



EDITION 15 -
April 2020

THE PEN

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Celebrating the Class of 2019

Our Class of 2019 was treated to a mind-blowingly plush Presentation Evening on Friday 24th January 2020.

The evening would allow our alumni to come together as a group to celebrate their achievements and meet their teachers once again. Families and friends of our Class of 2019 added to the amazing vibe in 'The Grandest Venue'. The stage was set and the action about to begin...

Our Head Boy, Firoz Chand and Deputy Head Boy, Omar Ali Yakub, kicked off proceedings by introducing two of our Year 9 pupils, Muhammad Siddiq Patel and Yahyaa Patel who rendered a heartfelt rendition of Surah Room with messages of God's greatness and how magnanimous His Creation is.

The evening also provided the opportunity to honour two legends of our Trust - through whose sacrifice and grit, our Trust has reached the levels it has. Namely, Haji Abdullah Master, who is one of the founding fathers of TIGHS and the Late Haji Lord Adam Patel (May the Almighty illuminate his grave) – both giants on whose shoulders we stand today.

Next, Sufian Naseer (ex-Head Boy) took the stage to reminisce over his past five years at TIBHS. Sufian shared anecdotes on his personal growth from a shy and cautious 11-year-old to a confident and assured 16-year-old through the opportunities offered to him

and his peers at TIBHS. His humorous recollection of Mr A Eid and Mr M Patel's catchphrases had the audience in stitches, whilst his serious messages of determination in the face of adversity, strength in the face of difficulties and resolve in the face of doubt struck the hearts of all in the audience.

Thereafter, Mufti Hamid took the podium to address the keen listeners and share his valuable advice to the Class of 2019. If his selection of vocabulary didn't dazzle the audience; his messages certainly did. Mufti Hamid encouraged the addressees and especially the Class of 2019 to become beacons of change, to exert our efforts in making our shared planet a better place to live in and be the best we can be in all our affairs.

As the evening progressed, our Class of 2019 were given their GCSE certificates they worked so hard for; individual awards were given to those who had excelled in each subject; completed Hifz whilst at TIBHS and attended every day throughout their five years at TIBHS. A special award was awarded to a pupil who was the standout performer this year - none other than Abdul Rafay Zahid, who achieved a clean suite of NINE Grade 9s... one of the highest in the country!

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This year's special award, as nominated by the Class of 2019, went to Mr Gibbison and the best newcomer was awarded to Mr Bholia. The Principal Award for Teaching staff went to the PE faculty and the Non-Teaching Award was picked up by our Heads of Year. Congratulations to all!

The event ended with a phenomenal Nasheed performance by brothers, Huzaiyah and Hamzah Yusuf, who awed the audience with their powerful vocals and recital of Prophetic praises.

Finally, as the grumble in our stomachs grew louder, the tantalising aroma of a multitude of starters and Biryani filled the air. The delicious meal prepared by The Grand Venue to conclude the evening didn't disappoint!

Abdullah Muhammad

British Science Week Celebrating Our Diverse Planet

As students and staff made their way into school, the Refectory resembled our ever-expanding Cosmos – an amazing yet mysterious world, encased within an array of galaxies, with sparkling stars and a plethora of planets.

A solar system like no other - this was different, this was 'diverse', - this was the TIBHS solar system. It was fair to say, the spirit of British Science Week had truly been ignited. Anticipating the challenges of the week ahead, students eagerly made their way to their classes. On the first floor, students were greeted with famous scientists – curiosity building within... who were these scientists? What were their famous discoveries? Alas, it was time for students to start their own diverse discoveries; to create what they thought embodied the term 'diversity'.

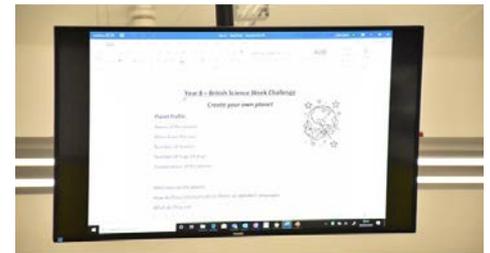
On the top floor, the young scientists of Year 8 were challenged to create a new celestial body. Clothing their planets with rocky planes like that of Mars and the vibrant volcanoes of Venus, the young astronomers ventured into the unknown. With resounding confidence from the likes of Galileo, who once said, "We cannot teach people anything, we can only help them discover it within themselves", the students worked as thriving scientists, building worlds that would conquer and stun even the most learned individuals. It goes without saying, the true meaning of diversity is so much more than what we envision- rather it is an expanding and vibrant clause, just like our universe.

Our young zoologists in Year 7, road on a path much closer to home; creating a new being, a new creature, one that could dominate its habitat. Taking inspiration from the penguins of the Antarctica, the jumping Himalayan spider and the inhabitants of the Amazon, the Year

7's combined their artistic talents to produce creatures that could survive in environments that had never been imagined. Some young scientists even instilled life into their creatures, creating 3D prints of their animals – driving 'diversity' towards new, towering heights.

Our MAD Scientists also joined in - having fun to explore the depths of anatomical science with dissections to the theory of kinetics with elephant toothpaste. To conclude the week of celebrating 'diversity', guest speakers from a range of backgrounds; a Chartered Accountant, Chemical Engineers and an International Research fellow - shared their experiences and life lessons with our young scientists, nourishing their understanding of scientific careers and their diverse nature. Thus, the climax of the week left us all with one unwavering truth - diversity is epitomised in many ways, all the while resonating the fact that - our similarities make us strong, but it is our differences that make us even stronger.

Miss M Mulla







BAE Systems 'Make It' Competition

Last month, eight Y9 pupils attended BAE Systems ASK in Sarnesbury for a day filled with exciting challenges and insightful talks from engineers.

Pupils were given the challenge to build a vehicle which can be marketed to the MoD/UN as cutting edge with innovative new features in support of aiding disaster areas.

Our Y9 pupils designed an impressive vehicle which had the power to detect people when they are under rubble or water and cannot be seen. The model was brought before the judges and was commended for its unique design. Alongside designing a model, pupils developed teamworking, presentation and finance skills.

Our Y9 participants were congratulated for their excellent engagement on the day and for demonstrating their budding engineering skills. Overall, it was a fantastic day which will be etched in the memory of all who participated.

Mrs B Patel

Supervised Study Sessions

Since January, Year 11 pupils have had the opportunity to delve in independent study in the school library from 3pm until 4.30pm.

Supervised Study Sessions offer pupils a quiet space to revise and study for the upcoming GCSE exams. It has been popular with numerous pupils who have benefited from the initiative. The sessions are supervised by staff and occasionally subject teachers have held drop in sessions to deliver mini masterclasses on their subjects. It is a conducive space for learning where pupils engage with independent learning in the company of their peers. The range of pupils who have attended has been impressive and encouraging.

We wish the pupils who have benefited from Supervised Study Sessions all the best in the forthcoming exams – may the Almighty shower his blessings on our pupils and they reach great heights of success in the coming months – Aameen.

Mrs B Patel

A Well-deserved Break!

Over the course of 2 Fridays in the Spring term, the Year 11 cohort took a well-deserved break from their revision to participate in pleasant outings, which I'm sure will provide many fond memories!

With the GCSE exams looming, this helped us feel refreshed and ready for the weeks ahead.

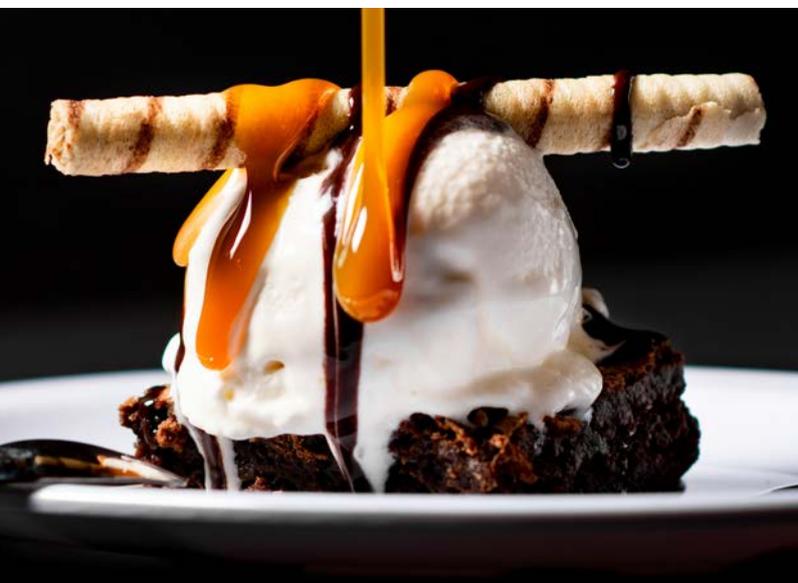
The trip consisted of a truly terrific visit to 'Haute Dolce' in Blackburn. The Year 11s thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we feel it was a welcome break from burning the midnight-oil for months! We were able to socialise, have fun and make memories and learn some new skills.

At Haute Dolce in Blackburn, the evening was spent with a group of friends sat round a fancy table dedicated to the TIBHS year 11 cohort divulging into a delicious dessert which was chosen by each student whilst washing it down with a drink of their choice. Echoes of laughter and conversations rippled through the Café, a sign of enjoyment and fulfilment. As they left in groups with their smiles, each student was appreciative of their treat.

Overall, the trip has proven to be more than worth it, both mentally and physically. Not only did it inject motivation for the coming weeks but also gave us some long-lasting memories of their final months at TIBHS. A big thank you to Mr Mogra (Head of Year), Mrs Hasan (school Business Manager) and Moulana Usman Kothia (Associate Assistant principle) for organising the trip.

It has truly been memories to treasure; making it one of the most spectacular ends to the series of trips during our time at TIBHS.

Zayn Rashid





TIBHS' Engineering Pupils Tour the Royal Navy Warship HMS Prince Charles at Liverpool Pier

On Monday 3rd March 2020, myself and my engineering peers were privileged to have the opportunity to embark on the HMS Prince Charles aircraft, which was at the Liverpool docks for the first time in history.

TIBHS students as well as students from dozens of schools from across the country collaborated at the docks, as we swiftly realised the sheer size and beauty of the magnificent warship.

Before we boarded, there was airport style check in system. The flight deck was interesting, and we got to see the ways the different aircrafts worked and the reality of being inside an aircraft of such enormity. Being on the flight deck was an amazing experience, with view of the Wirral and Liverpool in front of us. Inside the hangar, we listened to workshops from BAE systems as well as Engineering and Navy experts who provided us with their knowledge, as well as goody bags we got to take home!

The atmosphere and the buzz we experienced most certainly increased our endeavour in choosing an exciting career with elements of Engineering.

Muhammad Shazad





Preparing for the Experience of a Lifetime – Mock Results Day!

On Friday 10th January, Year 11 pupils were given the opportunity to experience the summer GCSE results day by receiving their December mock examinations results through a formal event.

Mo Isap, our Chair of Governors and Vice Chair of Star Academies Trust, inaugurated the Y11 Mock Results Day morning. Here he gave pertinent reminders of how the examinations are a step in the journey of becoming a person with the best character and leaving a mark in the world. The key message of the morning was to understand that the destiny of our futures are within the grasps of our own actions!

The reality of the results was a real wake-up call; a time when revision strategies and exam focus was beginning to take place in lessons. This experience was an emulation of how these grades will shape pupils' future studies and ultimately, their degree choices. Seeing our young men rise to the occasion and embrace the results day with formality and seriousness was heartening – it showed the promise and conscientious attitude with which they will stride into the revision period.

The exam preparation journey continues over the next few critical weeks and we wish our young men all the best, where the fruits of their labours will come to fruition. As our Y11 pupils toil through the final stretch of the examination prep period, we leave them with the words of the boxing legend Muhammad Ali, *"The fight is won or lost far away from witnesses – behind the lines, in the gym and out there on the road, long before I dance under the lights."*

Summer results day will take place on Thursday 20th August 2020 and we look forward to celebrating our Y11 pupils' achievements, as they will be leaving us to move on to pastures new.

Mrs B Patel



Number Day 2020

20TH BIRTHDAY!



NSPCC Number Day

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the NSPCC Number Day, children and staff donated an astonishing £500 to charity as they walked into school with their favourite footballer's numbered shirt or accessory.

Funds raised also benefit "Speak Out. Stay Safe" an NSPCC programme in schools that helps children understand the signs of abuse and who to talk to.

NSPCC schools manager Karen Walker said: "Number Day is a fantastic way to engage children with numbers and make maths more meaningful, all whilst raising money for the NSPCC."

To promote the culture of giving and a love for maths, the Maths department planned a treasure hunt around the school that had year 7s to 11s searching for the hidden treasure during their break and lunchtime. Bilaal Karolia, from year 7, was the prize draw winner out of a total of 120 participants.

As maths is known for its competitiveness and challenge, year 11s competed in a University Challenge Quiz hosted by the wonderful Mr I Mogra and his captivating sidekick Zeeshan Hussain! Every team fought bravely against their maths teachers, who seemed to not be on their A game! The pressure was intense as the maths teachers worked hard to preserve their reputation against a very skilled and talented set 1 group. The show was a big hit amongst both teachers and pupils, with one student participant commenting that it was 'the best experience he had in school!'

Mr Ahmed Patel





The Zayd Ibn Thabit Library Launch – A Day for the History Books

On Thursday the 13th February 2020, Tauheedul Islam Boys High School held the official launch of the Zayd ibn Thabit Library - a commemoration unforgettable in the eyes of the STAR community.

As you know, we have just moved in to our new school in which we have a state of the art library where can finally embrace the joys of reading. There was no better way to celebrate than a visit from the award winning children's book author Tom Palmer, and one of the founding fathers of Tauheedul Islam Girls High School, the honourable Haji Abdullah Master. With such special visitors gracing us with their presence, preparation for the launch was no easy task. In the weeks leading up to the launch, pupils, teachers and particularly our librarian, Miss Ilyaa, worked tirelessly to iron out every imperfection and make every detail faultless.

The presentation itself was the star of the show. It started off with a serene yet powerfully impressive introduction from our Year 8 pupil, Farhan Abed. Muhammed Chati followed on from this with a melodious recitation of Surah Alaq. After an inspiring story of Zayd ibn Thabit (the Prophet's companion), whom the library has been named after, the pinnacle moment of unveiling the canvas arrived. With a gently tug of the cloak and a flash of a camera, the stunning art drawing and plaque was revealed. It seemed nature had been captured in its happiest moment: a blossoming of a tree against a backdrop of cloudless climes. We had fitted a mirror of what our library would become -a safe haven amongst the daily rigour of lessons. The beacon of peace inside the never ending chatter in the corridors. There couldn't be a better way to end the presentation. Actually, there was. A cake. Because, of course, no celebration is truly complete without a cake.

This library launch certainly is one for the history books.

Safwaan Rawat



A Champion for Reluctant Readers

On the 13th of February, a buzz pulsed through the school like never before. It was the official launch of our Zayd ibn Thabit RA library, with a special guest of course, the award-winning author: Tom Palmer.

Firstly, who isn't excited by meeting a celeb? And when it comes to football, what can we said about meeting an award winning author: Tom Palmer, the man himself?

Information, advice and insight from an experienced writer is something we all want; and we weren't disappointed. Tom shared his writing journey with us and encouraged us to write about what we're passionate about, to really get involved with every writing piece and ensure we build an emotional connection when we put pen to paper. Students were also given an opportunity to purchase his awesome books, which were even firsthand signed by his truly!

Many eager students seized the opportunities to ask some riveting questions, a few of his answers really had us in awe. It turns out his best-selling book, D-Day Dog, was inspired by his own dog. Tom also shared how many dogs were parachuted in WW2 and helped our soldiers, informing us of their efforts and actions in the war whilst spreading a message of how loyal they can be, putting their lives at risk for their owners.

Tom Palmer's visit to our school shall stay as a memorable moment for everyone. As students, we are immensely grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make the day go smoothly, in particular Mrs Ilyas, our School Librarian. It was something we will treasure all our lives!

Zakariyya Vali





World Book Day Magic

On Thursday, the 5th of March, a little magic was sprinkled across all the classrooms in our school as we celebrated World Book Day.

Priding ourselves with one of the best school libraries in the country (well, I certainly think so), our librarian set up an array of fantastic activities making the library an exciting hub as students relished in the book hunts, trivia quizzes, and creating fantasy worlds for fictional texts. For me, the highlight was entering a world of magic as I created a Harry Potter Wonderland. I just need it to come to life now. Well, I guess the words of J.K. Rowling's always bring Hogwarts to life! And for those that just wanted to enjoy curling up on our library couches for some lunchtime quiet, there were opportunities to write postcards to our favourite authors. I couldn't resist. Yes, you guessed it: Ms Rowling.

If you don't believe me, ask one of the teachers but I think the best moment of every lesson on the day was the excitement of walking into each lesson to be greeted with a snippet of a reading from Dahl's famous short story: *The Lamb to the Slaughter*. Unlike many of his other novels I have read, this wasn't about factories filled with streams of chocolate or

candy, or nasty old adults being mean to innocent children but almost like a mystery. Full of twists and turns, we just weren't quite sure what Mary Maloney was planning to do with the lamb which was slowly and tenderly cooking in the oven, whilst detectives frantically searched for her husband's killer – until the end. Even for those who weren't the most avid of readers, it was a great way to keep us hooked to the story as we scurried from one lesson to the next to hear the story unravel that little bit more!

Dressing up for World Book Day had started feeling a little lack lustre as we grew into our Year 6 big boots. As a booklover, I had started TIBHS wondering if secondary schools would do anything much different for World Book Day. I knew there would be no dressing up but neither did I imagine the activities of the day would bring in such fresh air to our learning. An impressively enjoyable day.

And I am already looking forward to it next year. And the year after that. And the one after that too, because:

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go" – Dr. Seuss.

Farhan Abed

Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief

The Catalyst Of A Striking Saga

Ever heard of those Greek myths, where the Gods can have hybrid children with normal humans? Ever paid much attention to them? I haven't.

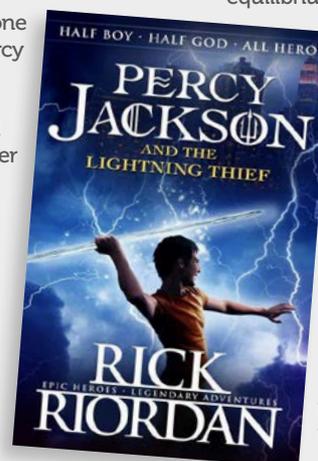
For a long time now I've been avoiding this book, despite basically everyone in my class attempting to persuade me to read it. I had always assumed that the hybrids – known as half-bloods or demigods – would be ridiculously overpowered for reasons that would never be adequately explored. Looking back now, I can see how wrong I was. In the back of my mind, I always knew I would end up reading it eventually; it was only inevitable.

Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief is an action-packed first-person narrative, through the eyes of the main character, Percy – or Perseus – Jackson, who is revealed to be the son of Poseidon. The story starts when he is 12 years old; he finds out that he isn't normal,

by accidentally vaporising his maths teacher (Hah!). He doesn't have time to ponder over this however, because Zeus' master lightning bolt has gone missing, and he believes Percy was the thief! So, all he has to do is navigate around a monster-infested world and find the real burglar by winter solstice, or else Zeus will declare war on Poseidon. Oh, and he needs to avoid death in the process.

He won't be alone however. His friends Grover Underwood – a satyr in search of the lost, wild God Pan – and Annabeth Chase – a daughter of the Goddess Athena – will be there to guide and assist him at every turn. This book has lots of (much needed)

historical information, with some sprinkles of fictitious elements, and is the perfect equilibrium of humour and action, as well as a drizzle of horror in the mix.



Needless to say, I would undoubtedly give this book a rating of 10 out of 10 (11 out of 10 if it was possible!) And whether you're like me or not, this makes you feel compelled to read the rest of this striking saga. This is just one of the STAR books at our school library. Oh, and don't get fooled by the book's chapter titles; they are a bit too abstract. And of course, a book this amazing wouldn't go without having some sort of huge twist at the end of it. I urge you to read the book yourself to find out what it is.

Abdul Ghafoor



A Journey Through Rome

Earlier this year, 24 year 9s and 3 staff visited Rome and the Vatican City to learn about the Christian heritage of the city and to provide context for our learning about Christianity. The trip was organised by Mr Raza, whilst he is not a R.S teacher, knew a lot about the history of Rome and the Vatican as he had visited many times (a fact he mentioned quite often!). Mr Matak and Ms Ilyas were also on the trip with us and we all enjoyed getting to know them more.

We had to get up early as our flight was at 06.30 in the morning, but Mr Raza doesn't like being late so had us at the school for 0200 am! Nobody forgot their passports so that was good, and everyone was excited, some of the other students had not been anywhere in Europe so were looking forward to this, not to mention that they were also happy to miss a few days of school at the same time.

We got through both airports easily, the weather was cool in Rome, better than what we left in Blackburn, we dropped our things off at the hotel and off we went. We followed Mr Raza through the city as he knew the way but also gave us information and facts about little things. He also pointed out some shops we would visit later in the trip.

The view approaching the colosseum was magnificent, the building really stood out compared to the houses and offices around it. There were lots of people and other tourists around and the area was quite busy, so we had to be careful when crossing the road or moving around so the group didn't disperse. We walked around the colosseum taking pictures and reading the signs. Here Mr Raza provided more information about where the Romans would sit, what happened in the colosseum and how old it was, we were shocked to find out that they fed Christians to lions here!

After the visit to the colosseum, we stayed in the area and visited the old Roman city, this is where the temples and shops were, many over 2000 years old. At this point it had been a long day and some of the boys were tired. Mr Raza called it a day and took us back to the hotel, we then went to the restaurant for our evening meal, which was not to everyone's taste, Mohammed Abbas refused to eat it or even try it. We then went to McDonalds which everyone was much happier with.



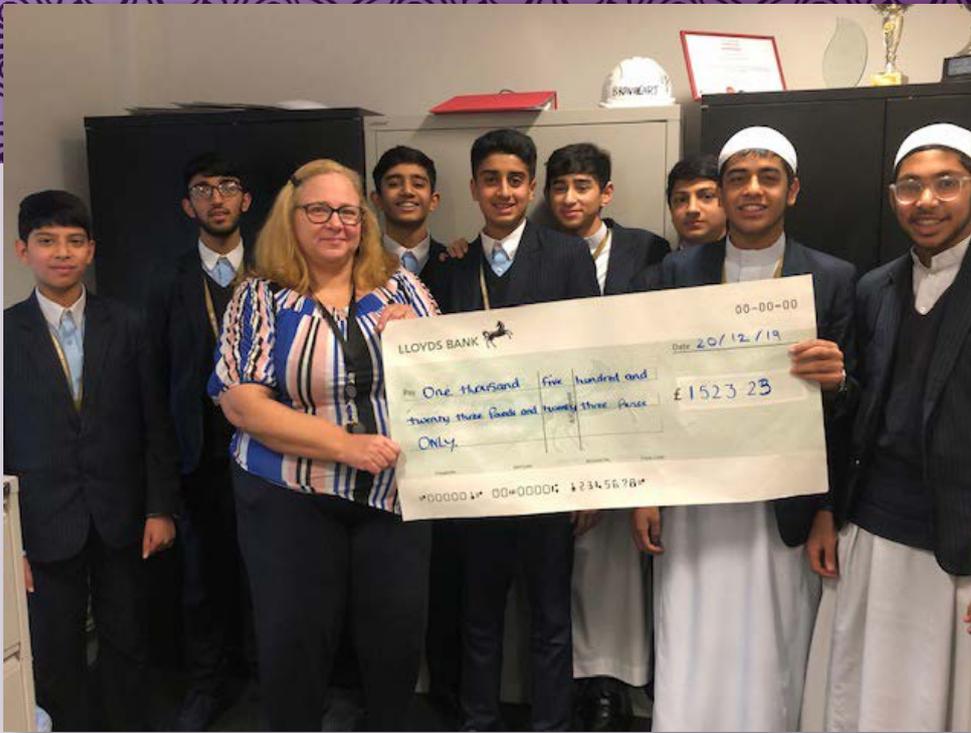
On the second day, we set off early for the Vatican, which was across town. We walked through lots of small streets which were interesting. We had a look inside the Pantheon a Roman era temple, which is now a church. We walked past some interesting sights that were steeped in history and had beautiful architecture such as the Castel San Angelo, Tiber River and San Piazza Square, with Mr Raza giving us information as we went along.

We arrived on time for the Vatican which was busy and crowded so it was hard to get good pictures. There were old painting and marble statues inside and a corridor of old maps. The main point of the Vatican was to get inside the Sistine Chapel where there were many facing paintings all over the walls. We had lunch inside the museum and then made our way back slowly to the hotel. We stopped for shopping where we visited a famous chocolate shop and a Lindt store. By the time we had got back to the hotel it was nearly 5.30pm - we had been out for nearly 8 hours.

We arrived back at school around 3pm where Mr Ditta and Moulana Zubair were there to greet us along with our parents. They asked what we had done and that if we enjoyed it - everyone was positive about the trip.

It was interesting to visit a city I had seen on tv and in films, it is greatly different to any city in England and we learnt a lot about its history and role in Catholicism. Overall, it was a wonderfully memorable trip.





Nightsafe – Supporting Homeless in Blackburn

Our NCS social action project was a very successful campaign in which we were raising awareness and money for the vulnerable in our own local communities around Blackburn. Over the course of four to five months, a group of year 10 students from TIBHS worked together with three local charities including Nightsafe, in order to help the less fortunate.

Working with Nightsafe was a phenomenal, memorable and a life changing experience. It gave us the chance to become more aware of what millions of homeless people in our own community, locally and nationally, suffer with on a day to day basis. These are devastating and farfetched conditions. Our experience consisted of a night stay, where we slept on the streets around St Silas church with people; both young and old. These were people who were also supporting our project and trying to raise awareness and money for the Nightsafe charity. Experiencing at first hand the cold, wet and damp floor during the night was very distressing, destabilizing, depressing and uncomfortable. It truly gave us an insight to how the homeless people feel everyday; lying on the bare ground, no blankets and minimal protection from the harsh weather conditions. Experiencing the night with several disruptions was distressing and it was hard to believe how they would go through their nights in such disastrous weather conditions, consisting of heavy rain and wind, especially during these freezing winter months. As we reflected on our experience, we were in pain and distress upon thinking how these homeless people are able to bear with such strenuous conditions,

without any warm clothing and food to help them keep going.

However, through our determination, commitment and dedication, we were able to raise a rewarding £1500 for the Nightsafe charity. We had the opportunity to personally deliver the cheque to the Nightsafe headquarters. This was a proud and memorable moment for us all. Being able to experience the glowing smiles from the organisers and volunteers made our experience a once in a lifetime moment. Alongside the sponsors from the local community, we obtained a separate sponsor from teachers, parents and students which we used to make hampers containing: hats, gloves, scarfs, daily essentials like toothbrushes, Colgate and body cleansing

products and snacks. The hampers were hand made by the students and were delivered out to the homeless on the streets, around school and to the charity.

Overall, the NCS project had a very positive outcome as we had the opportunity to interact with other members of community from different backgrounds and understand the plight of some of our local people. It also widened our horizons on the daily struggles faced by the less fortunate and vulnerable people, creating sympathy for them and encouraging us to do what we can to help. It made us become more grateful and appreciative for what we have been gifted with in comparison to others; teaching us to never take things for granted.

Yousaf Mohammed





A Sandy Visit to Formby

A group of 30 of us went to visit the Formby sand dunes at the Formby National Park - located on the Fylde coast near Southport. We also visited the Southport eco-centre where we completed some quizzes.

The National park is used to protect endangered animals such as the red squirrel, which we saw climbing the trees and scurrying about.

We spent the morning investigating coastal management strategies such as sand dunes and dune fencing. We saw the level of protection that was being used to protect the town of Formby from the strong winds that can cause a lot of erosion in the area. The winds were so strong that all of the branches on the trees swayed back and forth! Mr Raza said that "without the trees and sand dunes for protection, the town of Formby itself would be in danger from the erosion from the strong winds."

The weather was really windy and the waves were coming up right to the beach. It was fun to walk on the sand whilst we were being blown away. The instructor from Southport was very knowledgeable and gave us a lot of information. We were quizzed quite a lot and really got to show off what we had learned in lessons.

In the afternoon, we got to climb the two largest sand dunes. Some of them were over 30 metres high but we really enjoyed climbing them as Mr Raza assured it was safe. We also enjoyed climbing the sand and looking out to the Irish Sea. This trip allowed us to see what coastal management is like and how large sand dunes really are. It was a good day for a fieldtrip; it wasn't too hot like last year but it didn't rain either. We learned lots of information and it was really good in getting to see coastal management in real life and outside the classroom.



Bike-ability: tracking our way to confident cycling

Bike-ability is a perfect programme to learn how to confidently, responsibly and safely cycle on the road; especially for children who are hoping to travel to school on a bike. As part of an exciting and fun training programme, the sessions aim to teach learners to navigate on the roads in Blackburn on their bikes.

Our first lesson started with simply the basics: safety instructions and equipment, following a simple route and taking U-turns simply and effectively (not a U-turn from the programme, if that's what you are thinking)! This session was located on the school grounds and then gradually moved onto the road just outside our school – we were getting close to venturing into the big bad world on our bikes! Here we learned the importance of being extremely mindful with our ears whilst riding on the road, and by following this instruction, we were safe and would avoid danger in future.

As the lesson progressed, we had the opportunity to branch out further by riding the bikes within the supervised vicinity just outside the school. This had to be my MOST exciting moment of the programme - I really felt the freedom of pedalling away as the fresh breeze whipped across my face. It seemed as though we never wanted the lesson to end – well, even the course, but at least the lessons have paved our way to riding beyond our estates and being more adventurous with our cycling.

Our Instructors, Rob and Stewart, were extremely helpful and supportive with their handy and easy to follow instructions. During the second lesson, we moved on to more challenging tasks and cycled across the busy King St. We continued to Witton Park and had plenty of fun on the carefully constructed bike tracks there. By the time we had rode home, we had a great time; with very tired legs which needed some pampering and rest!

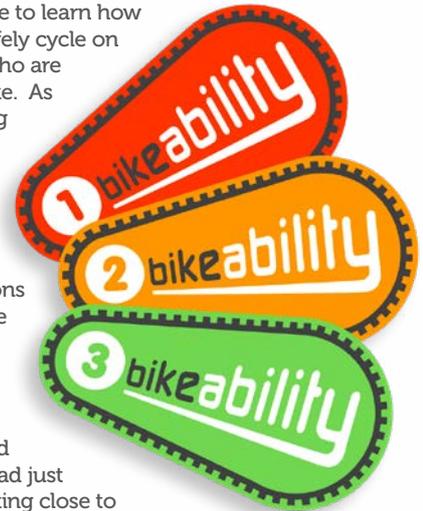
The Bike-ability project is an amazing experience. It gives children the chance to stretch themselves outside their comfort zone and take on challenges. For me, going on the Witton Park bike tracks was definitely the most enjoyable part. Most importantly it has provided the students at TIBHS the skills to ride our bikes to school safely.

What Miss Riaz has to say:

"Bike-ability is an excellent cycle training programme. The project gives young riders the confidence and skills to ride a bike to school and on the roads in a safe and effective manner. It also provides a healthier and environmentally friendly way to travel. Hopefully, this project inspires many more young children to ride to school on the bike. Finally, a huge thankyou to the instructors from the Bike-ability project, Rob and Stewart, for all their commitment and efforts in helping the students of TIBHS learn this important skill."

All I can end this with is, "Miss Riaz, I couldn't agree more!"

Bilal Karolia



St. Augustines 7–11 TIBHS

Before coming to TIBHS, I thought rugby was for the 'bigger' boys. But I have now realised that anyone can play any sport, as long as they are committed to it and have a burning passion to become the best version of themselves.

I could not imagine playing Rugby, but TIBHS' decision to introduce it has made me worthy of representing our team outside of school with honour. Despite our unfortunate loss against Lancaster Grammar, we persevered and marched in solidarity to our second match against St. Augustines.

The tension in the air was tangible like a grey cloud brewing up a storm. The opposing team stood tall, towering over us whilst we waited expectantly for the game to start. However, the anxiety soon lifted and was replaced by optimism as we made an excellent debut to the game. Umar Adam scored a try in the first two minutes and we were off to a flying start! As the excitement built, I finally scored my first ever score in the rugby game (wohoo!).

This game was as exceptional and mind-blowing as our previous game- we were bathing in the sweet taste of victory because we thought we had built up a good lead. However, we were soon brought down to earth, quite literally because our opponents scored two tries back to back and the game was level at the blink of an eye.

We realised we had to keep the momentum. Mr Richardson rightly told us to focus and concentrate on the game till the last second. Of course he was right, as minutes later I scored my second try- making the score 2-3 before half time!

We were reminded that we were only narrowly in the lead and we would need to build a stronger rapport by making sure we worked as a team, held our heads high and made sure we scored the next try.

Highly motivated after the half time pep talk, we not only scored the next try through Rayyan Ahmed, but were on a roll and scored 3 more consecutively by Ibrahim Siddique, Rayyan Ahmed again and then Rayyan Khanjra . At 2-7 we thought the game was pretty much over, but like previously, St. Augustine's fought back with 2 quick tries. Our anxiety levels increased. However, Khalid Moosa calmed everyone's nerves by scoring the next try.

Unfortunately, this did not last long as they scored another 2 tries, making the score 6-8. We fought back with a try from Mudassar Hussain before they squeezed in another try making it 7-9. We were tired, cold and muddy but we had come this far, played our best and were determined to win this game. This was exemplified by Ibrahim Siddique's mad tackle to intercept St Augustine's winger from scoring a try. Instead of them scoring, Khalid Moosa and Rayyan Ahmed scored again making the final score 7-11.

This match was a thrilling rollercoaster in every sense. It will serve as a crucial reminder for us that with focus, teamwork, determination and 'never say never' attitude, I'm sure we will have many more victories to look forward to.

Many thanks to St. Augustine's coach and players for giving us such a fabulous game for our first ever win. It will certainly live long in my memory and I'm sure it will for all my team mates too.

Zakaria Master





Saturday Success

On Saturday 7th March, TIBHS took four teams to play their first ever Saturday morning football fixtures against QEGS. The years involved were years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

On a cold frosty morning, the Year 8 Football team gave an outstanding account of themselves. Knowing they were against tough competition, Mr Bhola and the team had to make sure that they got their tactics just right.

With a very good start to the game, Ahmed Essa showed great creativity in the centre of midfield - creating an easier chance for Raheem Aslam to make the score one nil to TIBHS. The team had to show their defensive skills for the remainder of the first half; as QEGS looked to get themselves back into the game.

The Year 8 team knew that they couldn't just sit on this one nil lead for the whole of the second half. Hence, they decided to push for a second goal and start the second half in a similar fashion to the first. They did just this when Jibran Shafi calmly capitalised on a mistake from the QEGS defender, showing composure and a brilliant ability to finish under significant pressure from the defence.

Filled with the confidence from the 2nd goal, TIBHS started to play with excellent skill and technique. This soon brought another goal from the super sub, who was making his Debut for the school. Saahil Master went on to score the best goal of the game, taking on half of the QEGS team and expertly placing the ball in the top right hand corner of the goal.

TIBHS managed to play out the remainder of the game with no worries at all. This also led to another debutant having a game to remember with Muhammed Seif Patel; keeping a clean sheet in his first game as the A team captain.

Well done to all the lads involved in this brilliant morning of football across all team; especially the Year 9 team who also came away with a 5-1 win.

Ahmed Essa and Ibraheem Ghanchi



Sanity or Insanity?

China, Italy, Spain, Germany, France, India, Pakistan, Africa, Saudi Arabia, Australia, New Zealand, America, UK the list is endless. The coronavirus has gripped the world and brought it to its knees like never before.

The lockdowns, empty streets, shortage of supplies, social and financial implications and the rising death toll continues to cause panic to unprecedented levels. How do we navigate ourselves in such a crisis? How do we react? What do we do? What do we not do? How do we cope? So many questions and dilemmas yet the uncertainties of the months ahead in this crisis unfolds at a rapid pace. Where do we look?

Our faith. It is rich. It provides guidance, direction and support in all situations for all times. Its conciseness and comprehensiveness are truly amazing. In every situation, a person can succeed and gain reward. What guidance does our faith provide in this pandemic?

Patience of Ayyub (a.s)

All problems, small or large, personal or social, health or financial, require patience for a person to cope and resolve the problem. Without patience, a person will struggle to deal with the challenges thrown by any given situation. Prophet Ayyub (a.s) is a great example of the pinnacle of patience.

The Lord describes him in the Qur'an, **"Indeed, We found him patient, an excellent servant. Indeed, he was one repeatedly turning back [to the Almighty]"** (Qur'an 38:44). The trials that Prophet Ayyub (a.s) experienced would lead a person to mental breakdown and complacency. From a life of prosperity to losing his wealth, family, health and finally being shunned by his community and thrown out by them over a period of 18 years is truly testing a person's resolve and resilience. However, he never complained but exercised patience. He always thanked the Almighty and presented his problems to Him only. Hence, the Lord called him an excellent servant.

But what is patience? Patience is to bear the difficulty without complaining and behaving inappropriately yet continue to fulfil the rights of all; the Almighty and the creation. When a person is able to do this, he will taste the sweetness of patience. The problems and burden of life become easier to bear.

One must remember, the believer is never a loser in good times or bad times. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said,

"Wondrous is the affair of the believer for there is good for him in every matter and this is not the case with anyone except the believer. If he is happy, then he thanks Allah and thus there is good for him, and if he is harmed, then he shows patience and thus there is good for him." (Sahih Muslim)

Repentance of Yunus (a.s)

Seeking repentance has always been a hallmark of the prophets and pious. They would resolve their problems through seeking forgiveness. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) would seek forgiveness more than 70 times a day.

The virtues of seeking forgiveness and its outcomes are mind-blowing. Seeking repentance and forgiveness provides sustenance. The Almighty mentions in the Qur'an, **"And (Nuh) said, 'Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver. He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers. And give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers."** (Qur'an 71:10-12)

It removes stress and anxiety. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, **"If anyone constantly seeks pardon (from the Almighty), the Almighty will appoint for him a way out of every distress and a relief from every anxiety and will provide sustenance for him from where he expects not."** (Abu Dawud)

Prophet Yunus (a.s)'s story is a brilliant read. A wonderful reminder of accepting our mistakes and turning to the Almighty seeking forgiveness. Prophet Yunus (a.s) did something without the Lord's permission. This was deemed inappropriate as being a Prophet of the Almighty and his servant. When he was swallowed by the whale, he pleaded to the Almighty saying, **"There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers."** (Qur'an 21:87)

He continued with this prayer and the Almighty saved him from this distress as mentioned in the Qur'an. Countless stories of repentance and forgiveness remind us of the power and might of the Almighty. At such times, we should seek forgiveness and mend our ways.

Uthman's Charity

Charity holds great significance in our faith. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as well as the pious encouraged us to be charitable especially at difficult times. Charity removes afflictions and problems.

Hadhrat Uthman (r.a), the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)'s son-in-law, was very charitable. He donated thousands of gold coins and tonnes of provisions to those in need at difficult times. His biography is worth a read and would inspire anyone.

However, charity is not limited to money. Abu Musa Ashari (r.a) narrates that the prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, **'Giving sadaqa is essential for every believer.'** It was said to him: **'what do you say of him who does not find (the means) to do so?'** He said, **'Let him work with both his hands, thus doing benefit to himself and give charity.'** It was said to him, **'what do you say of him who does not find (the means) to do so?'** He said, **'Then let him assist the needy and aggrieved.'** It was said, **'what do you say of one who cannot even do this?'** He said, **'Then he should enjoy what is reputable or what is good.'** He said, **'what about him if he cannot do that?'** He (prophet Muhammed pbuh) said, **'He should then abstain from evil, for verily that is charity on his behalf.'** (Muslim)

How beautiful! Our faith provides solutions and opportunities to contribute in multiple ways from monetary to physically to verbally.

WE MAKE A
LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE
A LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE

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Continued
from page 15

Giving is not just about make a donation, it's about making a difference.

Mental Wellbeing

When people go through difficult times, it is hard to stay positive. Negative thoughts bombard the mind which create fear and anxiety. It is important at such times people learn to cope with such negative thoughts. Looking at the bounties the Lord has given helps to develop a positive mindset. Secondly, relying upon the Creator to resolve our problems just like he resolved the problems of Prophet Ayyub and Yunus (a.s). They had firm reliance on the Creator. Furthermore, looking at those who are not so blessed as us will make us appreciate what we have. Others are experiencing poverty, hunger, lack of shelter and basic amenities. Gratitude is also needed at such times. Remember, train your mind to see the good in everything. Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

Dua (Supplication)

The importance of dua (supplication) cannot be underestimated especially at times like these. The Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) supplicated for everything whether they were matters relating to this world or the hereafter. At no point did he abandon making dua. Anas ibn Malik (r.a) reported: The Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, said, **"Let one of you ask his Lord for his needs, all of them, even for a shoestring when his breaks."** (Sunan al-Tirmidhi)

'Abdullāh ibn 'Umar (r.a) narrates one of the comprehensive duas the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) made. He narrates, "The Prophet (pbuh) would not abandon these words in the evening and the morning:

'O Almighty, I ask You for wellbeing in this world and the hereafter. O Almighty, I ask You for forgiveness and wellbeing in my religious and worldly affairs, and my family and my wealth. O Almighty, conceal my faults and keep me safe from my fears. O Almighty, protect me from the front and from behind, and on my right and on my left and from above, and I seek refuge in Your greatness from receiving unexpected harm from beneath me.' (Sunan Abī Dāwūd; Sunan Ibn Mājah).

The Almighty loves when his servant turns to him and asks him. It is the only door where the servant begging is never returned empty handed rather each time he returns; he is given more.

Patience, repentance, positive thinking, charity and dua are a must in times like these.

To conclude, a person needs to mentally prepare himself with the circumstances we are all experiencing. He must learn to become resilient and build his strength to cope with the challenges he will face from isolation, boredom and frustration. Each person must learn how to channel his thoughts and energies to cope and gain the maximum from this time. Time management and structuring the day around productive activities are fundamental. Otherwise an idol mind is a devil's workshop.

May the Almighty keep us safe, well, healthy and happy. May our trust in the Almighty remain steadfast and may He bring ease to us all. May He give us the ability to conduct ourselves in the right way at all times where we become a means of benefit to all not a means of obstruction and shame. Ameen

Maulana Minhaj Ugradar

Be mindful.

Be grateful.

Be positive.

Be true.

Be kind.

