



EDITION 17 -
Winter 2021

THE PEN

القلم

We Will Strive On; We Will Survive the Storm

Assalamu Alaikum.

We began this unique new year with every hope and aspiration for our young men to return in full fervour and continue their education in school. Fate, however, had different plans and diverged to its own pathway. As you know, the Prime Minister announced national lockdown measures, including the closure of all schools, as a way of stemming the transmission of Covid-19 and protecting the NHS.

Consequently, TIBHS is closed with immediate effect except to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. As a school, we will ensure our vulnerable children continue to learn in a safe environment with sufficient supervisory staff. Our children who are eligible to receive free school meals will continue to receive their entitlement, irrespective of whether they are learning at home or in school during the period of closure. We will continue with the current arrangements until at least February half term.

Pupils will receive their lessons online in adherence to our remote learning policy. This policy, along with our school's specific arrangements, is available on our school's website. All pupils will follow their usual timetables online taught by their usual teachers. Learning journeys will continue to follow the school's curriculum plans; normality will be preserved as much as virtually possible. Teachers will organise learning to include a variety of activities; they will also assess pupils' work and provide them with feedback. Academic challenge and rigour will be maintained; additional support will be provided for pupils who require it. Pupils will take scheduled breaks during the day where prayers and exercise will be encouraged.

Public vocational exams (such as BTECs) that are scheduled to take place in January will proceed. This includes the Creative iMedia exam, which our Year 10 and select Year 11s will be sitting on Monday 11th January 2021. As a school, we will continue to ensure that all of our young men taking the exam on Monday have the best provision over the next few days to help secure the best outcomes. However, the Prime Minister announced that it will be unfair for all GCSE and A level examinations to go ahead in the summer in the way that was envisaged. The Secretary of State is consulting with Ofqual on alternative arrangements and more details will be published in due course.

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Whilst we are very frustrated that our pupils continue to experience disruption to their lives, we understand the rationale behind the lockdown measures and will responsibly do all that we can in the battle to control Covid-19 and to ensure that we provide the highest possible standard of education and care.

Since briefly opening for the spring term at the start of 2021, I would like to thank you sincerely for your incredible efforts, support and commitment during a uniquely challenging year. The pandemic has impacted our community unprecedentedly, it has affected many personal and professional lives in countless ways - I hope and pray your loved ones remain well. For those members of our community who are currently isolating, I hope that your symptoms are not too severe and that you return to full health with speed.

So many of our routines and interactions have changed; the world has sometimes seemed bleak and at times the volume of Covid guidance has appeared overwhelming. Despite the many obstacles that have characterised this year, you as a parent partner at TIBHS have continued to epitomise the STAR values.

As we enter the Tier 5 national lockdown period, please may I ask that you and your families do everything possible during this time to stay safe. This means following all local and national advice so that we can remain as safe and healthy as possible, as a community. The Government announced the following restrictions on Monday 04th January for everyone:

- You must not leave, or be outside of, your home except where necessary.
- You may leave the home to;
 - shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
 - go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
 - exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
 - meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one.
 - seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse).
 - attend education if you are a vulnerable child or the child of a critical worker.

Please kindly continue to remind your son of the fundamental messages of social distancing, good respiratory hygiene, wearing of masks, no physical contact and frequent hand washing. The more we all work together to deliver the same message then the more effective it will be for everyone.

I know that you are working hard to help and support your son to stay well – mentally and physically – and to catch up on their lost learning. This is no mean feat, but our young men, your sons, only get one chance to have a great school life and I am grateful to you for playing your part in ensuring that this is not diminished. Rest assured as a school, we are trying our utmost to maximise teaching and learning and assessment alongside our excellent work to help build character and to keep our pupils safe, happy and well, including the Couch to 5K run, Cadets and the Winter Gift Programme.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank and celebrate the hard work and commitment demonstrated day in and day out by the amazingly talented and hardworking staff team at TIBHS who in their varying roles have delivered to the GOLD STANDARD day in, day out and have worked tirelessly since the start of the academic term for 2020-21. I am confident that you will join me in recognising their efforts and will remember the staff and their families in your Du'aas (prayers).

However, if there have been any shortcomings over the past half term, I apologise on behalf of all the staff at the school. I humbly request that you continue to be patient and continue to be supportive of the school over the coming weeks and months.

The legendary Welsh poet Dylan Thomas once mused, *'Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light.'*

News of vaccine development and the eventual end to this long period of disruption gives us all the prospect of a brighter future. Such has been the turmoil and madness of the past eight months, it is quite easy to become forlorn and on occasions may consider our mission to be hopeless. However, whatever happens this year, it is clear that at TIBHS we will not meekly accept our fate and that all of us, teachers, parents, governors, the Trust and most importantly our young men, will fight hard and strive relentlessly to deliver for each of our young men, your sons and their wider families. Though difficult days have passed and many more lie ahead of us, it is our courage and indefatigably that gives us hope of success (God Willing). The promise of the special things we can achieve in this unique year lies within each and every one of us. Despite all the challenges, I pray that we can maintain the feeling of STAR solidarity and philanthropy that strengthened during the COVID-19 period.

For now, let's stay steadfast in our sincerity and our intentions to have an uncompromising and relentless drive to work together to deliver the best quality of education both at school and at home and have a zero tolerance towards COVID having any detrimental and longer-term impact on the young men at TIBHS. Let's keep these thoughts at the forefront of our minds to find the inspiration to continue when the days are dark and difficult.

Wherever you go, and whatever you intend to do over the next five weeks, please stay safe and follow National and Local advice.

For any members of the TIBHS family who are hurting, you are in our prayers. For any members of the TIBHS family who are struggling with ill health or nursing loved ones, we pray for a speedy recovery.

Finally, on behalf of each of our teachers, the governors and the SLT at TIBHS, a heartfelt 'thank you' to each and every one of our young men and their respective families for everything you have done over the past Autumn term. No doubt the term itself will have to go down in the history of your time as a pupil and as a parent at TIBHS as one of the longest and the most difficult that you have had to endure.

I am confident that through the purposeful, professional and respectful partnership we will get through the coming weeks and months as we transition through the second national lockdown. Together we have showed the STAR values in practice. So, I hope that 2021, and in particular the current tier 5 climate affecting all of our lives, is an opportunity when we continue to build and grow, staying faithful to our true core values, beliefs and foundations.

Thank you once again. I wish you all the very best for the upcoming months and that the second national lockdown passes without too much stress and strain. Thank you for your ongoing support of the school and our efforts on behalf of your child. Please continue to remember all at TIBHS in your Duaas (prayers).

**#2021-21ReadinessResilienceExcellence
#RapidAndSecureCatch up #RemoteLearning
#BlendedTeachingAndLearning
#ResilienceAndRoutines #FinancialSustainability**

**Mr M Ditta,
Principal**



Major General Eastman Visits TIBHS

On Tuesday 6th October, TIBHS hosted a visit from Major General Eastman, MBE: the General Officer Commanding Regional Command. Major General Eastman is an influential personality who has led the UK's response to Coronavirus from a military perspective.

Despite his busy schedule, he graced the school with his presence and to ordain the flag raising ceremony. It was an exciting opportunity for our pupils, especially our young cadets to meet Major General and be inspired with his heartfelt speech which articulated the very values our pupils are taught and encouraged to foster in every feature of their life.

Our head boy, Adam Mohmed had the highest privilege of being gifted with a special, exclusive coin as a token of appreciation following an enlightening discussion. The coin will stand testament to the respectful values and passion our pupils serve and host guests with at our school.

The Major General's visit was certainly a prestigious moment for the school – one which has left many of our pupils inspired and we hope this helps them to serve our wider society for years to come.

Mr U Kothia,
Assistant Principal

Hasan Khan writes...

This term, we have had the honour of receiving a visit from Major General Eastman to our school. We were delighted to have had such an important and senior figure from the Cadets join us and be present for the flag raising ceremony. It was a once in a lifetime experience which some of us were able to witness and experience.

He was welcomed with his team warm-heartedly by the seniors of the school and had the opportunity to indulge in some enthusing conversations with our headteacher, Mr Ditta, and head boy, Adam Mohmed. After enjoying the hors d'oeuvres prepared by our talented catering team, the Major General joined the cadet team as well as teachers Mr Budd, Mr Raza, and the Cadets' leader, Mr Mangera, for the much-awaited ceremony.

As the flag was being raised, we were blessed with the beautiful recitation of the Qur'an by student Hafiz Abdurrahman with a powerful translation given by Raees Mohammed. The beauty of the school's faith was without a doubt presented on this day. To commemorate the event, the Major shared powerful words of wisdom and inspiration to our school's growing Cadet team. As our young Cadets listened attentively, it was evident they were enthralled with what the Major General had to offer them.

The school thanked the Major for his visit with a pen of sentimental value and a token of our sincere appreciation. The Major also received a poignant ovation for his visit and felt moved with the warmth with which he was welcomed. The Major General's honourable visit will certainly be treasured by the school for years to come.



Armistice Day

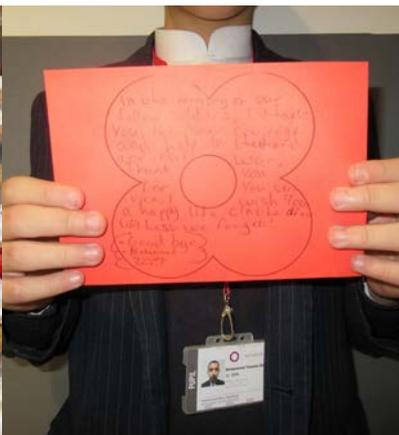
It's been just over a hundred years, since the massacre of millions of brave soldiers, who gave their lives so we could have our freedoms. Yet, despite all their sacrifices, we tend to forget how much they really did for us.

And that is why we have Armistice Day, why we hold and safeguard it, why we value it so much. At TIBHS, we commemorated Armistice Day by learning about the significance of the poppy and what it represents and wrote messages of love and gratitude to soldiers that lost their lives.

On 11th November at 11.00am, all staff and students commemorated and reflected on the soldiers who dedicated their lives for the country and their endeavours with a minute of silence. At break time, our young cadets paid tribute to the soldiers, followed by a cake decorated with an edible poppy. Whilst enjoying this treat, students reflected on this moment in history. In the school refectory, the immense display on Remembrance created by the Humanities faculty was a great reminder of the significance of this day and the role it has played in shaping our future in Britain today.

As part of Armistice day, the first Sunday is always commemorated with a ceremony across all towns and cities in Britain. Despite the restrictions of Covid-19, TIBHS and the Cadets were still able to commemorate this important day whilst adhering to all COVID-19 guidelines. Salahuddin Jassat and Amaan Bhaiji along with a group of cadets showed their respect for the fallen as they laid a wreath and honoured the soldiers and their families with a minute of silence.

Hamza Patel



Academic during the Pandemic

Here at TIBHS, even amidst the pandemic, our drive for academic excellence is unwavering. We are firm in our approach to ensure there is no loss of learning for any of our young men. Hence, the online provision has been stronger than ever, many steps have been taken to mitigate potential problems.

As a result of pupil isolation, it has been necessary to adapt to the 'new normal' and develop a new style of blended learning. Some of our adaptations include teaching on OneNote via Microsoft Teams, recording lessons as YouTube-style revision resources and pupils uploading work via Office Lens.

Furthermore, teachers have been teaching from home to entire classes, classes have been twinned where staff are isolating to ensure there is seamless transition between sets and where possible, masterclasses have brought together entire groups of students with specialist teacher input. The efforts of our committed teachers have ensured that no student is unsupported, whether at home or in the classroom. Back at school, selfless support staff and cleaners have ensured that classrooms are disinfected regularly to protect the TIBHS community.

When pupils and staff are not isolating, they must deal with new procedures such as wearing masks during lesson changeovers. In addition, students are kept in separate year group bubbles with dedicated home bases to prevent coronavirus transmission throughout the school. Staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes serve to preserve the safety net created by the bubbles, while each year group is given a dedicated entry and exit slot. In the classroom teachers must always remain in their zone (marked by tape) to further reduce transmission. Windows are opened for ventilation, and if anyone does test positive the school's track and trace system (consolidated by seating plans for each lesson) serves to send home the necessary pupils.

Despite the challenges, the TIBHS community has remained vigilant and performed to high standards. Pupils have the maturity to pray namaaz together wearing masks and bringing in their own prayer mats. Meanwhile the Year Elevens have worked hard to achieve record results in their mocks with the support of their teachers and parents. Recently, the school held its first ever virtual parents' evening, which was unanimously reported to be a huge success. We hope to lead the way for Star schools in our response to the pandemic and our academic achievements.

Abdullah
Muhammad



MOT for Learning

The IT MOT was an accomplishment which allowed the students who were at home to strive and adapt to learning in the pandemic.

It was carried out by our own specialist IT technician who examined each device to ensure the relevant software was installed, as well as ensuring all the hardware was operational. Having functional mics and cameras was a tremendous help to those students who were deprived of their learning while they were at home.

While being a student who has self-isolated for more than 3 weeks, I can say that I was not deprived of a quality education. Due to the school giving me access to many extraordinary apps this allowed me to feel like I was at school. The MOT allowed us to view which apps we did not have, and our hard-working IT Technician was able to install these apps which allowed us to continue our work whilst at home.

Those students whose laptops or devices were slow or not fit for online learning were given laptops which had the apps and hardware which allowed many of the students to complete their exams which required workings whilst at home. Because of the MOT, teachers were able to check the students' progress on OneNote which is extremely beneficial for those students who want to attain a much higher grade and shape their future.

Parents evening, which is essential to monitor student's progress, was able to take place on Microsoft Teams due to the MOT and teachers were able to share their opinions on the engagement of students learning online. The MOT allowed parents the opportunity to ask teachers questions and in return give feedback on their students' progress and behaviour.

TIBHS is one of the only schools in the country who continued to hold a Parents Evening despite the challenges. The school has led the way in innovative EdTech solutions to teaching in the pandemic and will strive to lead the way for education across the country.

Hasan Khan

Celebrating Black History

On 29th September, we at TIBHS commenced our Black History month, with a speech delivered by Ilhan Omar: a Somali refugee and an inspirational woman elected into the US house of representatives.

Staff and students had the privilege of listening to her in an online event. Her talk covered her life and experiences as a black Muslim in the USA, with pertinent messages for all.

"I understand what it means to fight in the ring and fight for everyday people, working class people, poor people, and every single person who lives on the margins of our society."

Our refectory was decorated with posters of key black individuals, who were the subject for discussions in lessons throughout the month of October. Each subject was tasked with choosing an individual that was to become a focus for a lesson, or series of lessons throughout the month. The History department chose to tailor the learning on the life of Olaudah Equiano and the PE department chose Nelson Mandela, a renowned figure. Activities were planned in lessons to provide pupils with an insight into the lives and contributions made by individuals.

Throughout the month, we were reminded of influential figures who have shaped history.

Mr M Budd





Mastering Microsoft

The turbulence of Covid 19 has had a drastic impact on daily routines, work life, education, mental wellbeing and has highlighted the importance of technology within the public and private sectors. One may say technology and its practical execution is the genetic material of all future careers, within all industries.

As a school that is aspiring to become a Microsoft Showcase School and who has the best possible outcomes for each child at the heart of all its activities; TIBHS decided to provide students from Year 11 the opportunity to partake within a specialist Microsoft program.

The Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Program provides industry-leading assessments of skills and knowledge through a new project-based testing, giving students real-world exercises to appraise their understanding of Microsoft Office. This guarantees that every certified user has demonstrated the ability to command the full features and functionality of Microsoft Office, preparing them for future academic or workforce opportunities.

Microsoft certification gives students the power to chart their own course, fulfil their ambition, and realise their potential. With this in mind, the journey for students to achieve accreditation from world renowned 'Microsoft', whilst enhancing their Curriculum Vitae; Microsoft PowerPoint (MO-300) being the beginning software for this journey.



Well Done to these Y11 boys for passing the MO-300: Microsoft PowerPoint (PowerPoint and PowerPoint 2019); Khalid Yaseer Patel, Ubaid Samali, Adil Ughratdar, Yameen Salim, Hamzah Hussain Patel, Zeshan Uddin, Zaid Patel, Abdullah Subhan Rashid, Saalih Yunus Vali, Ibrahim Hajee, Mohammed Sajid Patel, Raees Mohmed, Ziyad Karolia, Ibraheem Bala, Hasan Khan and Zubair Ahmed.



It was a whole team effort as staff, parents and students united. But a special mention must be made to some staff that went beyond the call of duty to make this journey possible:

Mr S Mohamed – The Technical Maestro; contributed his personal time by supporting staff (TIBHS and STAR academy), parents and pupils; to ensure they can prepare for this journey to be commenced.

Mrs R Desai – The Digital champion for this project and the Operations guru. Meticulous planning, training, CPD support, proctor training, student timetabling, exam administration and implementation were just some of the task undertaken.

The Proctors (Mrs R Yusuf and Fahima) – Providing the pupils the correct examination conditions to ensure the school fulfilled the examination conditions specified. More importantly providing the motivation and support before and after the examination for the young men.

Hafiz Ismaaeel Hussain – His calmness in the eye of technical difficulties coupled with his energy provided the platform for a seamless examination period.

Mufti Mohammed and Mr S Safdar – The strategic support for EDTECH within TIBHS and the visionaries and pioneers that supported the start of this journey.

Unnamed individuals; your smiles, your support, your guidance, your supplications were essentials throughout the period to make the start efficient and productive.

“For a program never before attempted within STAR Academies the experiences gained by all parties involved will forever be valuable and priceless.” Mrs R Desai

The students undertook the MO – 300 examination for MS Powerpoint. To gain a certification (physical and digital footer), each candidate must gain a score in excess of 700.

Below are some success stories from the journey;

Raees Mohmed	967	Zeeshan Uddin	953
Hasan Khan	953	Ziyad Karolia	953
Ibraheem Bala	884	Mohammed Sajid Patel	861
Ubaid Samli	838	Zaid Patel	792
Zubair Ahmed	769	SaaliH Yunus Vali	723

Mr Z Mitha

Hasan Khan writes...

On Monday 26th October 2020, the Year 11 pupils at TIBHS sat a prestigious Microsoft Office Exam. This would rigorously test their PowerPoint abilities after weeks of training orchestrated by Mr Mitha, resulting in more than 25 successes. However, the journey there was not the smoothest. The first hurdle we bravely faced were technical errors caused by GMetrix (the training program) – a plethora of students had troubles logging on which would have set back their progress had it not been for the heroic, behind the scenes efforts of Mr Mitha and his team.

Once logging on had been achieved by all, it was time to practice. Pupils spent hours upon hours every week trekking through the various trials posed by the murky waters of Microsoft PowerPoint, which involved learning advanced features such as master slides, PowerPoint importing and multimedia manipulation. Personally, had it not been for the tremendous support put in by the school, I would never have been able to fulfil the demands of the practice exams (especially the mathematical nightmare of graphs in PowerPoint). My peers also appreciated the chance to possess a skill very few people have and to prepare for a world where the line between our physical and digital lives are becoming increasingly blurred.

After our training, both students and staff sacrificed their half-term Monday by coming into school to sit the exam, which would be officiated on the Certiport website to ensure that we would receive an authentic qualification at the end of our tribulation. My pulse quickened as I entered the building – after weeks of preparation, would I pass, or would it come to nothing? Thankfully, the process was expertly explained by the invigilators and registering on Certiport was a breeze. I suddenly found myself pressing 'start'...

My slot was two hours long, but it felt like a quarter of an hour. Shockingly, the exam was comprised of everything we had been taught. Some questions bared an uncanny similarity to the practice exams, an occurrence I was grateful for. The only doubt I had was, of course, graphs. After checking through my answers several times, I pressed 'Submit' and was greeted with a statement of my results: weeks of practice had come down to this – PASS. Naturally, I felt as light as a feather. Suddenly, I had a qualification under my belt which would separate me from the crowd, give a glow to my CV and prepare me for life in the Information Age.

My exultance was shared with many of my peers. The support of my teachers and parents consolidated my practice at home, and of course we all appreciate the amazing support staff who worked extra hard to ensure that devices were cleaned between cohorts and ensured we could safely sit the exam even in a pandemic.



Online Exams; Finding New Solutions

The end of the Autumn term is a very important time for pupils across the country; a time when most schools across the country run their mock exam series. Tauheedul Boys High School is no different. Every effort and care has been put into ensuring that our pupils are given a fair opportunity to sit the exams.

The pupils sat their mock exams at the end of November, running into the first week of December. However, unlike previous years, these were a unique set of exams. Due to Covid-19, pupils have had gaps in their learning and attendance has been fluctuating. Therefore, a small group of pupils had to sit their exams at home under controlled conditions. This process was managed very well by our amazing EdTech team, led by the very adept, Mufti Muhammad Patel.

Pupils who were at home were expected to login to a specially created MS Teams for exams, who completed the exam at the same time as the pupils in school. Pupils received their paper 2 minutes before the start time on One Note – and teachers were able to monitor pupils as they typed. The school also organised for these pupils to turn on their cameras whilst at home and an invigilator was designated to invigilate the online exams. For the more complex exams, such as Maths and Science, the school provided pupils with touch screen laptops and pens, enabling them to draw diagrams and show their working out. At the start of each exam, pupils were expected to sign and complete an online exam code of conduct agreement. At the end of each exam, staff locked the One Note page and therefore pupils completed this exam at the same time as their peers. This whole process, with its demands, ensured authenticity in the current climate.

But for pupils who struggled with internet access at home, our school accommodated them by making arrangements for exams to be completed upon their return.

Overall, the experience has been interesting and beneficial for all involved and has allowed us to find ways of working and solutions which we never could have imagined prior to the pandemic.

Maulana Zubair Ahmed



Back to the Future; Careers

Life choices, they are always so difficult - the fear of getting it wrong; the lack of resources and advice but above all, the increasing pressure from those around you. We all know that moment of anxiety... but I know now that I don't need to worry because I can safely say that our school has prepared us well for even the most daunting of decisions.

With the knowledge, understanding and commitment given by the Blackburn with Darwen careers advice team, we in year 11 were blessed with the opportunity to make our future subject choices with confidence.

COVID-19 has been a trial and tribulation from the Almighty impacting almost every aspect of society. Alhamdulillah, with the grace and mercy of the Almighty, at the time of writing this, we now have a vaccine which is in the process of being mass produced to save the world.

With all that is happening in our lives and across the world, it becomes almost impossible to plan our future, but our school continues to strive to give us the best opportunities to enable us to realise our full potential and as always, our dreams – for a day we were able to forget about the virus that has taken hold of the world and dream of a future in a happier and healthier world.

An array of subject specific career advice sessions were organised this term to cater for all our needs. So, while many students at other schools may base their choices on luck, peer pressure, friends and otherwise, we at Tauheedul were blessed with careers guidance allowing us sufficient time to carefully consider our future career path. The sessions were thorough and focussed on a range of subjects led by dedicated career advisers.

Thanks to the effort of the school, in particular Mrs B Patel who worked tirelessly to arrange such a seamless event, our spirits were lifted during such a turbulent and difficult year of our life. Choosing a career should not have to be a hardship and thanks to the team at both Tauheedul and at Blackburn with Darwen, the experience has been nothing short of exciting. May the efforts of all staff be rewarded.

Zubair Ahmed



This Half Term...

Year 11 Advice and Guidance Meetings

Over the last fortnight, Year 11 pupils have received advice and guidance information sessions for their bespoke areas of interest. Pupils were delighted with the opportunity to discuss their futures and receive individual support in designing pathways. The sessions were delivered by BwD New Directions, who deployed six fully qualified guidance. These advisers came to enlighten and steer our young men to horizons new after their GCSE examinations.

We are thankful to the team at BwD New Directions for their professional, courteous and excellent delivery of the much-vaunted sessions.

In preparation for entering the final year, in the summer term after their examinations, Year 10 pupils will receive individual guidance sessions in making critical decisions from September onwards.

Runshaw College Speaker; Y11 Post 16 Education Preparation

On Friday 16th October, we were delighted to host Tim Cahill, Assistant Principal, from Runshaw College – our partner college - to address our learners in Y11 regarding Post -16 A Level and Vocational options. Tim informed pupils on entry requirements and extra-curricular provisions at Runshaw College, and the extensive support available for competitive admission applicants who wish to apply for medicine, dentistry at Oxbridge. The success stories of Runshaw alumni shared with our pupils inspired their own journeys and motivated learners to continue working hard and reaching for the stars with their current flight path.

Tim revealed to pupils that there is a special concession available with applications for our pupils, as we are a Partner School and offered bespoke personal statement support for pupils who were interested in applying to the college. Overall, it was an awe-inspiring visit and pertinent for the current stage in our pupils' education journey.

Our next scheduled guest speaker for Y11 pupils is Philip Taylor, from the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship organisation – we look forward to hosting yet another esteemed guest to benefit our learners during this uniquely challenging academic year.



Arkwright Scholarship

We are incredibly proud to announce that our former pupil, Uzair Patel, secured the Engineering Arkwright Scholarship sponsored by The Roger Raymond Charitable Trust. Uzair now upholds an Arkwright Scholar status, which was achieved after a ten-month gruelling application process, while studying with us in Year 11. The scholarship is the best scholarship of its kind in the U.K. and Uzair is most deserving of this prestigious award. Uzair was also the pivotal anchor in initiating and establishing the award-winning Social Enterprise "Uniformity" during summer last year. As part of the award, he will receive the following benefits:

Industry led engineering Connect Days arranged by Arkwright (provided virtually for the moment).

A scholarship financial award to assist technical studies and wider experience of engineering (Currently £300 per annum).

The opportunity to have a mentor to support Uzair during the next two years.

We look forward to supporting Uzair in the coming years – we are confident he will progress to achieve exceptionally academically and beyond. Looking forward, we hope to support our young men with further applications to embark on the Arkwright Scholar journey.

Philip Taylor, from the Smallpiece Trust, addressed current Y11 pupils for this year's applications. We have since nominated three potential applicants for the award for 2020-21 scholarships.



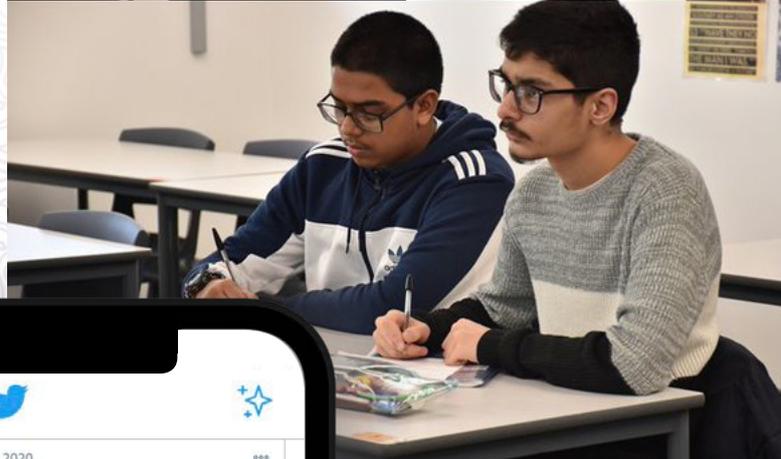
Introduction to Medicine Masterclass

Blackburn Youth Zone delivered a medicine masterclass to young people in secondary schools. We were thrilled to participate in the informative and enlightening session across Years 9, 10 and 11 on 11th November from 2pm till 3pm. Our young men were bursting with searching questions at the end of the session and were enthused to research further and seriously consider a future career in medicine.

An introduction to Medicine with Bella Kenworthy covered the following during the presentation:

- Is it for you?
- A level and GCSE subjects
- Work experience and volunteering
- Personal Statement
- Tests for entrance - UKCAT & BMAT
- Choosing your medical school
 - open days
- Interview
- Alternative routes

The workshop was a wonderful complement to the Blue Peanut Medicine conference pupils virtually attended in September, reinforcing and further enhancing their knowledge of pathways to medicine and the application process.





Bedrock: Building the Steps to Better Vocabulary

"If we are serious about increasing standards and bringing a greater proportion of school children to high levels of academic accomplishments, we cannot leave vocabulary development to parents, chance and highly motivated reading."

This is the expert advice outlined by the vocabulary expert, Andrew Biemiller, which has underpinned the focused literacy drive at TIBHS.

As well as opening doors for our pupils to a world of books with our new, state of the art library, our school has also made valuable investments with the Bedrock programme. The Bedrock vocabulary programme is an online learning platform that aims to develop vocabulary and broaden pupils' reading skills.

As part of the school's focus towards improving literacy across the curriculum, children complete two Bedrock lessons a week as part of their English homework. During these interactive online lessons which include reading activities, quizzes and tests, pupils learn a repertoire of new words which they are encouraged to use in their lessons across the curriculum.

Some of the key benefits we have witnessed during the implementation of the Bedrock programme at our school include:

- Lessons tailored to suit each individual's learning level
- Learning adapted to each student's pace
- Accessible from home
- Wide range of engaging texts develop cultural capital alongside pupils' vocabulary
- Gives instant feedback on learning progress
- Certificates to celebrate students' success and build motivation

Bedrock has been an excellent learning tool during the lockdown period to complement remote teaching. Our English team incorporated Bedrock linked activities as part of their weekly lessons, and this has been cultivated in the new academic year. The rigour and enthusiasm adopted by the pupils when accessing Bedrock was recognised with the school being certified as the "best Bedrock secondary school for progress" for the month of September 2020.

Each pupils made an outstanding average score progress of 35 per cent – a fantastic achievement. This phenomenal accolade is testament to the priority given towards improving literacy across the school.

Mr M Patel



Reading: Dreaming with your Eyes Wide Open

Since the launch of the Star Readers programme last year, the school has made it an integral element of the school's literacy programme to develop our pupils' access to reading and foster a greater passion for books.

Despite a lack of access to the school library, our librarian has worked tirelessly to ensure pupils are provided with their favourite reads. With great effort, provisions for safe handling have been put in place to ensure that our pupils are given opportunities to read in school and access books in the library. In the coming months, we hope to welcome our pupils to enjoy visits to the school library weekly as part of their English lessons. We are confident that this will be welcomed by our pupils as our warm and comforting library has been greatly missed by our pupils.

We will continue to support the Star Reader Programme, which incorporates challenging and engaging texts from a diverse range of genres to ensure there are books to appeal to everyone. Reading helps to develop and expand vocabulary, making our students better writers and communicators.

As part of our drive to improve literacy and reading, the Accelerated Reader programme will also take off in the new year to support our commitment to promote pupils' interest in reading. At TIBHS, we have launched the programme to years 7, 8 and 9. This term we have reopened the library and students have received a copy of the Star Reader catalogue, which will allow them to select books prior to their library session. Upon completion, students will complete a Star quiz to show their understanding of the book.

Library sessions are held fortnightly, and parents are advised to encourage their child to read for 20 minutes each day to develop fluency, confidence and re-discover the joys and benefits of reading. Create a mini hub of a library in the comforts of your own living rooms and enjoy a read with your sons to bring some warmth, excitement, and adventure during these dark winter months!

Mrs A Mohamed

Parental Workshop

As part of our home school agreement, it is vital that both the school and homework work in a positive partnership to reinforce high expectations, discipline and positive behaviour both in and outside of school.

As a school which believes that our parents are pivotal to our pupils' success, there is a consistent endeavour to ensure our communication with parents is thorough. Part of our partnership goal with our parents is to develop a mutual aim of ensuring that our young men leave school as respectable, well-mannered and educated Muslims ready to serve and lead within their communities.

This term the school has built on this with the pastoral team working hard to deliver workshops for parents to support our pupils in fostering good behaviour at school so that they can excel academically and other aspects of life. Our expectations of exemplary behaviour at school and at home were shared so that we, together, nurture a community of role models in generations to come.

The school received positive feedback from parents, with some stating that they welcomed the advice and liked the idea of working with the school to improve their sons' behaviour and attitudes to learning. As a result, the school aims to hold termly parental workshops with a different area of focus each term. Whilst it is compulsory that all parents attend, we are confident that the workshops will be welcomed and regarded as beneficial by all parents involved. We look forward to meeting with you next term.

Mrs S Bhayat



A Virtual Evening with Year 11 Parents

A time of year that always filled me with dread suddenly left me feeling a little sombre and maybe even a little nostalgic. I found myself looking around the once noisy school hall with waves of voices flooding every corner drowning out even the cold winter rain beating against the windows.

Despite the very different Covid-safe virtual parents evening, there were some positives that we can most certainly benefit from when planning future events. There was no more waiting around for hours to see teachers and with the strict five-minute appointments, the conversations were kept clear and concise. Through the hard work of the teachers and the school, parents were kept up-to date with the progress of their children leading up to the final push towards their GCSE exams.

Preparation for Parents Evening was crucial. There was a lot of hard work behind the scenes to set up the software, book appointments and fix technical issues which students may have had. Teachers spent days and nights preparing for this evening to ensure no parent was left unaware of the situation their child is in leading up to the crucial months of their secondary school life.

The software ran very smoothly and each parent was seen within the allocated five minutes. Within one click they were in the meeting

and within five minutes in the next one. It has been a satisfying experience; as a school we learned to adapt to new ways of meeting with parents and the whole event really got us has been to think out of the box.

Thanks to the immense efforts exerted by the teachers, the evening was a great success. It was an effective solution to overcome the challenge we face in the current climate and is a possible model for the rest of the schools in the trust to replicate. We have led by example and it has been a successful experience; the first of its kind and never to be forgotten. The online experience has certainly shown us the future of parental meetings.

Ibraheem Bala





Platinum Rewards

Students with excellent behaviour, outstanding attendance and exceptional achievements are usually given the opportunity to go on an all-expense paid trip, to places like Tenpin Bowling and Escape Room. However, with all the restrictions in place, we were unable to make such arrangements but that didn't stop us from rewarding our pupils.

A special Virtual rewards assembly was organised to reward the young men for their efforts while working from home during the national lockdown. Head of Years delivered the assemblies via Microsoft Teams; they were a huge success and the vibe around the school was heart-warming.

The pastoral department also put together a two-hour reward session for each year group consisting of 1.5 hours of sports and gym accompanied with 30 minutes of tasty treats, including a chocolate fountain. We are very proud of the young men and how they constantly adapt to the changes that we are faced with.

Mrs S Bhayat



Determined to Celebrate

It is always exciting to celebrate our pupils' achievements and our Rewards Assembly at the end of each half term is a symbolic event. As we use this occasion to reward the achievement and efforts of our pupils, it is also an assurance to our pupils that their hard work and positive attitudes to learning never goes unnoticed.

The Covid pandemic may have forced some restrictions on our daily lives, but we have refused to let it stop us from acknowledging our pupils' achievements. The last day of term is still an exciting day for all pupils throughout the school as pupils take part in a virtual assembly via zoom: either from home if they are self-isolating or from within their bubbles in their home bases.

The categories for rewards this term have been:

- *100% Attendance Award*
- *Bronze, Silver and Gold Award*
- *Platinum Award*
- *Subject Achievement and Effort Award*
- *Student Leader Award*
- *Faith and Character Award*
- *Fasting Award*
- *Senior Leaders Award for Achievement and Effort*
- *Heads of Year Award*
- *Most Inspirational Pupil Award*





We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and their achievements this term. Despite the circumstances we currently are in, pupils still come into school with a positive mind-set and focused learning. This term has seen us develop an unprecedented delivery of teaching and learning. Despite the huge challenges pupils have faced, they have continued to show resilience and the determination to learn.

We look forward to using our Rewards Assembly to continue inspiring our pupils to be the best versions of themselves and to recognise their efforts.

Mrs S Bhayat



Children in Need

A huge media driven charity campaign; Children in Need is a national charity organisation which supports projects to help disadvantaged children all over the UK. Their vision is simple, yet powerful: to see every child reach their potential.

Each year, TIBHS holds a range of events that both celebrate the work carried out by the charity organisation and bring pupils together in school through a range of exciting. This year, however, things were a little different. The mood in fact was far from celebratory, as many of us perhaps understood the extent of the struggles and obstacles children across the country have faced and continue to battle in the midst of a pandemic.

As a result of the many precautions the school has had to take to keep everyone safe, we were limited to what we could do to raise money but that did not stop us. On Friday 13th November, TIBHS hosted Children in Need day with the theme 'Come as Yourself Day'. Pupils were able to come into school in non-uniform for a donation of £1.

Hopefully the money raised will bring smiles to many children across the UK.

Maulana Usman Kothia





Creating Winter Warmth

This month saw the launch of the school's annual festive Winter Gift Program where pupils, parents and staff work to raise funds and spread goodwill.

Pupils at the school took part in a sponsored fun run and asked family and friends for donations. Collections of food and hygiene items were also donated by local businesses and families to help support the cause.

The school joined with other Star Academy schools to take part in 'Food for All Week'. From 7th to 13th December, all 29 schools across the Star Academies multi-academy trust aim to distribute 50,000 food parcels and meals to those experiencing food poverty.

The school was a hive of activity during Food for All Week as food was collected and prepared in its kitchens, whilst pupils and parents carefully packed meals and food supplies. Parents and pupils then took to the streets of Blackburn to deliver the meals to local families and charitable organisations.

Thanks to the school's fundraising efforts, more than 1,000 meals were delivered to local vulnerable families, care and residential homes and key workers to help bring comfort during the festive season. Pupils also successfully packed and distributed 370 hygiene hampers, which were distributed to people in need.

Majid Ditta, Principal at TIBHS, said that against the backdrop of COVID-19, this year's Festive Winter Gift Programme had been especially important to pupils and staff.

He said: "Our Festive Winter Gift campaign is an opportunity for pupils to help others and provide comfort to people who are experiencing severe hardship. This year has been a year of exceptional challenge, and our pupils, parents and staff have worked with even greater dedication to make a difference. I am immensely proud of our pupils who have demonstrated such maturity and selflessness to ensure our winter campaign was successful. I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped to contribute."



"Charity does not in any way decrease the wealth and the servants who forgive, ALLAH adds to his respect, and the one who shows humility, ALLAH elevates him in the estimation"



Couch to 5k Run

During the last week of term all pupils completed a 5k sponsored run in their PE lessons. The run took place around the school building and money that was generously given by family and friends went towards the TIBHS winter gift project.

Every student within the school took part in the 5k run. The main aim was for students to have a goal as they returned to exercise after being in isolation for a long period of time during lockdown. As a PE department we felt it was important to ensure that pupils were taking part in as much fitness-based activities as possible.

A special mention to Zakaria Master 8T6 and Mohammed Dudhwala 7T2 for collecting over £250. Well done to these students and everyone else who took part.

Hamza Hifzul Patel writes...

As the weather gets colder, challenging times become harder for many vulnerable and homeless people across the UK. This year, it has only been magnified by COVID-19.

Throughout the festive season, TIBHS accumulated over £5000 to support the less fortunate in the real essence of charity.

All 29 Star Schools are engaging in a multitude of community involvement, fundraising and volunteering events that will impact the lives of thousands this winter. Throughout the initiative, we are facilitating those in our community who are sick, elderly, lonely and combatting food insecurity.

Through the Winter Gift Program, we want to lend a hand to all the people who are facing poverty, families who have been struggling to feed their children, seniors in our community, the homeless and those struggling to get back on their feet.

Pandemic and lockdown constraints have resulted in some changes being made to our program, but Star Academies are battling to deliver every day.

And when we find ourselves getting messages from community members we are reminded of the fruits of our efforts.

"I, myself, am recovering from a drug addiction and credit to you and your team for being an inspiration to make something of my life. I would like to say a huge thank you to you and the school for all the planning and hard work that has been put into this and being kind enough to share the food with us."

As we watch our teachers and elders work tirelessly with us to arrange such acts of generosity we are inspired and given a glimpse of hope at a time when our lives are overcome with darkness and isolation.

A big thank you to all our teachers who continue to inspire and transform our lives for the better.

Sweet Stanzas of the Seerah

Creativity and Spirituality fused together in English this term as the Prophet Muhammad's Seerah was commemorated through poetry writing and storytelling.

In Year 8, especially, pupils and teachers were collectively engaged in turning features of the Seerah into Spoken Word Poetry performances in preparation for the school's annual Seerah Poetry Competition. The final weeks of the half term saw English classrooms buzz with a flurry of excitement as pupils drew on their poetry writing skills to craft and master their own poems on an aspect of the beloved Prophet Muhammad's life.

As pupils turned into poets, the Year 8 English lessons were kindled with inspirational words and teachings as pupils researched, crafted poetic lines, mulled over rhyme schemes and imagery to create that perfect poetic piece that would earn them a place in the Seerah Poetry final. This became serious business for the pupils – each one wanted to be crowned the 2020, Seerah Poetry Winner!

On a more personally enriching level, the project really allowed pupils to spiritually recharge themselves as the stories, experiences and teachings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) have inspired them to be the best version of themselves: to build their resilience just like our beloved Prophet Muhammad did; to serve and help those around them just like our Prophet Muhammad did; to speak with kindness and humility just like our Prophet Muhammad did.

"It has been heart-warming to see our young men in Year 8 work passionately on something they feel close to; something they can deeply connect with; something which fosters a spiritual rigour," reported Mrs Z Hasan, one of the teachers involved in delivering the poetry programme for the year group. She added, "To watch them bring their poems to life in the art of poetry performance has really given our boys the scope to develop their presentation skills and build their confidence."

As the term draws to an end, the Seerah Poetry Final will bring together the poetry finalists in a final showdown for the winning trophy. Prizes prepared, trophies polished, and pupils primed – who will lift the trophy to seal their win?

Mrs A Hasan





Celebrating the Greatest Leader of All Time

As the Islamic month of Rabi ul Awwal descended upon Muslims around the world, we at TIBHS, considered this an appropriate time to remember and send blessings on the prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Muhammad (peace be upon him) is reported to have been born on the 12th of Rabiul Awwal, -53 AH, corresponding to April 570 AD. Below are a few of the ways we have been remembering our prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Winter Fast Programme

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

"The deeds are presented on Monday and Thursday. Thus, I love for my deeds to be presented while I am fasting." (Tirmidhi)

Bearing the above in mind, TIBHS launched the 'O Lord, my deeds' winter fast program.

As we approach the shorter winter days, we are encouraging as many pupils as possible to take this opportunity to fast on Mondays and Thursdays. The format of the Winter Fast Program has already been communicated to pupils and there will be formal recognition for those pupils who manage to fast every Monday and Thursday throughout the winter period.

Moreover, pupils who usually pay for school meals will be given the option to donate their payment for the days they fast towards our school foodbank.

"Fasting during the winter is an easy reward" (Tirmidhi)

The Durood Challenge

A common method of sending blessings to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is through the recitation of durood or salawaat.

According to Muslim tradition, durood (also known as salawaat) is the recitation of words that call on God to bless and send peace upon the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). In return for the sending of durood or prayers of salutation and peace, is a source of reward from God and blessings. All pupils were encouraged to read 1000 durood per day.

Modest Dress Day:

On Friday 23rd October, TIBHS hosted a modest dress day in remembrance of the blessed clothing of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Moreover, in making a donation of £1 for our food bank, we replicated the concern the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) had for feeding those in need.

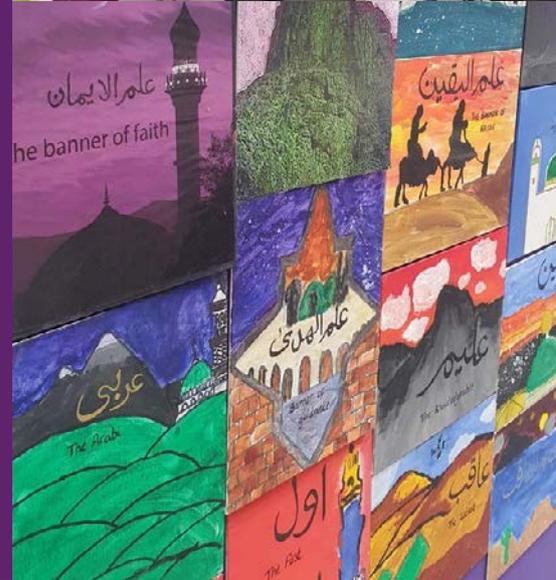
'Inspired by Muhammad'

Daily Podcasts:

At the beginning of each day during the month of Rabi al Awwal, pupils have had the opportunity to listen to a podcast developed by our FCE team on an inspirational quality of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him).

Tree to Heaven:

Thank you to the pupils who have contributed to our Tree to Heaven. Pupils made commitments emulating the noble characteristics of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and formed a Tree to Heaven that now decorates our Refectory.



TIBHS would like to wish all students, parents, staff, and stakeholders a blessed and peaceful term

A huge thank you to all staff and pupils that have contributed to the making of the Winter newsletter

