



EDITION 18 -
Spring 2021

THE PEN

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Powering Through the Pandemic Together.

Assalamu Alaikum.

I pray that you and your families are having a peaceful, spiritual, and reflective Ramadhan. I am writing to update you with information about school processes, policies, and procedures along with an update of key events and activities which have taken place since the start of 2021.

I have been very impressed with the flexibility and positivity of Tauheedul Boys' High School throughout the pandemic. Teachers have undertaken considerable training to deliver simultaneous learning, while the work of leaders and support staff has kept schools up to date with the ever-evolving national requirements and restrictions.

Our school has continued to support our local communities through our charitable activities and kept the Star spirit and values at the core. It would be amiss of me if I did not share with you how pleased I am with the way all our pupils reintegrated back into school since the 8th of March 2021, in the most responsible and mature mindset. As a school, we are focused on helping pupils to recover any lost learning over the course of what has been a very turbulent year, whilst ensuring that pupil wellbeing continues to be a major priority.

It is uplifting to hear happy voices and laughter once again as pupils fill the corridors and classrooms when they have been reunited with their friends. I have been suitably impressed with the way all the young men have adhered to the safety guidance and have continued everyday school life. Wearing masks throughout the day, washing and sanitising hands regularly, adhering to the strict seating plans in every lesson have not been what pupils would have ever envisaged to be such an integral part of their daily school life.

Yet, our boys continue to embrace the changes and demonstrate a strong understanding of the restrictions and regulations in place. I take this opportunity to thank all the parents, carers, and most importantly our young men, for all their support in this matter.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ❖ Page 3 ❖
 - ❖ Driving Out the Poverty in Blackburn
- ❖ Page 4 ❖
 - ❖ Spirituality Day
- ❖ Page 5 ❖
 - ❖ Life after Lockdown in the Classroom
 - ❖ Spirited Art Competition
- ❖ Page 6 ❖
 - ❖ Rewards Assembly
- ❖ Page 7 ❖
 - ❖ Young Citizen Award Shortlist
- ❖ Page 8 ❖
 - ❖ David Dein MBE – Year 11 Guest Speaker
 - ❖ British Science Week – Innovating the Future
- ❖ Page 9 ❖
 - ❖ Level 3 Algebra Test
- ❖ Page 10 ❖
 - ❖ Commonwealth Day
 - ❖ World Book Day
- ❖ Page 11 ❖
 - ❖ Youth Volunteer – Accredited Programme
 - ❖ Shakespeare Day!
- ❖ Page 12 ❖
 - ❖ Reward at the end of the Blessed Month
 - ❖ Eid Merriment



Continued from page 1

It is vitally important that all parents and carers continue to play their part in fighting this pandemic and continue to follow the updated Covid national guidelines, especially as we begin to have increased freedom. Please ensure that social distancing is continued to be maintained alongside the wearing of face masks, good respiratory and hand hygiene, so that we can all continue returning to our more normal lives in the coming months and avoid having to send any pupils home to isolate. Therefore, please can I ask you to remind your children the importance of following these measures and the role they play in reducing the rate of infection in the area.

As you will be aware, pupils in Years 10 and 11 are currently completing assessments to determine their grade in each of the GCSE subjects as there are no official GCSE exams taking place due to the Covid pandemic. These assessments are important and will help to decide their GCSE grades and shape their future. To do well in these assessments, as a school we are asking your child to attend lessons every day (including revision classes delivered in the evenings and during weekends) and revise fully.

However, during this time, I am aware that our pupils may feel tired, anxious, or worried about how well they will do in their assessments. These feelings are understandable, particularly during Ramadhan when pupils are fasting and have late evening prayers. Although as a school we are working hard to ensure your child succeeds in their assessments, what we really want is for them to be safe, happy, and well. Collectively, as a school, we also want to ensure that they can complete their prayers, get adequate rest, eat properly at the right times, make time for themselves and their family, and manage their emotional wellbeing during this stressful time. These things are far more important in life than assessments and grades.

I am grateful for all the parental support, which has been offered over the past months, regarding the assessments in Year 10 and Year 11. In summary, all pupils have taken the assessments very seriously- they have been focused in class, attended intervention and invested time at home with self-paced revision. It has been somewhat humbling to see our pupils still have the utmost focus for their assessments during the blessed month of Ramadhan despite the change in routine and lack of sleep.

We are coming to the end of Assessment Window 2 with Assessment Window 3 commencing Tuesday, 4th of May and will end on Wednesday 9th of June. Please may I request all parents to continue to support their son during this window with a key focus on revision at home, discipline to learning in school, attendance to intervention, positive behaviour, and punctuality and attendance to school.



If you feel that your child needs support with their health and wellbeing during this time, please let the school know. As a school, we can support your child by:

- *Speaking to your son to understand and alleviate their worries.*
- *Advising your son on techniques for managing their stress levels.*
- *Speaking to their teachers so that they are aware of your son concerns.*
- *Managing their attendance to revision classes, particularly those in the evening and at weekends. You can also help your child to manage their wellbeing during this time.*
- *Speak to your child regularly. Please reassure your child that their grades do not decide how much they are worth, do not show everything that they know, nor fully exhibit their whole talents and all the good that they do every day. Whatever grades your child achieves, their teachers and you (as their parents) know how special they are – and no exam grade will ever change that. We are all proud of them.*
- *Create routines for your son to relax. Anxiety is often worse at night so ensure your child socialises and relaxes with the family before going to bed.*
- *Contact the school if you have worries. If you feel the school can help in any way, please contact your son's Head of Year.*

As a Faith designated Star school, each year, our parents and pupils raise thousands of pounds for charity during the month of Ramadhan. In this current climate, when the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in so much suffering and hardship across our world, our charitable donations and services are especially important. I am writing to request your support for the vulnerable people affected by this pandemic through our annual Ramadhan Giving Programme. Ramadhan is a month for giving and gaining extra as the reward for each good action is multiplied. It is also an opportunity to remember those in our country and around the world whose lives are blighted by poverty, conflict, and illness. Our noble Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The best charity is given in Ramadhan."

This year, in response to the continuing difficulties wrought by COVID-19, we are working with Shine Charity once again to support our Star Family across the United Kingdom and Syria. You can donate to both important projects through Parent Pay. Please give as generously as you can – each pound is worth so much more during this auspicious month and this difficult time. The deadline for donations on Parent Pay is Friday 7th May. I am very pleased to announce that as a school we have met and in fact exceeded the school target of £10,000. I pray that you are rewarded abundantly for your kindness (Aameen) and will conclude my section with a request for your prayers for peace, comfort, and harmony across our world. May the Almighty bless us with his forgiveness, mercy and peace and bring us all closer to Him and to each other. May this Eid (which is less than a week away), bring all the comfort you have ever wanted and all the joy and happiness you have ever wished and prayed for.

The TIBHS family is built on mutually trusting and respectful relationships. Thank you once again for all the care and support that you provide to your son and our school. Together, we are strong. We are TIBHS. We are Star.

Mr M Ditta,
Principal



Driving Out the Poverty in Blackburn

With service to the community central to our STAR values, our support to the local foodbanks in Blackburn has been an integral way in which the school has been supporting our most vulnerable families in our community and town.

Our school foodbank, which has been a product of the fantastic support and contributions from our pupils and their families, is now fully fledged with our alumni distributing food parcels across Blackburn. As a school, we are serving an increasing number of families. To ensure that our most vulnerable children are not neglected or suffering, we are working with primary schools and other organisations, such as ARK, to provide the support that may be needed to these families.

On Friday 26th of March, pupils were requested to support our foodbank. As always, our considerate pupils did not let us down nor did their generous parents! Pupils brought tea, cereals, tins, many other items, as well as money, as a show of support, care, and kindness for others in our community.

Thank you to all the parents, pupils, staff, and external organisations who have contributed to the foodbank. Our pupils have packed and dispatched food boxes to organisations across Blackburn with Darwen. Please continue to support the school with your generous donations. The next date for your kind donations is Monday, 17th of May 2021.

We know that you will not let us down. We know that you care too.

Minhaj Ugradar





Spirituality Day

TIBHS marked the end of the winter fast period – the most successful since the school's inception – with a range of spiritual activities. On Friday 29th January, the entire school came to a standstill as pupils in school as well as pupils accessing their learning remotely from home came together to complete several recitations of the Quran, followed by a collective du'aa (prayer). TIBHS achieved a total of 32 completions of the Quran and the collective du'aa (prayer) was led by the trust in an event that was attended by thousands of pupils across the country.

The Quran completion event was then followed in quick succession by a final fast on Thursday 11th February when all stakeholders made the additional effort to join those who had fasted throughout the entire winter period. The final fast was accompanied with the opportunity for pupils to donate towards the school foodbank as well as partake in a bespoke day of spiritual activities which included Quran recitation and explanation, stories of the companions, nasheeds, durood and dhikr (remembrance & meditation) and input from a guest speaker.

The day ended with a special du'aa (prayer) that commemorated those who had links with the TIBHS family who had sadly lost their lives during the pandemic. Moulana Minhaj, the FCE Coordinator at TIBHS said, 'It was extremely pleasing to see pupils embrace the faith-related activities we had organised. Special congratulations must go to the pupils who fasted every Monday and Thursday throughout the winter period. It was a special effort that required grit, resilience and determination. We look forward to more pupils completing the entire suite of winter fasts next year!'



Spirited Art Competition

Amidst the second lockdown that further darkened the winter months, the FCE team at TIBHS in collaboration with the FCE team at the wider trust introduced an initiative that allowed pupils to find comfort, solace and peace in their faith.

In the form of an inter-school competition, pupils were tasked with researching a verse from the Quran that inspires them or gives them hope. Consequently, they were expected to articulate what the verse meant to them in the form of art.

The FCE team at TIBHS received dozens of entries ranging from poetry to pictures and models. In the end, only ten were allowed to be entered into the inter-school competition - Muhammed Karbhari in Year 10 won third prize in the Key Stage 4 category.

Reflecting on his piece of art, Muhammed said, 'I am very proud to have secured third place in the trust for my artwork. The basis of my picture was the supplication of the Prophet Yunus as he called out to God's glory with full submission in the darkness of the belly of the whale.'

TIBHS also celebrated the thirty best entries for the Spirited Art Competition by posting a piece of art on the school's Twitter feed every day during the holy month of Ramadhan.

Life after Lockdown in the Classroom

Being back in the classroom, post Lockdown 3, has been refreshing to say the least. Although the online provision at TIBHS was stronger than ever, with a push on cameras/working mics, new teacher techniques to enhance engagement and even the Head of Year coming to your house with a school laptop to help with access issues, there is nothing better than being face to face once again.

From the whiff of the distinct air freshener as you walk into school, to the footsteps on the familiar stairways and then being enveloped by the comfort of our own classroom- where we were once again accustomed to the hum of the interactive whiteboard, the scratchings of pencils on paper and the gentle breeze through the windows has been so reassuring as we try to get back to normality.

Our teachers have really stepped it up by building in gap lessons, COVID catch up concepts and even delivering a bespoke learning journey to put an emphatic stop to any loss of learning during this turbulent time.

Some things have remained though - the use of Teams and OneNote is a key feature even after returning back to the classroom. Furthermore, the use of EdTech for self-paced learning is definitely a keep and what's more is that the energy levels and focus has been evident for all to see.

All in all... it's good to be back!

Abdullah Muhammad





Rewards Assembly

Since the initial lockdown and now the second lockdown, pupils experienced disruption in their usual school routines – a situation out of anyone's control. However, our pupils can be commended for the maturity and swiftness to which they have adapted to new norms and the persistently changing guidelines that the pandemic is throwing at them.

We celebrated achievements in our spring term rewards assembly, which was held on Friday 26th March 2021. Despite COVID restrictions, our Head of Years delivered the assembly via Microsoft Teams to acknowledge the dedication and efforts of our young men. The assemblies were a huge success and the vibe around the school was heart-warming. During this cycle of rewards, pupils were awarded the following:

- *Subject based awards for excellent Achievement*
- *Subject based awards for excellent Effort*
- *Head of Year Award*
- *SLT Award*
- *Principal's Award*
- *Service Award*
- *Teamwork Award*
- *Ambition Award*
- *Respect Award*
- *Best Online learner*
- *Best Engagement online*
- *Faith Awards*

A huge congratulations and well done to all the pupils for their efforts and achievements during this term.





Young Citizen Award Shortlist

Our former Y11 pupil, Uzair Patel, was shortlisted for the Young Citizen Award in acknowledgement of his many achievements, particularly during the pandemic.

Uzair initiated and was a trail-blazer for the production of visors in the peak of the first lockdown for frontline workers. He operated the 3D printers and led a team of his peers to complete production and distribute in the community to frontline workers. Uzair worked tirelessly during a PPE drive which saw TIBHS use 3D printers to create plastic visors. The community-spirited young man used his passion for 3D printing to produce much-needed personal protective equipment (PPE) with the guidance of his teachers and support of his peers at TIBHS.

In total, the school team created 300 visors which were distributed to East Lancashire Hospitals Trust, HBS Pharmacy, ASDA Accrington Pharmacy, Blackburn Muslim Burial Society, North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Lancaster Hospital, Eden Boys' School, Bolton, North West Ambulance Service and Bank View Dentist. It was a proud moment for our school, in which once again Uzair was pivotal in its success.

In addition, Uzair was the lead pupil for the "Uniformity Project". He motivated the pupils around him to ensure the monumental project was a huge success through his charismatic leadership. 'Uniformity' was launched in August, after Uzair hit upon the idea of re-selling 'pre-loved' uniforms to help the environment, save parents money and raise funds for charity.

More than 200 items of uniform were upcycled through the scheme, which parents praised as a cost-effective and sensible measure to support with the cost of uniforms while saving the environment and offering support to the underprivileged in our community.

Uzair developed, with the support of Dicey Tech and his peers, a new Uniformity App and website which enabled parents to donate, purchase and exchange items of uniform with ease. In just a few weeks, the inventive team of pupils led by Uzair developed a fully functioning e-commerce platform where parents were able to check stock and buy items online.

All in all, Uzair has shown an incredible can-do attitude throughout the projects he has undertaken to offer service in our local community. He has been a fantastic ambassador for our young people through being a role-model. Uzair won the Arkwright Scholarship having demonstrated excellence in the projects and has left a lasting legacy at our school for the numerous fantastic projects he led and delivered. He showed humility even at times of huge successes and great strength during challenging moments in the incredible initiatives he undertook.

In his spare time Uzair would innovate new gadgets, one example was a self-watering plant with a built in timer for when homeowners were on holiday. This is an example of his brilliance and special demeanour. The nomination for the Young Citizen Award and subsequent shortlisting was nothing less than very well deserved!





David Dein MBE – Year 11 Guest Speaker

On Tuesday 23rd March, we were delighted to host David Dein MBE (former co-owner of Arsenal FC and former vice chairman of FA) and Rob Coar (former Chairman of Blackburn Rovers) for a Q&A session with our Year 11 pupils.

The invitation for the event was received with gasps of astonishment and appreciation and the actual event certainly delivered, particularly with the championing introduction from Ian Wright for David Dein MBE as the inspirational trailblazer in English football.

In anticipation for the address, pupils submitted a series of questions which ranged from the most momentous moments in their grand careers to the much-needed progress of the Kick It Out campaign and the acceleration of its movement in recent years.

Year 11 pupils were spellbound by the pertinent messages shared by both gentlemen and the candid, insightful responses given to many challenging questions. David Dein MBE imparted a key message, "The word being there for your taking; you just have to want it!"

The guests were role models to all Year 11 pupils who were humbled by the public spiritedness and altruism embodied by the venerated gentlemen. A heartfelt thank you was expressed and shared with our guests who we hope to invite once again to enlighten our learners in the future.

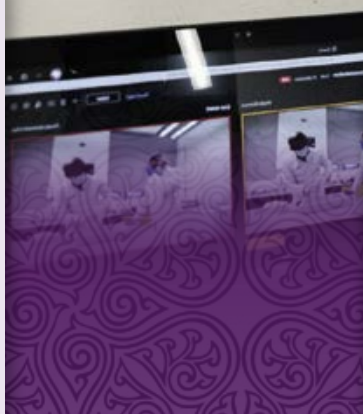


British Science Week – Innovating the Future

British Science Week at TIBHS looked at what sustainability is, how our students can come up with ideas of their own and improve current design to become more sustainable for the future. Students also investigated the idea of Machines of the Future. Year 7 went on to design and create their own working waterwheel and Year 8 went onto creating and designing their own Artificial Intelligent Machine.

The entire school at the end of the week tuned in to Mr Asif and Mr Ditta demonstrate live a circus of experiments you would not normally see within the classroom resulting with students being astonished as to where science could take them.

Students in Year 7 kicked off the week with looking at how to create their own version of the waterwheel using polystyrene cups and paper plates. Students were looking at the possibilities if this could be used a renewable energy source of the future. Historically, waterwheels have been used to power machinery in Victorian mills but today they can be used to generate sustainable electricity. Students were given the challenge of how to make our waterwheel even more efficient than it is. Some students went on with innovative designs of even half sizing the cups to allow a quicker rotation to generate electricity.



Our own Year 7 students gave their opinions on what occurred during science week:

"It was pretty good with practicals. Errors were made however with friends we could fix them and allowed us to have a better understanding. I enjoyed the waterwheel the most, I loved the process of making and doing it myself."

Adam Ditta (Y7)

"Loved the show with Mr Asif and Mr Ditta which had me on the edge- just never knew how big the next explosion was going to be. One of the highlights for me was finding Mr Ditta as scared as us watching and conducting the experiment." Muhammad Kothia (Y7)

"It allowed me to help identify the origins of past science and really appreciate where we are today. BSW really made me see a different light how anything such as a plastic cup and plastic plates can be made into science."

Nabeel Waghat (Y7)

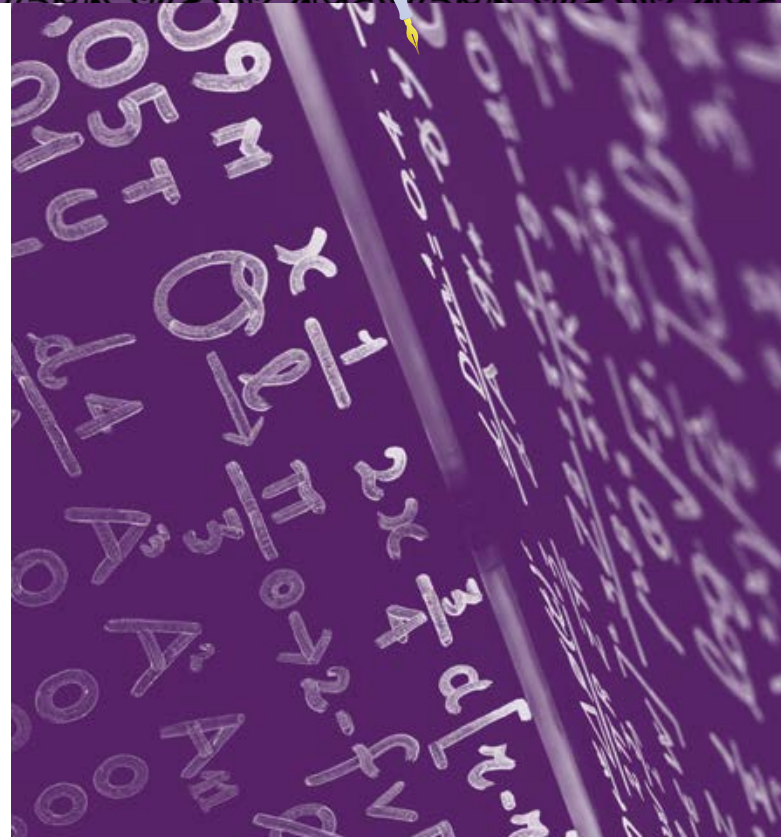
Year 8 students started the week by looking into the machines of the future. Whilst still being at home, all tasks for this session were conducted online and could not have been more of a success with some students designing their own machines and ideas within groups online. Students went to design their own revision robot and their own personal robot butler. For this to become a reality, students went onto further research what makes a robot or machine work. At the end of the session, students presented their own designs, the best designs were chosen, and prizes were given.

To bring British Science Week to a close, Mr Asif (Teacher of Science) and Principal, Mr Ditta went live on air to demonstrate all things unbelievable within Science. Starting small, Mr Ditta began with what is known as genie in a bottle, a smoke machine to make the grand entrance moving into the main event students were in class watching thrilled and on the edge of their seat as to what may occur next. Constantly guessing and becoming more curious as to how it happened. It was this that TIBHS was trying to capture. To end the live stream what is known as the 'Whoosh Bottle' experiment was conducted sending Mr Ditta across the room as a precaution for the bang and incredible flash. Applause could be heard around the school once the event ended, clearly resulting in approval from the students.

Guest speakers from all different science backgrounds were virtually in the classroom with our gentlemen at TIBHS. Dr Abdul Mannan

from Blue Peanut Medical Centre spoke to our students about their aspirations and where they may want to go in the future. With the curiosity of science truly alive at TIBHS, students then asked questions about Dr Mannan's occupation and lifestyle within a Science role.

Overall, British Science week was a success with our students resonating curiosity within science. Students wait anxiously for the next British Science Week.



Level 3 Algebra Test

Even within the midst of the pandemic in January, our drive for providing the greatest opportunities for our young men to showcase their abilities continued. Our pupils rose to the occasion and successfully navigated the stormy seas of lockdown learning to complete their Level 3 Edexcel Algebra Qualification (a 'bridge' between GCSE and A-Level maths).

The twelve successful pupils received their certificates in March. This achievement will indubitably be a great motivation for them to work hard and achieve the best GCSE grades this summer, propelling them to go onto further education at the most prestigious colleges and universities.





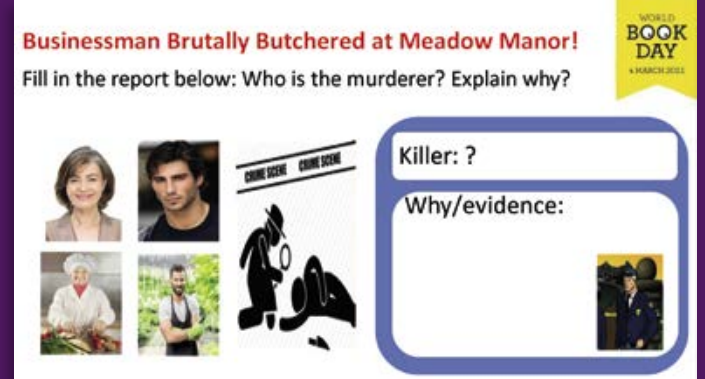
Commonwealth Day

During lockdown, pupils celebrated Commonwealth Day. On Commonwealth Day, pupils created some fantastic posters on the diversity of the Commonwealth.

Pupils looked at the different countries which make up the Commonwealth and where these countries are located around the globe. They engaged in quizzes guessing which country the flags belongs to.

Pupils then unleashed their creativity by designing posters in different languages.

Urdu Team



World Book Day

At TIBHS, we celebrated World Book Day remotely this year with a reading of 'The Landlady,' by Roald Dahl. The short, chilling story was split over 6 lessons. Students sat at the edge of their seats, holding their breath and eagerly awaited Billy Weaver's fate, who stepped into the Bed and Breakfast on a late evening in Bath.

The excitement continued for years 7 and 8, who became detectives, solving the murder of Mr West at his million-dollar manor, followed by a World Book Day Quiz. A thoroughly enjoyable day - keeping us going through difficult times.

'At the start of every lesson students were concentrating and at the end predicting what would happen next. It was a day filled with joy.

For me, World Book Day is more than just dressing up. It is about exploring new genres and being introduced to a range of authors. Reading books that you would never imagine even taking off the shelf. It brought something different out in me; I was excited to unlock this newfound inspiration.'

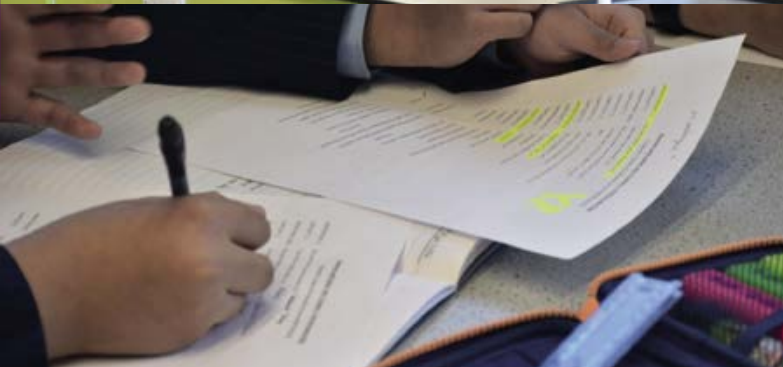
Nabeel Waghat (Year 7)

Youth Volunteer – Accredited Programme

Our student leaders at TIBHS are often given the privilege to partake in training that helps build their leadership skills. The latest course offered was the Youth Volunteer accredited programme which took place remotely during lockdown. The aim of the training was to encourage local young people aged 14+ to learn about volunteering and consider the benefits of volunteering post-pandemic.

Over the course of the week pupils learnt about the impacts and benefits of volunteering, safeguarding, health & safety when volunteering and how this can help with careers and an online volunteer fair.

Participants were entered into a prize draw to win a computer and Jamal Rehman in Year 10 was lucky enough to have won. Jamal said, 'I really enjoyed the volunteering course as it made me realise the impact I can have on those around me. I feel I am well equipped to independently discover volunteering opportunities post-lockdown and champion the concept of volunteering across school through the Star Diploma. Winning a computer at the end of the programme was the icing on the cake!'



Shakespeare Day!

On Friday 23rd April, Year 7 pupils celebrated Shakespeare Day with showcasing their impressive acting skills. Pupils learnt about his humble beginnings and how he became the most famous playwright known to British culture pupils prepared to bring The Globe to the classroom! With it being an introduction to William Shakespeare and his lasting impact on the literary world, pupils enjoyed sharing their favourite plays.

As part of the Summer 1 Term, Year 7s studied a series of poems linked to the theme of growing up and change. Reflecting on their own experiences of growing up, pupils were able to enjoy the reading of extracts from Romeo and Juliet which were centred on the theme of growing up – the best part was bringing the scenes alive with their performances.

The performances sparked engagement and creativity in interpreting a Shakespeare text and hopefully enthused our Year 7s to study the text in Summer 2. Our pupils demonstrated elements of Oracy as they adopted the traits of the character in their performance.

Pupils enjoyed a range of activities alongside the dramatisation of the scene which will most certainly have had a lasting impression on their appreciation of Shakespeare.



Reward at the end of the Blessed Month

As we approached the end of the month of Ramadhaan, TIBHS closed for the Eid break on Wednesday 12th May with a special rewards assembly to celebrate the achievements of a very special group of pupils – the huffaaz who led the taraweeh prayer throughout the blessed month of Ramadhaan.

To lead the night prayers in the month of Ramadhaan is an enormous challenge that requires effort, dedication and motivation. However, to couple this with the daily pressures of school and madrassah in a fasting, tired state is nothing short of extraordinary. To show our appreciation as a school and in recognition of the efforts of our esteemed huffaaz, a presentation of special Qur'aans was made as part of a whole school rewards assembly for our dedicated team of youngsters.

Moulana Minhaj mentioned, 'As the FCE Coordinator, it brings me immense pride to witness the whole-hearted dedication of those pupils to both their school and madrassah studies. These pupils have sacrificed food and sleep for an entire month to balance a whole variety of pressures.'

Eid Merriment

On Monday 17th May, staff and pupils at TIBHS celebrated the conclusion of the month of Ramadhaan in a grand style. With a particular focus on charity and showing empathy to others, a number of whole-school activities were organised to mark this special occasion.

Pupils were allowed to attend school in their fancy Eid jubbahs which brought the entire school to colour. Coupled with this, everybody was treated to a special 5-course meal courtesy of the school including: samosas, kebabs, biryani and waffles.

To bring the spirit of generosity to life, pupils contributed £2 to charity in addition to donating an item of non-perishable food to the school's own foodbank.

The day ended with a video on how charitable giving impacts those who are less fortunate across the globe and an interform quiz.

Moulana Minhaj, the school's FCE Coordinator, commented, 'The concept of charitable giving is crucial to the development of the whole child. A prominent strand of our R-18 leadership structure, this civic virtue goes a long way in instilling the leadership qualities required to nurture tomorrow's leaders.'



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 publication of the Spring newsletter

