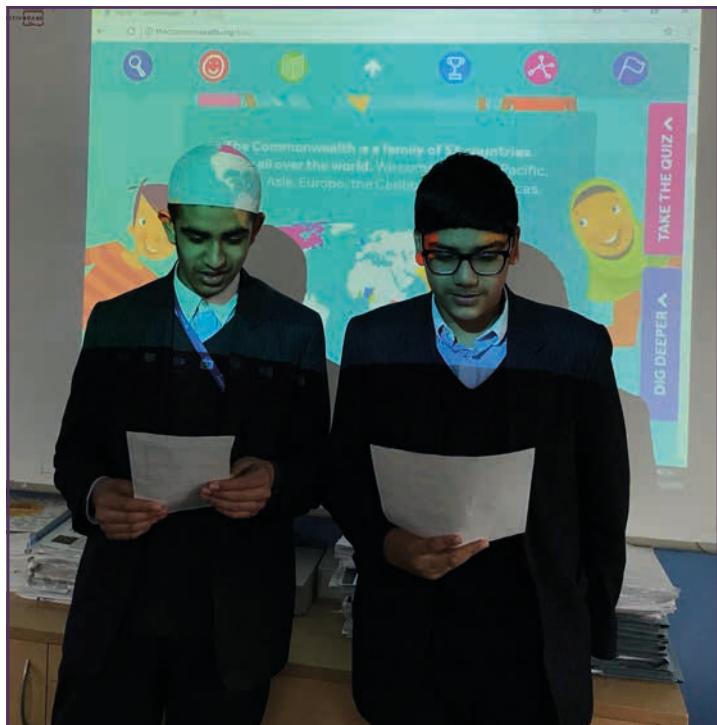
Annually, on the second Monday of March, the countries in the Commonwealth celebrate this union and sense of belonging through the Commonwealth Day. For some countries in the Commonwealth, it is even a public holiday (although we're not as lucky)!

This year, it took place on Monday 12th March, and the event was commemorated at Westminster Abbey with a mixture of testimonies, performances and readings.

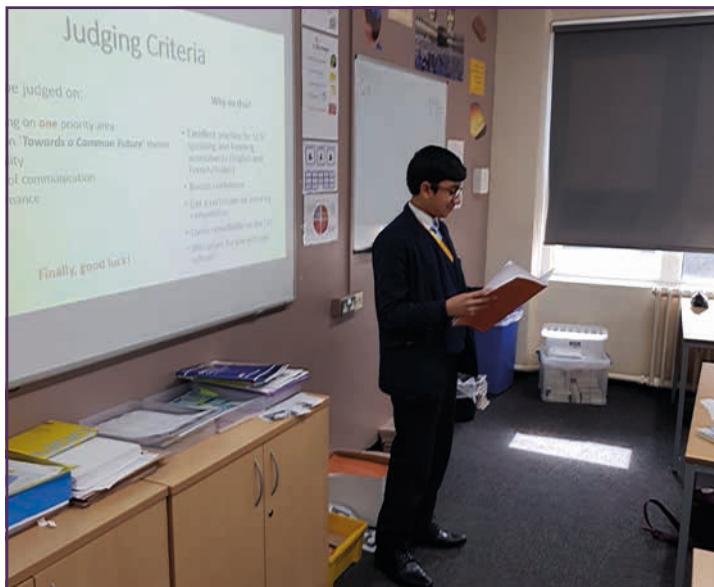
The Head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II, was in attendance as well as representatives from all 53 countries. The leaders came together to reaffirm our common values, within the family of the Commonwealth and to address the shared global challenges we face as a global community.

Commonwealth Day was celebrated at TIBHS too.

Staff and students at TIBHS had been gearing up for the Commonwealth Voices spoken word poetry competition. A meticulous collaboration between the English and Humanities departments facilitated some of our Year 10 students to craft, practise and deliver the spoken word on this year's theme 'Towards a Common Future' for the exciting competition.



For this competition, students will be competing against other secondary schools from across Lancashire. At TIBHS, a wide range of spoken words were created by students that focused on particular priorities in the Commonwealth, such as a future that is fairer, more secure, more sustainable and more prosperous for all. It was fun yet enlightening to see performances presented in various formats: as a poem, as a rap and even as an acapella. I really hope that we will be seeing at least a couple of our students in the grand final - which will be held on 18th April, 2018. Good luck to all!



This wasn't it though for Commonwealth Day at TIBHS. There were lots of other engaging activities we immersed ourselves in. Everything across the school raised awareness for the Commonwealth.

In the library, students were amused with quirky facts about different participating Commonwealth countries. I must admit, it was a bit of a struggle for me to connect facts to some of the Commonwealth nations! Then again, how else was I meant to know which country had the largest roundabout?

Year 9 also played their part as they spent their form time all week creating flags that had a message towards the theme of working towards a common future.

And how could I forget the display in the main corridor? It was well thought through and truly enabled everyone to appreciate the rich mix of the Commonwealth nations. The amazing exhibition was indeed a sight to behold, and a huge credit to the efforts of all students and staff at TIBHS who made the Commonwealth Day one to remember. The school had really given the Commonwealth the commemoration it deserved.

By Muhammed Yamin Ali, 11M4

TIBHS Students Restoring Justice?

Once again TIBHS has provided its young men with an amazing opportunity, enabling them to strive for greatness and to be the best. Restorative Justice (RJ) is an opportunity to develop knowledge about working with law enforcement, giving the school a powerful approach to instilling discipline that focuses on repairing behavioural issues and using expertise from within!



This program is unlike any other, something unique, which TIBHS is proud to be part of as one of the leading schools in this approach. The RJ reps learn that a culture, which contains mutually respectful relationships, undoubtedly creates a cohesive community. RJ strengthens foundations on which good teaching and learning can flourish.

In December 2017, Mr Isa Mogra (Student Services Officer, Year 10) and Mr Kala (Student Services Manager) took the role of shortlisting young leaders who were going to take part in the Restorative Justice workshop. A plethora of students applied to take on this challenge from years 8 – 10. The lucky cohort turned out to be entirely from Year 10! These young men were excited about working with a special officer and learning how they can use the workshop training to help others get along better.

Two workshops were arranged. The first one kicked off with RJ officers sharing with the students the significance and benefits of



RJ; the purpose of which was to encourage students to talk out their problems. Having captured the young men's attention, this workshop progressed with an interactive session, using word-searches, slideshows and role plays.

After the first workshop, the RJ reps waited in anticipation for the second day. It was going to be practical, it was going to be hands on and it was going to be a test. The students had to demonstrate the skills that they learnt in front of trained officers who were watching and listening to everything the RJ reps did and said. These were tense moments, but this is where Tauheedul's young stars thrive. Tauheedul trains its young men to be ready for anything - but were they ready for this one?

Initially, nerves got the better of some of us, but it wasn't long before we found our feet, rose to the challenge and aced the skills and knowledge tests! This learning curve certainly proved that the young men were now equipped with what it takes to be part of the RJ approach.

It didn't end there though – next up was demonstrating and conducting skills in front of one another; simulating real life situations! This allowed the conductor to see different perspectives; how the victim and the offender felt, so the RJ rep is able to gauge his limits on how to create peace between

the two students or groups again.

What was the outcome, I hear you ask? Well, today, RJ interventions are being carried out by the well-trained reps, and the school is becoming a better place. It is helping students to thrive even more. Hopefully, the workshop will be held every year so more and more young men can experience this unique opportunity. Mr Kala said, "The boys learnt key skills around listening, diplomacy and negotiation."

The visit was concluded with an entertaining demonstration of techniques that police officers use when on patrol, especially when controlling someone who is out of control. When I saw it myself, I was amazed at how much skill, strength and perseverance is needed in doing this. Of course, this wasn't a 'one to try at home' demonstration!

This whole RJ experience was something different and something fun, it really inspired me and my colleagues to embrace the RJ approach seriously and embed it within our school.

Problems never stop arriving, and teachers are pushed every day to deal with different scenarios all the time. Now, they have help from within; students themselves support the young men at TIBHS; to continue becoming more skilled, sharper and resilient.

By Yousuf Nadat, 10L2

Quick Maths!

Recently, Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School (TIBHS) have taken part in a thrilling maths competition, where they were pushed to their limits. We congratulate participants from Years 8 and 9 for taking part in this exhilarating challenge for the first time ever. The nationwide maths challenge took place during lesson time on 1st February, 2018.

We took part in this competition to conquer uncharted territory, to be innovative and help nurture tomorrow's mathematicians. We are hopeful that this will translate into revealing amazing maths talent at TIBHS!

This competition is mostly about the speedy minds of the students and their ability to answer the lively, intriguing multiple-choice questions which are fired at them constantly. It is organised and held by the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) who offer students aged 11-18 the challenge to participate.

TIBHS as a school isn't just about learning, it's also passionately about providing young men intriguing moments and opportunities to compete at competitions and feel the adrenaline rush. This is what these outstanding students who took part had felt as they bravely took on this challenge and overcame their fears. Many had initially been reluctant and almost turned down this challenge due to their belief of the inability to succeed however, these courageous, ambitious and daring participants took a leap of faith and fought their fears as their drive to succeed spurred them on to enter.

Lastly, we end on a positive note thanking all the participants who had the determination to take part in this challenge. We would also like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to the maths department. If it wasn't for their positivity, continued support and strength of character, we would not be able to place TIBHS as a leading school in the mathematical world.

By Raees Bhaiji, 10L1



The Coming of Brilliance... Of Oxford

Astounding. Magnificence. Excellence. Words like these are what comes to our minds when we hear of the 'University of Oxford'. Soon it will be the very words which come to our mind when we think of TIBHS.

On Friday 12th of January, we were fascinated when an ambassador from the University of Oxford - in charge of recruitment services, attended our very school! It was a tale to behold. Allow me to engross you with details of the fantastically unique attendance of an individual from one of the best universities in England; or in fact the world!

On that cold, wintry Friday morning; broad smiles, murmurs and frantic chatters of the young men at TIBHS were met with a very warm welcome by Orock Nsoatabe.

The ambassador aimed to cover a guide where we at TIBHS would also be motivated to enrol in to this intuition and pursue our dreams. They aimed to show us how to get into Oxford depending on the vast variety of career options we shared. A brief insight was also given to us about the University and life at Oxford too.

Oxford has been a monument - a striking symbol - for wisdom. A calling point for all those out in search of knowledge, research and innovation. Throughout the decades, it would be an understatement to say that it deserves its amazing reputation. The likes of Stephen Hawking, Tolkien, Margaret Thatcher, David Cameron and many more dignitaries attended Oxford, who all graduated with one common factor: success. And history has proven their quest for success was all but guaranteed thanks to such a marvellous University.

Whether the young men were from Year 9, 10 or 11, all were equally engrossed as to what the Oxford ambassador had to say. TIBHS is serious about broadening young men's horizons, so rather than

inviting a college, we were afforded the opportunity to sit before a University rep! We received valuable guidance about future decisions and choices that would inevitably affect our entire life.

It was a bold and intelligent move to invite a representative from Oxford, as a lot of the young men had a fairly good idea on what they wanted to study at college, but had not had much exposure to what they needed to study at college that would enable them to select the right degree for them, helping them to secure their dream job post-university.

For those of us who were still undecided about career paths or were unaware of the obstacles we may face in a chosen career path, this session provided a sharp insight as to what we could expect. It certainly helped us edge one step closer to what we wanted to do in the future. It was a life-changing session, dedicated to allowing us to fully explore our potential and achieve our dreams.

As well as learning what we needed to do at college, we were highly motivated by the speaker on the importance of GCSEs. Many assumed GCSEs would only be handy for college, but were fascinated to find out how far that was from the truth!

The newly found motivation to gain the best possible GCSEs influenced the young men at TIBHS to believe in themselves and take a firm step further in their dedication and commitment to gaining the best set of results this country has seen.

Everyone was full of gratitude at the end of the session at having been exposed to such a vast amount of information that proved to be extremely valuable in each of our personal ambitions and aims in life.

It's fair to say that 2018 was off to a flying start!

By Uzair Sidat, 11M1

Game On: Helping the Next Generation Combat Extremism



Today, extremism and radicalisation are sad realities that society is confronted with, that are being manifested in many spaces.

That being said, combating issues related to extremism and radicalisation is perfectly possible, and that is what TIBHS actively seeks to do. 'Game On; is a programme designed to engage pupils through workshops that inform, explore and find resolutions to extremist ideologies. It takes a proactive – rather than a reactive – approach to such issues the modern world faces.

Our Year 10 pupils at TIBHS participated in these workshops between Monday 22nd and Thursday 25th January 2018 - with each form group spending an entire day learning about the dangers of radicalism and extremism.

Each day-long workshop was spent exploring the ways in which radicals think and the techniques they commonly utilise to trick vulnerable youths into joining their vicious organisations. Students were exposed to recruitment tactics, be they online or in person, and thus completed the workshop knowing how to step back from a dangerous situation.

That wasn't it though; students also learnt about what the goals of the radicals would result in and how their promises of a perfect society were false. A disturbing example included footage of everyday life in ISIS controlled territories and the extent of their oppression. This raised awareness amongst students about how people were forced to cope living under these oppressive regimes, but at the same time also made students appreciate the fact that they lived in a stable, free nation.

A participating student, Ibraheem Yousef, noted, "The workshop was helping in seeing how places controlled by people like ISIS really are and it also helped in knowing how to stay safe from these kind of people."

Another participating student, Muhammad Aamin Desai, remarking on his favourite moment of the workshop said, "I think the most interesting bit of the day was when we took part in games which represented the way the extremists think. It gave us a personal experience and because of that, the activities were my favourite part of the workshop."

It is hoped that through workshops and events like this, TIBHS can raise a generation of students aware of the vulnerabilities, dangers and risks of the world and can thus combat extremism and radicalisation today, tomorrow and in the future.

By Amine Gherensi, 10L4

Careers Convention



On Saturday 25th of November, Year 10 and 11 took part in an inspirational, career-diversifying event. It was almost like speed dating with different career choices, in search for the most suitable career path.

This was the much anticipated annual TIBHS Careers Convention. With many sought after organisations attending, it made a truly fantastic day for all of TIBHS's young men to take part, enabling them to begin carving out their own future as young leaders.

Over 100 of our young leaders made a divergence from their usual Saturday morning routine to attend this memorable event. We got to engage on an intellectual level with some of the UK's premier organisations, such as KPMG, BAE Systems and the British Army to name but a few. TIBHS had amassed the crème de la crème under one roof!

However, it wasn't only the young men of TIBHS, but their parents too, who explored, discussed and experienced the range of opportunities life has to offer these young men. This event certainly was an eye-opener for the various career paths available to all, in order to create the best possible future for themselves.

The event was held at TIBHS, with over 26 organisations attending to share their inspiring life experiences and career options. This enriched our experience because we were discussing our own futures with these dedicated industry professionals. The event was coordinated by Mr Kazi, along with a team of 10 prefects, who each deserve substantial praise for such a phenomenal event, which so many benefited from.

Apart from the fact that the venue accommodated more than its capacity, attendees had only positivity to share on the outcome of the convention and how it was beneficial for them, or their child. There was a vibrant atmosphere bursting with excitement as the young leaders scurried off exploring new avenues that could benefit their futures.

Our Head Boy, Ashraf Lehri shared his thoughts, "I found the careers convention very inspiring. I felt this event was vital in discovering my post 16 options and I feel more confident as I look ahead for my future as I have a better understanding of the opportunities awaiting me to best

fit my personality and future goals." Ashraf engaged with companies such as the Blackburn Rovers FC Trust (an organisation which looks to offer the local community, especially youngsters, the highest quality programs in sports, education etc.) who told him of the work they carry out with the community, and how his personality perfectly suits a role in an organisation of that sort. Aspirations were raised, ambitions were reignited and better futures were cultivated.



Our young leaders and their parents were not the only ones who saw the added value of this wonderful event. The organisations exhibiting also thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the event, including speaking with the young men.

Rehana Makkan from the University of Bolton told us of her great experience here, "Refreshments were great as expected at Tauheedul. I loved the diversity of organisations for the students to gain a proper understanding of their career path. Students were seriously very friendly, approachable and efficient - were they students or leaders? You wouldn't have

noticed the difference! Brilliant!" Rehana was one of the many people who gave an insight of life after school at university in general and why the option of further education would be a strong choice for most, whilst others talked about apprenticeships and other schemes to enable the young men to gain a clear understanding of the range of options out there for on the future to reach their full potential.

Overall, the careers convention was exceptional. All who took part benefited immensely in one way or another, conversing with a diverse set of industry experts.

TIBHS will continue to provide first class events like this for its young men to further its aims to nurture the young people of today, and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

By Umar Patel, 11M1

Redemption Time

The Manchester Actors Company (MANACTCO) came to TIBHS to creatively turn a classic novella into a play! The ghost tale, written by Charles Dickens, is about one miserly man's (Scrooge) enriching journey to redemption. A Christmas Carol was performed by MANACTCO before Year 10 and 11 students, in the main hall, on a vibrant Friday afternoon.

With the daunting English GCSEs coming near, the English department thoughtfully organised this production as a form of visual learning, and of course to give students a break from all the essay writing! The production was to help pupils to fully understand Dickens' novella, hopefully making it easier to write about the wintry play. The production was split into two sections: the actual performance, and a Q&A with Scrooge, Bob, and all the other characters themselves!

The audience – Year 10 and 11 students for the afternoon – were enthusiastic as they entered the main hall, and took to their seats, apprehensively waiting for the production to begin. The articulate actors did an outstanding job, and the pupils were deeply disappointed when the showstopper came to a close. The students got the rare opportunity to visually learn about the different contexts of the play, and how each character was truly feeling in each scene – while enjoying an exhilarating play!

What more can you get? "Fabulous performance," exclaimed Yusuf Adam (11M2), "I learnt a lot about characters' feelings and I even learnt a couple more quotes from it!" Evidently, all the students enjoyed the performance and gathered a lot from it. Hopefully, this will come to benefit them in the real GCSE exam, as they will be able to write about the characters more easily, improving the quality of their writing!

In the second section, we were given the opportunity to fire questions to the actors who were still performing as the characters in the performance. This extraordinary idea really benefitted us from asking the actors the thoughts and feelings of the characters in the play. It definitely revealed how disliked Scrooge was by all! The students asked a broad range of questions, and thoroughly enjoyed putting the actors on the spot with their intricate questions! Uzair Munshi (11M2) remarked, "The Q&A was my favourite part of the performance. I loved how we got the answers from the characters in the play!" Hopefully, the students will remember the memorable play and apply their understanding in the exam!

All in all, the seasonal classic was another success for the English department, and MANACTCO, who put on a theatrical masterpiece. What better way to spend a Friday afternoon?

By Farhaan Bhikha, 11M1



Year 7 Faith Trail

On 10th January 2018, 70 of the current Year 7s undertook a trip to multiple sites of worship belonging to different faiths. These faiths included Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. These lucky students were given a tour of each place of worship, got to learn the fundamentals of each religion and came across various artefacts. The staff who supported the trip were Mr Kala, Moulana Zahir Patel, Moulana Mohammed Daji and Moulana Usman Kothia.



This faith trail was in Bolton, and the sites visited were Swaminarayan Mandir, Emmanuel Church and Zakariyya Mosque. The purposes of the trip were firstly, to give the young men some insight into the diverse communities that live around us, as well as being aware of the foundations of other faiths.

The Year 7s found a deeper understanding of the types of worship practised within the mandir, church and masjid. Post-trip, when asked about his developed insight about the similarities of the faiths, Year 7 student Yusuf Chati remarked, *"I never realised just how many similarities Islam and Christianity have!"*



Moulana Usman noted, "We cannot underestimate the importance of communication and dialogue between members of diverse faith communities. Through initiatives like the Bolton faith trail, the young men at TIBHS were given an opportunity to witness how different religions are practised in multicultural Britain."

Overall, the faith trail was a huge success for the school and its students. The young men gave a good representation of the school in their behaviour during the trip which was picked up by the places of worship, giving a good impression of the values, ethos and mannerisms we subscribe to.

By Rayyaan Ahmed, 10L2



Head Boy Corner

Assalaamu 'alaikum/Peace Be Upon You

Firstly, I would like to thank you, for taking time out to read this article. I am exceptionally proud to be the Head Boy of Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School. Before I came to TIBHS, I wouldn't have ever dreamt that I would be in this position; this school has been pivotal in moulding me into the young man I am today.

My Journey

When I took the position of Head Boy, a lot of hard work was required. My job was to influence decisions in school to make it an even better place for all. I made a range of pledges for the betterment of our students.

I can still remember the time when I took up the position in Year 10. Just two weeks before the summer break in 2017, I had a very lengthy and productive meeting. I raised all the issues in our school that needed attention. The following year a lot of changes were made to improve the school system.

Today, I can whole heartedly say, I have explored all channels available to realise the promises I made during my campaign. Whether it was providing lockers for students to use, or moving forward with the provision of a 'new state of the art library', filled with books and resources.

Along with the lockers and library development, a huge investment of football nets and new surfacing for the yard was also made. As I approach the GCSE examination series, I will continue to build upon this success as much as possible.

My Advice to You

After a rewarding four and a half years at TIBHS, my final advice to you is to continue to work diligently, and do not give up. You may face challenges, but don't be afraid to tackle them. TIBHS will ensure it does everything it possibly can to help you overcome these challenges, but you as a student must make the effort to

help you overcome these challenges. Be resilient, show perseverance and act with determination, you will see the fruits.

A very famous quote by Nelson Mandela has inspired me along the way, and I hope it will inspire you too:

"No one has the power to shatter your dreams unless you give it to them."

Despite all the challenges, obstacles and barriers that may come your way, you must fight on for the best and keep focused on the journey ahead. You should realise, that you are here to prove to yourself, that you can achieve beyond your perceived potential, that you can succeed and you can go on to be the best. Not just locally, but nationally and even internationally.

Who knows – one day, you will help to solve some of the challenges facing our planet today.

By Ashraf Lehri – 11M1

Holocaust Memorial Day

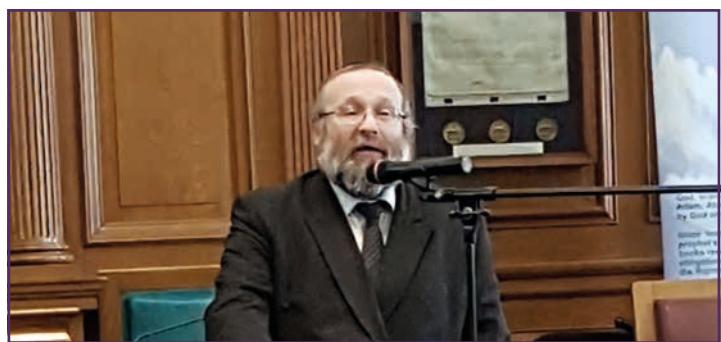
On 29th January, Husnain Patel, Maulana Usman Kothia, Maulana Mohammed Daji and I made our way to Blackburn Town Hall. Representing Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School, we arrived at the Holocaust Memorial Day site. Dignitaries included Blackburn's Mayor, with several others also participating, who were there to remember the catastrophe of the Holocaust.



The Mayor commenced the proceedings in the council chamber with a speech on the significance of remembering this tragic event. This was followed by an introduction of every participating school present by Derek Estil of the Blackburn Interfaith Forum.

Each school was designated a phase of the Holocaust that they explored and researched in detail. Using the power of the spoken word, we were given the opportunity to deliver our assigned phase of this dark chapter of history.

TIBHS was appointed to share with everyone the 'persecution' suffered by the victims. Husnain and I delved into the hostility and ill-treatment that the Jewish people endured throughout the period of the Holocaust. We delivered our tribute in poetry. It was a daunting task to stand before so many people who had halted to total silence to tune in to our message.



After our poem, other schools came up to discuss their prepared phases of the Holocaust. We also heard from a Rabbi from Manchester, who came to share his words at this emotional event. He focused mainly on how no one in today's global community should not repeat this dark history, experience the torment suffered or live through the extermination of a nation.

During the program, Maulana Usman, Maulana Mohammed Daji, Husnain and I learned a great deal more about the Holocaust. We particularly learned about the pain and suffering that the Jews suffered during the Holocaust. The overall message was that we, as humans, cannot allow this type of persecution to occur, ever again.

By Amaan Mahmood, 10L4

Priceless Gifts for Precious Souls

During the afternoon of 20th December 2017, a group of four Year 10 students set out on a noble mission to bring a smile to patients' faces at the Royal Blackburn Hospital. It helped us to empathise with those who don't have anyone to talk to, or anyone to share their feelings with, and anyone who simply longed some company.

It all started off with our local governor, Safinaz Patel who kindly co-ordinated the preparation stage of this project. TIBHS saw parents coming into School to help with wrapping all 100 gifts.

On the day of the visit, as we arrived at Blackburn Royal Hospital, we were left speechless by the number of people who were helpless and were unable to do much more than sit upright for visitors. To provide warmth and closeness to these patients was our mission. Providing the elderly with blankets, and the very young with toys, so that they feel comforted and warm.

This was a thought-provoking visit as it got us pondering on how students can help bring about a community that not only gives consideration to the healthy, but their patients: young or old, irrespective of faith, ethnicity or background.

To accompany the students, staff from TIBHS also joined the team of students at the hospital. The staff consisted of Mr Umarji (Vice Principal) and Mr Kazi (our former Year 11 Student Services Officer). Their role was one of difficulty and enjoyment: sympathising with the patients, but at the same time guiding us to a way of helping others. The staff really helped us along to make the most of this opportunity in bringing joy and happiness to everyone we visited.

We were fortunate enough to have had the support of a local, not-for-profit, community organisation, Brookhouse Development Group (BDG) too. Working collaboratively on this exceptionally humbling project, TIBHS strengthened its positive links with the local

community, ensuring that positive engagement with communities continues at TIBHS.

It was an eye opener not only for the students, but staff as well, about the true reality of these powerless patients, who may not have family, friends or loved ones to spend their time with. One of the staff commented that the aim of this visit was, "To build a cohesive community where compassion and love are the core values of our belief."

Overall, 50 gifts were given to the elderly and 50 to the young by the group of brave and compassionate Year 10s. This visit really gave us an insight of what true passion and love means. One of the patients commented, "Thank you for the gifts, and it is delightful to receive these wonderful gifts."

It was indeed an embodiment of the late Jo Cox's vision in which 'we are far more united than the things that divide us.'

By Sufian Naseer, 10L4

Thank you to the Student Newsletter team:

Majid Ditta	Principal	Muhammed Yamin Ali	11M4
Ashraf Lehri	Head Boy – 11M1	Amine Gherensi	10L4
Farhaan Bhikha	11M1	Amaan Mahmood	10L4
Aqeel Adam	11M2	Raees Bhaiji	10L1
Yusuf Adam	11M2	Rayyaan Ahmed	10L2
Umar Patel	11M1	Yoosuf Nadat	10L3
Uzair Sidat	11M1	Sufian Naseer	10L4
Hamzah Desai	11M1	Muhammad Karolia	10L4

Upcoming Events at TIBHS

w/c 19th March	Year 11 Inter-form Basketball	w/c 11th June	Eid ul Fitr
w/c 19th March	Sports Relief Charity Fundraiser	18th – 20th June	Year 6 Transition Visits
22nd March	Positive Parenting Session 2	20th June	FCE Meeting
23rd March	Termly Rewards Assemblies	22nd June	Leavers' Gala
23rd March	Arabic & French Mock Speaking Exams	25th June	Year 8 Geography Coastal Fieldwork,
10th April	Year 7 United Utilities Trip	28th June	Year 9 Manchester Court of Justice Visit
11th April	FCE Meeting	28th June – 2nd July	Year 7 & 8 French Trip
w/c 16th April	Year 11 Inter-form Football	29th June	New Staff Induction
w/c 23rd April	Year 10 Inter-form Football	30th June	Year 10 Geography Field Trip
27th April	Student Shuraa Meeting	2nd July	Year 9 Geography Recycling Discovery Centre
27th & 28th April	Year 10 & 11 French GCSE Speaking Exam	6th July	Year 6 Induction Day
w/c 30th April	Year 9 Inter-form Football	10th July	Year 9 & 10 History Imperial War Museum
2nd May	Year 7 Parents Evening	17th July	Year 7 & 8 Enterprise Day
3rd May	All Years: Student Leadership Training	17th July	Year 9 & 10 Sports Day
4th May	All Years: Form Captain Meeting	18th July	Year 7 & 8 Sports Day
10th May	All Years: Prevent & E-Safety Training for Parents	18th July	Year 9 & 10 Enterprise Day
12th May	Year 11 Geography Masterclass	19th July	End of Year Rewards Trip
w/c 14th May	Ramadhan begins	20th July	Termly Rewards Assemblies
w/c 14th May	Year 8 Inter-form Football	20th July	Closure after School for Summer Break
w/c 21st May	Year 7 Inter-form Football		
22nd May	Year 7 Introduction to Careers		



Tauheedul Boys

Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School,
Shadsworth Road, Blackburn BB1 2HT
T: 01254 918670