



EDITION 25 –  
Winter 2024

THE PEN

# القلم

## We STARt with a Bang!

### A Reflection on Resilience and Progress

Assalamualaikum / Peace be upon you

It gives me immense joy to pen another message for you within the pages of the Al Qalam Magazine. Your ongoing readership allows us to share and celebrate the remarkable stories and achievements within our school community.

As we return from the holidays, it's disheartening to witness the ongoing turbulence in the Middle East, casting a sombre air upon us all. This period challenges us to reflect, not just individually but as a community, to emerge stronger and more united.

Amidst this atmosphere, I am proud to share that our school and pupils have weathered this adversity, proving that challenges can foster growth. The spirit of resilience within our community is truly commendable.

During the winter break, a trip to Saudi Arabia with our Year 12 students unfolded as a beautiful and blessed experience. These students exemplified the positive impact of cultural exposure, showcasing

their faith, intelligence, and spirituality. Their journey is a testament to the global understanding fostered within our school.

As we eagerly prepare the Year 13 for the first set of A-level exams, I invite you to join me in offering prayers for the success of our students who aspire to reach world-class universities and apprenticeship degrees. Their continued hard work and dedication deserve recognition, contributing significantly to the continued success of our school.

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, Years 7-11 from TIBHS took part in the Winter Warmer philanthropic initiative, extending their generosity to Homeless Shelters, Salvation Army, Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service, and Nursing Homes.

A huge thank you to all the kindness shown by parents with their donations and a special acknowledgment goes to our dedicated Parent Shuraa, our Head boy and Deputy Head boys, who not only meticulously packed the gifts donated by pupils and families but also played a vital role in ensuring their seamless delivery.

This collective effort embodies the true essence of giving back, and we express our sincere gratitude to all involved for their unwavering support.

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Excitingly, TIBHS will host two enriching trips this year—a skiing adventure in Austria and a trip to Paris as part of Maths and French. These experiences will undoubtedly broaden our pupils' horizons.

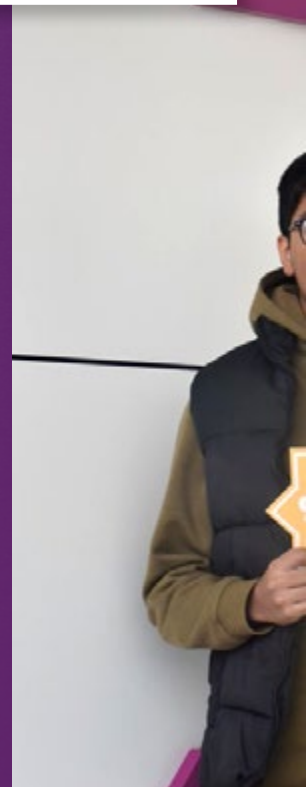
In the realm of staffing, it is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Ashid Mahmood, our esteemed Estates Manager. Ashid has played a pivotal role in the development and maintenance of TIBHS, and we extend our heartfelt wishes for success in all his future endeavours.

On a brighter note, we warmly welcome Muneera Umerji, who will be joining us as the School Business Manager from 1st February 2024. Her expertise and dedication will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success of our school, and we wish her every success in her new role.

As we navigate through these changes and challenges, let us remember that adversity not only tests our strength but also provides opportunities for growth. Together, as a united TIBHS community, we shall continue to stride towards excellence.

Walaikumusalaam / Peace be upon you.

Majid Ditta  
Principal



## TIBHS Pupils' Triumph on GCSE Results Day

The school community at Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School (TIBHS) is celebrating after its pupils secured exceptional GCSE results this summer.

School staff and parents joined pupils in school as they opened the results that will enable them to progress onto the next stage of their education.

Farhan Abed, one of the school's top performers, is on cloud nine after achieving five grade 9s (the highest possible grade). Farhan's exceptional results have helped him to secure a place at TB6 to study A levels in Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science and Mathematics. Thanking staff at the school, Farhan said:

"This would not have been possible without the dedication of my teachers and support of my parents – I am very grateful for the opportunity."

Shoyub Desai achieved the top grade 9 in seven subjects, grade 8 in three subjects, and a Level 2 BTEC Distinction\* in Engineering Design. Shoyub, who aims to pursue a career in medicine, will continue his education at TB6. He enthused:

"All the teachers and support staff have helped me so much. They showed me the steps I needed to take to achieve my dreams and at each step, I was encouraged to go a little bit further. I am so grateful to everyone who has helped me to achieve these grades and for helping me to grow into the person I am today."

Zakariyya Vali achieved six grade 9s, two grade 8s, two grade 7s, and a Level 2 BTEC Distinction\* in Engineering Design. Zakariyya reflected on his journey at TIBHS:

"I'm so excited to have received the grades I need to go on to study further. I can't wait for college to begin in September so that I can continue to fulfil my dreams. Thank you so much to everyone at TIBHS for helping me to get so far, I really don't think I could have done it without you."

One high achiever, who has overcome the challenge of moving to a new country, is Danish Ranjha. He joined the school in Year 9 after arriving in the UK from Italy with his family and will continue his academic pathway at TB6. Danish's hard work and determination have paid off, leading to impressive achievements in his GCSE results. He has secured 10 GCSEs at grade 6 and above.

Majid Ditta, Principal at TIBHS, said:

"We are immensely proud of our pupils' outstanding achievements in this year's GCSEs. Their hard work, determination, and dedication have culminated in a set of impressive academic results."

"I'd like to thank our exceptional staff and supportive parents who have played an integral role in nurturing our pupils' success. I'm thrilled that many of our boys have chosen to continue their studies with us in our Sixth Form, TB6, and I wish them all the brightest of futures."

**Zubair Ahmed**  
Assistant Principal





# A Memorable Journey of Growth and Adventure: Year 7 Pupils at TIBHS Explore the Lake District's YMCA

## Embarking on a Two-Day Adventure: The Start of a Memorable Journey

As the brisk morning of Friday, 22nd September dawned, the excited chatter of Year 7 pupils from TIBHS filled the air. Their destination? The YMCA in the Lake District, a setting that promised adventure and awe. The landscape, a harmonious blend of tranquil lakes and majestic mountains, seemed to leap straight out of a storybook, eagerly awaiting the arrival of these young adventurers.

### Day 1: A Blend of Excitement and Mystique

The first day at the Lake District's YMCA was a whirlwind of activities. Pupils embarked on a canoeing adventure, their paddles cutting through the calm waters in perfect harmony. This immersive experience was heightened by a local guide's eerie tale of a wandering skull, adding a hint of mystique to the serene surroundings.



Archery followed, demanding precision and focus. The slightest twitch could mean the difference between hitting the bullseye and missing the mark. The day concluded with the Asr prayer, a hearty dinner, before Isha prayers.

### Day 2: Lessons in Teamwork and Trust

The dawn of the second day began with the peaceful Fajr prayer. Pupils then faced the King Swing, a towering structure that not only thrilled but also imparted valuable lessons in trust and friendship.

The day's adventures peaked in a unique night walk. Blindfolded and navigating through muddy terrain, as pupils relied heavily on one another, a powerful exercise in trust and teamwork. This activity, filled with laughter and challenges, underscored the importance of unity and mutual support.

### Reflections and Unforgettable Moments:

Beyond the structured activities, the trip was peppered with spontaneous moments of joy. The corridor of their accommodation became the centre of harmless pranks and laughter, fostering a sense of community and bonding. One pupil amusingly took on the role of the 'stick collector', humorously hoarding sticks in every nook and cranny, adding to the trip's light-hearted memories.

### Concluding Thoughts: More Than Just a Trip:

In retrospect, this two-day expedition to the Lake District's YMCA was more than an array of fun activities. It was a vital moment in the pupils' Year 7 journey, a time of self-discovery and strengthening bonds. These experiences, filled with laughter, adventure, and learning, not only brought us closer together but also contributed significantly to our personal growth.

This trip, an unforgettable chapter in our school life, will be treasured and remembered for years to come.

**Adam Elmetwally**  
Year 7





## TIBHS Opens its Doors to Prospective Pupils and Parents

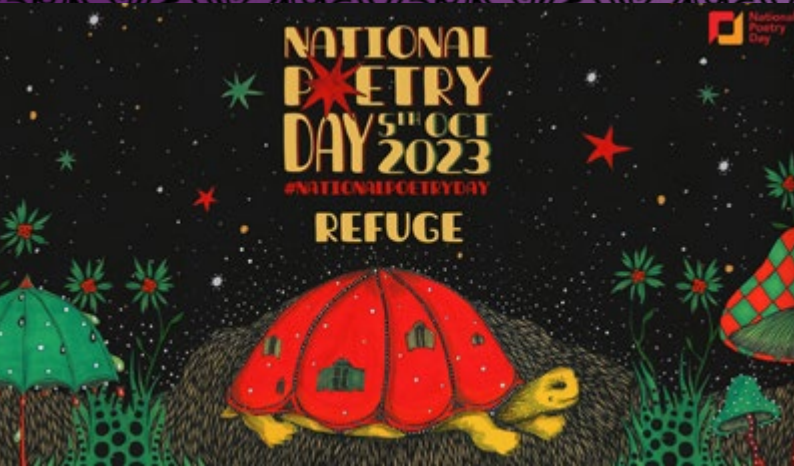
That time of the year had arrived, TIBHS eagerly opened its doors to perspective Year 7 pupils and parents. Their excitement as they entered the school was apparent alongside their curiosity to explore the school surroundings and discover what TIBHS had to offer.

A delightful array of refreshments was on offer for parents and prospective pupils as they arrived, prior to embarking on a tour of the school led by Heads of Years and enthusiastic pupils from across the school and TB6. Classrooms were brought to life with enriching stories and writings in English, History, RE and Geography, adventurous experiments in Science, delectable delights in MFL, harmonious sounds from the Nasheed classroom, TIBHS outstanding achievements showcased by pupils in the PE department and last but not least the hub of the school - the library.

This was followed by an inspiring address by the principal Mr Ditta outlining the school's incredible success since its inception. Mr Ditta flawlessly delivered the school's ethos, and the core Star values which are interwoven into the fabric of the school and wider community. Parents were captivated by his awe-inspiring words which were enhanced by a dash of humour keeping the audience engaged. This was evident by the interest and desire expressed by parents for their child to attend TIBHS.

We are extremely proud of the success of the evening and the amazing feedback received by all who attended. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of Year 7 pupils in September 2024.





# National Poetry Day – Refuge

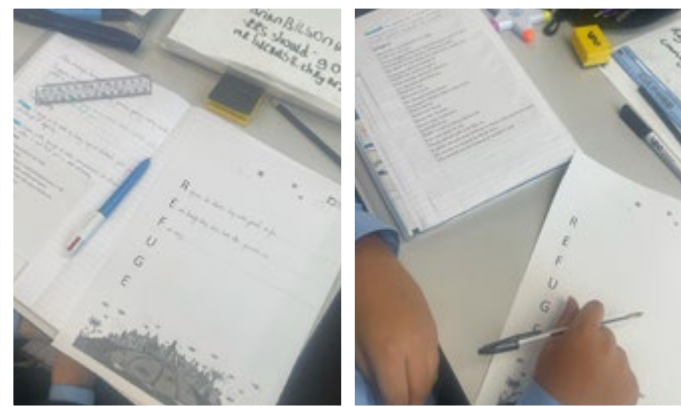
This year’s National Poetry Day a day was held on Thursday 5 October 2023. The theme was ‘Refuge’ We began our learning thought showering the word ‘Refuge’ exploring what the term meant to us – ‘a place where we feel safe!’

We studied a truly profound poem ‘Refugees’ by Brain Bilson, which portrayed refugees as people who are ‘scroungers, cut throughs and thieves.’ However, Bilson cleverly crafted the poem so its true message could be revealed when read from bottom to top changing its meaning with the last line of the poem ‘the world can be looked at another way.’ In turn, Refugees became people who have had to escape their homelands to find a safer place to live a dignified life, free of difficulties and suffering and should be welcome ‘here.’

We then created an acrostic poem using words we brainstormed with the term ‘refuge’ and Bilson’s poem. Pupils wrote some emotive and inspirational poems which we shared with our peers.

It was an extremely insightful and thought-provoking day helping us to understand the life and experiences of refugees and how we take the luxuries we have in life for granted.

**Abdullah Master**  
Year 7



# We are the Champions!

In the hours leading up to our football match, the school was alive with anticipation. Pupils and teachers buzzed with excitement and the atmosphere crackled with energy. TIBHS vs St Bede’s, both undefeated and set to go head-to-head for the championship title.

One side would go home disappointed and the other would taste success. The air was charged with a mix of confidence and nerves; setting the stage for a memorable event that would unite the school communities in cheering for their teams.

Once teams were ready and warmed up to play, the sound of fans cheering created a symphony of anticipation. Teams lined up on opposite ends of the field and the referee’s whistle pierced the air, signalling the beginning of a battle that would unfold in heart-stopping moments and nail-biting encounters.

As the ball danced across the field, TIBHS moved with a fluidity that spoke of hours of practice and unwavering commitment. The tension in the air was palpable, every tackle and every shot at the goal met with gasps and cheers from the crowd. During half time Mr Richardson (DOL of PE) motivated the team by telling us, “We are in it to win it and we will make our school proud.” Full of confidence our team started dominating the match.

The match was coming to an end with the score tied at 1-1. The ball soared through the air; tension mounted with each heartbeat. In a breathtaking moment, TIBHS were on the attack, with the striker Abdolh Shriha charging forward. He weaved through the defence and delivered a thunderous kick that found the back of the net!

The place erupted into a deafening roar as TIBHS celebrated a hard-fought victory. Signalling the end of the pulsating match - the whistle blew one last time. Fans stood in disbelief as they watched players collapse on the ground after delivering a splendid performance.

Moments after the game, I had the privilege of catching up with the captain for TIBHS, Ahmed Isap, whose agile moves had the crowd on their feet, as beads of sweat glistening on his forehead he shared his thoughts on this intense match, “It was not just a game for us, it was test of character and teamwork and an opportunity to demonstrate our leadership skills.” Ahmed exclaimed, his eyes reflecting the fire of competition.

The football match wasn’t just about the goals scored, it was about the shared moments of triumph that forged a bond between the players and spectators alike.

TIBHS 2 – 1 St Bede’s

**Reported by Eesa Patel**  
Year 9





## Bronze Brilliance: A Splashing Success in the BwD Swimming Tournament

This article delves into the waves of success that defined our performance at QEQS, emphasising the resilience and teamwork that propelled our school to a podium finish.

The pool glistened at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. TIBHS swimmers, spanning from year 7 to 9 showcased their aquatic prowess at the Blackburn with Darwen Swimming Tournament. The tournament featured schools from across the borough presenting a challenging course where the currents of competition were fierce.

The rhythmic strokes, determined dives and electrifying atmosphere transformed the competition into a spectacle of athleticism and pride. TIBHS proudly surged to a notable third place finish.

The journey to the podium was marked by resilience and flawless teamwork as our swimmers sliced through the water with precision and determination. There was a buzz of excitement in the changing rooms and the pool area as everyone was

committed to succeed. At the pool deck, where our school swimmers were sitting, reverberated with the cheers of teammates, echoing the unwavering support that fuelled each stroke. From synchronised relays to individuals' sprints, the BwD swimming tournament witnessed not only individual excellence but also the seamless collaboration that characterises our school spirit.

Our swimmers navigated the water with finesse and tenacity. The butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle events unfolded and showcased skill and strategic planning. Our coach, Mr Richardson (DOL of PE) played a pivotal role in guiding our athletes through the competitive currents, emphasising technique and stamina.

Despite it being our school's first ever swimming tournament (a sunnah sport) we performed admirably, achieving second place in the year 7 breaststroke and freestyle races as well as securing third place in the year 8 and 9 backstroke race. The finish symbolised not only the dedication of our swimmers but also the collective spirit that defines our school. Beyond the lanes and stopwatches, this achievement stands as a testament to the perseverance, ambition, leadership, sportsmanship and resilience which is ingrained into the fabric of our school community.

As we bask in the glow of our school's success, let this achievement serve as a beacon of inspiration for future competitions. The bronze medal is more than a symbol; it is a reminder that united we can navigate the competitive waters and emerge victorious. As our swimmers continue to make waves in the pool, may this triumph be a source of pride for all, motivating each pupil to dive into challenges with the same vigour and determination that defined our performance at QEQS.

**Yahya Issat**  
Year 9



# The Dangers of Bonfire Night

A few days before bonfire night, a member of the Fire and Rescue Services came to inform and discuss the harms of bonfire night with our pupils. They also explained how fireworks, often considered a celebration, can quickly turn from a joyful experience to becoming extremely harmful if not handled safely.

I understand children and adults alike enjoy fireworks; however, catastrophic injuries can result from the mishandling of fireworks, and this has raised serious concern for emergency services in Lancashire. Examples of serious injuries that can occur from fireworks are burns, eye injuries and on occasions fatalities. The Fire Services are trying to prevent these injuries by educating adults and children.

Instances involving mishandled fireworks have not only burdened the Fire and Rescue Services but have also affected the Police and Ambulance Services. These unnecessary hoax calls risk the lives of people who have genuine emergencies. It is crucial for pupils to recognise the effects of false alarms.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services have informed pupils to abstain from participating in unofficial and antisocial events around bonfire night that cause a threat to the wider public and the emergency services who work tirelessly to keep communities safe. By avoiding reckless behaviour with fireworks and respecting safety guidelines, individuals can contribute to a safer environment and more enjoyable experience for everyone.

In conclusion, the commendable efforts of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services who work collaboratively to ensure that the public, especially young individuals, are well informed about the potential dangers associated with fireworks.

By taking this advice, being aware of warnings and acting responsibly we can all play a part in maintaining a safer environment for ourselves and the emergency services.

**Usman Mussagibai & Ahmed Vali**  
Year 9





## ESU Public Speaking Competition: Round 1

The ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition was held on 4th December 2023

For the first round, our speaker Umar Saleh prepared a spectacular speech on the topic 'Fiction can teach us more than fact'. Faaris and I (speaker and chairperson) worked through endless speeches ready to think on our feet and question our potential opponents. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions the event was held virtually.

Five schools and only two would go through to the next round!

The competition was fierce, having met with the Speaker from the host team, I planned the introduction whilst Faaris prepared the questions. We had ten minutes to execute a perfect delivery and capture the audience's attention. It was a frightening yet exhilarating experience. All that was left was for our speaker, Umar, to take centre stage. He performed impeccably, his speech was engaging and captivated the judges.

The results were in, we made it through to the next round! Judges provided constructive feedback to participants with tips on how to progress to the next step of the competition. We look forward to the next round; this has truly been a learning curve and has empowered us to succeed.

**Zeyad Elmetwally**  
Year 11

## TIBHS Celebrates a Day of Reverence and Unity

In a display of unity and reverence, pupils at TIBHS came together to celebrate an unforgettable Islamic Faith Day. From the early hours of the morning, the school was filled with a deep sense of devotion and reflection.

The day commenced at 7:50am as pupils gathered in the sports hall for Fajr Namaz. The atmosphere was serene as prayers echoed through the hall, setting the tone for the day ahead. This was followed by Ishraq Salah, which is an optional pray performed before sunrise. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is reported to have said that Allah SWT says, 'O son of Adam, perform 4 Rakats of Salat (Ishraq) in the early part of the day. I shall help you in accomplishing all your responsibilities during the rest of the day.'

As the day progressed, pupils engaged in various activities to deepen their understanding of Islam. Reciting Surah Kahf and other holy chapters of the Quran, we immersed ourselves in the teachings of the faith. This spiritual experience allowed us to connect with the values and principles that guide our lives.

A highlight of the day was the collective recitation of 40 Durood, salutations upon the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Pupils, with hearts full of love and respect, came together to honour the Prophet. A local mosque from Blackburn joined pupils to share inspiring stories about the Prophet Muhammad. Pupils actively participated, reciting verses, and engaging in meaningful discussions. This interactive learning experience fostered a deeper connection to the teachings of the life of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

During morning break, we had an opportunity to relax and recharge before continuing the day. Back in the classrooms, we delved into Islamic quizzes and worksheets, further enriching our knowledge of the faith.

The day concluded with a powerful dua led by Mufti Hamid, CEO of Star Academies. His words were inspiring and heart felt which resonated with us all. Whilst pupils joined together in prayer, expressing compassion and empathy for those suffering in the Holy Land. This act of solidarity served as a reminder of the importance of caring for others and standing united in times of hardship.

As pupils left school, we carried a sense of gratitude and reflection. The 'Islamic Faith Day' at TIBHS left an indelible mark on pupils' hearts and minds, reminding us of the values that shape our identities and adding meaning in our lives.

**Adam Riyaz Patel**  
Year 9



# Nurturing Generosity: A Season Triumph in Our School's Winter Warmer Gift Programme

As we stand at the threshold of Winter's embrace, it is with profound joy and gratitude that we reflect upon a year of unparalleled achievements within our School's Winter Warmer Gift Programme.

TIBHS has not merely weathered the cold months; we have kindled a flame of warmth and benevolence that has enveloped our community in a spirit of generosity and compassion. Service, a key attribute within our faith and school environment; inspired by the selflessness of the prophets as well as the will to serve, perfectly embodies the intentions of this winter appeal. We as a united community come together in these harsh bitter times in turn for the vulnerable.

The resounding success of this program falls on to the shoulders of the pupils of this school.

Hampers, hygiene packs, and winter gear have been purchased from the generosity shown by parents' - raising a staggering figure of £1375. As a school built on core, fundamental values such as Service and Ambition we see this as a reflection of the Islamic environment we find ourselves in.

The Prophet (pbuh) said "The best of people are the ones' most beneficial to the community." As Muslims and as a faith school we persevere in our efforts to preserve the Prophet's values and teachings within our generation, fostering a sense of trust, camaraderie, and mutual respect within our school.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Ahmad Esa  
Year 9



## Hitting the Mark

During the Autumn Term the school was offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to partake in an exhilarating game of Dodge Archery – a sunnah sport.

As we entered the sports hall the excitement and eagerness to start the games was palpable. The equipment had been set up and instructors were ready to begin the lesson helping us to refine our Archery skills before taking part in competitive matches. Once the safety instructions had been shared with us - we were raring to go.

Bows and arrows ready we attempted to hit the target by applying various methods. Our first attempts were in vain as we familiarised ourselves with learning the accurate skills required. Gradually, our use of the bows improved, and our efforts paid off as our perseverance and determination to get it right prevailed. We were hitting the arrows on target, and it was the best feeling ever! We were now ready to put our skills to the test!

Instructors split us into teams and the competition commenced. The sounds of arrows leaving the bows racing to their intended target resounded around the sports hall. We all watched with bated breath cheering our team mates on. It was a close finish as all teams had amazing players who clearly wanted the taste of victory.

We all gained immense knowledge which was evident during the games and pupils' sense of sportsmanship was clearly on display. It is amongst the most enjoyable and thrilling experience we have had the chance to take part in. The instructors were amazing in their encouragement and boosting our confidence.

I would definitely recommend this as a sport and would love to take it up if the opportunity arose again. Finally, I would like to thank the school for giving us the opportunity to broaden our skills and allowing us to be involved in activities we may not otherwise be offered. I look forward to what the coming year has to offer.

**Daniyal Hussain**  
Year 9



## SEND Trip – Trafford Centre

The SEND Team were thrilled to announce the names of the pupils that had been chosen to attend the department trip. The pupils would attend a fun filled day at the Trafford Centre and take part in Laser Quest. After a busy term of hard work, assessments and perseverance it was a pleasure for both staff and pupils to relax and enjoy their achievements.

The morning of the trip arrived, permission slips had been filled, the minibus booked, and route planned. From the refectory where our young men were gathered, excitable chatter could be heard. Amongst the whispers one word, "Archie's" – they were eagerly planning their lunch!

Accompanied by Mrs Dhoomun, Mr Patel, Ms Riaz and Mrs Nazir the pupils boarded the minibus and joyfully set off.

On arrival, the staff led pupils to their first activity, Laser Quest. Pupils had the opportunity to develop and refine much needed social interaction, team building and money management skills. All while enjoying a fun interactive game of Laser Quest. A clever suggestion from one of the young men was to go to lunch early to avoid the holiday rush! They thoroughly enjoyed their lunch at Archie's. It was heart-warming to see them helping each other place their orders.

After lunch, the group led by Mr Patel spent much awaited time at the arcade and showcased some amazing motoring skills on the bumper cars. Their enjoyment was clearly evident by the roars of laughter. Pupils could have clearly spent the rest of the day at the Trafford Centre but sadly we had to depart enjoying the journey recalling accounts of the day. It was a pleasure to hear the trip and activities planned had been a tremendous success.

The trip was enjoyed immensely by the staff and pupils, the young men displayed exemplary behaviour and conduct throughout the day and represented the STAR values with the highest standard. A huge thank you to the Olive School Blackburn for their use of the minibus.

**Shabana Riaz**  
Learning Support Assistant



## A Day of Prayers, Reflection and Solidarity

TIBHS hosted a Big Fast on Thursday 21st December for teachers, pupils, and the wider community. As part of the Sunnah programme every Star Academies faith school was asked to take part in this special day of fasting with the intention to invoke prayers and blessings for those who are suffering.

The iftaar event was dedicated to victims in the Holy Land for peace, comfort, and ease for those suffering. The governors attended the event alongside alumni. It was a pleasure to see them and hear about how well they are doing and the great heights they are achieving.

The event was accentuated by the harmonious voices of pupils from Year 7 and 8 Nasheed Club. Their melodies echoed through the building adding to the atmosphere of serenity and tranquillity.

An awe-inspiring talk was delivered to all Star Faith schools by Mufti Hamid CEO of Star Academies with the completion of the Holy Quran. This was followed by Maghrib Salah and breaking of the fast.

It was an evening full of blessings we enjoyed a delicious meal of biryani, roast chicken followed by a delightful desert - it truly felt like a rewarding day.



## Poetry Competition – Parents, No Love is Greater.

Assalamu Alaykum – Peace Be Upon You,

أُرِيْعَصْ يِنَايَبَرْ أَمَكْ أَمْهَمْ حَرَابَرْ

“My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up small” (Quran 17:24)

Year 7 pupils studied relationship poetry during the autumn term ending their unit by writing their own poems dedicated to their parents, with a spectacular finale of poetry performances from the finalists. Pupils had the opportunity to stimulate their creative thinking, showcase their talent, establish their own distinctive voices, and immerse themselves in the experience.

Teachers from each set chose two finalists from their class, resulting in ten pupils across the year to perform their poem for the grand finale. After a week of preparation and practise, it was time for the performance.

A buzz of excitement pervaded the hall, as pupils entered. The stage was set, the judges ready and the contestants in a state of nervous tension. Our guest of honour and renowned poet, Hafiza Hakim, inaugurated the event by performing one of her heartfelt and inspiring poems ‘You’re Enough’ to our pupils.

She delivered her story on where she sought inspiration for her poetry journey, enlightening pupils, and teachers on the importance of parental love and family values.

In a flutter of nervous excitement, the first contestants took to the stage leaving the audience feeling moved and touched by the powerful words, devoted to his ‘Super Mum.’ A continuation of emotionally stimulating performances cascaded the floor, leaving not a single dry eye in the room.

The winners... it was a complex decision and the judge Hafiza Hakim, deliberated long and hard due to the extraordinary performances. Hamzah Qadri won 1st place with his outstanding delivery, Zaki Ali Ditta coming close in 2nd place and Aadil Vali achieving 3rd place.

Overall, it was a gripping and captivating event, giving us the opportunity to see our pupils put on a spectacular performance. We are exceptionally proud of our talented Year 7’s for their efforts and hard work in producing outstanding poetry.

The many accolades and compliments they received were very well deserved.

**Iqra Younas**  
Teacher of English

## LAMDA

### LAMDA: Another Set of Amazing Results

Our LAMDA pupils achieved an astounding number of distinctions in the exam undertaking during the Autumn term. Once again, pupils across years 8 and 9 got their creative juices flowing to give showstopping performances to the external LAMDA examiner on the Verse and Prose qualification.

Each performance was one to savour and behold as the pupils had memorised texts and performed them with gusto, drama and delightfully well-articulated art performances.

The high scores are a testament to each pupil’s dedication and hard work with the qualification which builds their confidence and public speaking skills. Pupils have received direct coaching on enunciation, diction and clarity with speech. We are extremely proud of the LAMDA pupils’ achievements.

A huge thank you to Jo Bell for her continuous hard work and dedication in preparing our pupils for their exams.

**Shahnaz Ilyas**  
Book Culture Lead



# Year 9 Embark on a Thrilling Journey of Fun Activities

To celebrate pupils who had gone above and beyond expectations, not just academically but those who also showcased core Star values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect throughout the autumn term were offered a Platinum Award trip.

The day began with friendly football matches at school, that lasted until one team scored 5 goals. All the games were refereed by the Head of Year 8, Mr Lorgat. Once a team scored 5 goals, there was a reset, and captains were changed to give everyone an opportunity to play at different levels and roles.

Following three matches, Hussain Hameed was crowned the overall 'Man of the Match' for having scored the most goals. He commented that, "It's a good feeling, I was on top form, an exhilarating experience, building our teamwork skills."

We had a celebratory meal at Frankies, where there was a variety of burgers to choose from or the option of a bowl of Peri-Peri wings and milkshake of your choice. We thoroughly enjoyed our meal in good company of friends and teachers.

And the day did not end there, upon our return to school, we were surprised with an afternoon of gaming. Fortnite and EA FC 24. I was motivated to be the best version of myself - a truly magnificent day!

I look forward to what TIBHS has in store for us next term!

**Usman Mussagibai**  
Year 9



## Masterclass in Apprenticeships

In an effort to provide the graduating class of Year 13 with invaluable insights into the realm of apprenticeships, TB6 hosted a remarkable apprenticeship masterclass with the esteemed organisation Causeway Education.

The event not only shed light on the countless opportunities that apprenticeships offer, but also provided invaluable guidance on interview skills and professional development. Adding a personal touch, former alumni shared their firsthand experiences in apprenticeships, offering a unique perspective into the inner workings of top companies.

Causeway Education, a renowned external organisation specialising in career guidance, took centre stage to expose the infinite array of opportunities available through apprenticeships. Year 13 students were provided with an in-depth understanding of how apprenticeships serve as a pathway to professional success, offering hands-on experience and valuable skills development.

The representatives from Causeway Education emphasised the diverse sectors and industries where apprenticeships thrive, illustrating how these programs can be a springboard to fulfilling and rewarding careers.

One of the key highlights of the masterclass was the comprehensive session on interview skills. Causeway Education's experts shared invaluable tips on how to present oneself during interviews, emphasising the importance of confidence, professionalism, presence and effective communication.

Students learned the art of articulating answers concisely while showcasing their unique strengths and skills. The session was interactive, allowing students to practice mock interviews and receive constructive feedback, preparing them for real-world scenarios.

To provide a real-world perspective on apprenticeships, the masterclass featured esteemed alumni who had successfully navigated their own apprenticeship journeys. These former students returned to share their experiences, offering a glimpse into the day-to-day activities within top companies. The alumni speakers covered a wide range of industries, from technology to finance, providing valuable insights into the diverse career paths that apprenticeships can lead to.

The alumni not only spoke about their roles within their respective companies but also shared anecdotes about challenges they faced and how their apprenticeships shaped their professional growth. Their personal narratives resonated with the Year 13 students, inspiring them to explore apprenticeships as a viable and dynamic career option – a real alternative!

The masterclass went beyond traditional presentations, incorporating interactive sessions and networking opportunities. Students had the chance to engage in Q&A sessions with Causeway Education representatives and alumni, fostering a direct exchange of information. These interactions allowed students to clarify doubts, seek advice, and build connections that could prove valuable in their future career endeavours.

The apprenticeship masterclass hosted by TB6 proved to be an illuminating experience for Year 13 students, providing them with a roadmap to embark on successful apprenticeship journeys. The event not only highlighted the diverse opportunities available but also equipped students with essential skills for navigating the competitive world of interviews.

The insights shared by alumni added a personal touch, making the prospect of apprenticeships more tangible and inspiring for the graduating class. As these students prepare to step into the professional world, the masterclass has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on their understanding of apprenticeships and the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

**Muhammed Karbhari**  
Year 13





# Raising Aspirations for Greater Academic Achievements

A once in a lifetime trip to the United States of America was organised with five fortunate Year 12 students. This included visits to a number of Ivy League Universities. The journey took us to Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Yale, and Columbia, where our focus centred on dissecting the academic frameworks of prominent Ivy League Universities in the United States.

The primary motivation behind this expedition was a meticulous comparative analysis, seeking to unravel the distinctions and commonalities between prestigious American institutions and their UK counterparts. With a deliberate intent to provide ourselves with a nuanced perspective, we immersed ourselves in the unique environments of these esteemed campuses.

Touching down in the city that never sleeps, our journey began with the vibrant energy of New York. As we drove from the airport to our accommodation the iconic skyline welcomed us. As we dove into the heart of the Big Apple, the anticipation of delving into the academic epicentres of knowledge, the Ivy League Universities, heightened.

Yale, in New Haven, Connecticut, features a timeless campus with ivy-covered buildings, founded in 1701. Notable for its rich history and academic excellence, it counts five U.S. presidents among its distinguished alumni.

Princeton, nestled in the town of Princeton, New Jersey, boasts a tranquil academic haven. Established in 1746, the university's historic Nassau Hall and legacy of academic achievements contribute to its unique charm.

Columbia University, located in the heart of New York City, offers a dynamic urban experience on its Morningside Heights campus. Established in 1754, Columbia's blend of classical and modern architecture reflects its influential role in intellectual discourse, with notable alumni such as the Founding Father Alexander Hamilton.

Then our journey continued to the amazing city of Boston where we were led to two eminent Ivy League institutions – Harvard and MIT. Harvard, situated in Cambridge, stands as a testament to centuries of academic excellence. With a historic campus featuring iconic red-brick architecture, Harvard's legacy dates back to its founding in 1636, making it one of the oldest universities in the world. Known for its rigorous academic programs and esteemed faculty, Harvard has produced countless influential leaders and scholars.

Meanwhile, MIT, also in Cambridge, offers a stark contrast with its modern architecture and a commitment to innovation. The campus reflects a dynamic spirit of exploration, from the distinctive Dome to the cutting-edge MIT Media Lab. Established in 1861, MIT has been a pioneer in science, engineering, and technology, contributing to groundbreaking advancements and fostering a culture of constant exploration.

All academia aside, delving into the vibrant tapestry of New York City was an enriching experience. The grandeur of the Statue of Liberty, the dazzling lights of Times Square (so many adverts), the adrenaline of an NFL game – each moment in New York etched a vivid memory. Navigating New York's bustling streets, our journey was a hectic symphony of diverse cultures and iconic landmarks. Visiting the Statue of Liberty and Times Square were highlights of the trip. I never knew so much energy could be concentrated into one place. The Statue of Liberty was an unreal experience as we not only got to view such a masterpiece but climb it and marvel at the New York City skyline from above. The NFL game (although the false version of football) was another breathtaking experience as it was held in the MetLife Stadium, one of the largest stadiums with a seating capacity of over 80,000. New York's vibrancy was relentless, going from the daylight hustle to the nighttime hum.

Boston, located in the state of Massachusetts is a whole different experience. In Boston we attended an NBA game, Boston Celtics vs Indiana Pacers. It was an exhilarating game, with the Celtics absolutely demolishing the opposing team. We have since become die-hard Celtic fans. We also went to an ice hockey game between Harvard and Princeton. This was also another thrilling game, which kept us on the edge of our seats as there was no clear winner until the last second of the match.

During the trip, Star trustee Mark Hageman kindly arranged for us to visit the world renowned law firm Linklaters' New York office to obtain work experience. Speaking with seasoned experts increased our grasp of the legal sector by providing insights that go beyond textbook material. They shared their experiences of student life in America and their efforts to become lawyers. Some of the Muslim colleagues shared their thoughts on Muslim life as students in the USA.

Apart from the professional perspectives, the tour underscored the significance of social networking, as developing relationships with professionals leads to a plethora of information, opportunities for mentoring, and potential collaborations.

To all of us, this trip was clearly life changing, encouraging us to be more ambitious and aspire to reach greater heights. The only logical next step would be actually applying to one or more of these universities, with Harvard and Columbia as top contenders. Now we know what our applications need to look like, we have a year to make sure our grades and extra-curricular activities align with what they will be looking for.

**Abdul Moeed Malik and  
Amher Shakeer Hussain  
Year 12**







# TB6 Opens its Door to Welcome Prospective Students

The recent TB6 Open Evening was an enlightening and inspiring event that provided prospective Year 12 students with a firsthand look into the diverse academic opportunities awaiting them.

The faculties within the college showcased captivating set-ups, offering valuable insights into the subjects on offer. Head of Sixth Form, Mrs. Ali, delivered an empowering speech, complemented by the words of Head Boy Muhammed Karbhari. This event not only served as a guide for Year 11 pupils but also ignited a spark of enthusiasm for their academic journey ahead.

The TB6 Open Evening was a visual feast, with each faculty within the college setting up impressive displays that provided a comprehensive overview of the subjects available to pupils. From vibrant arts and humanities to cutting-edge sciences and technology, the set-ups were designed to give Year 11s a glimpse into the diverse academic landscape awaiting them in Year 12.

Interactive activities and demonstrations engaged the pupils, allowing them to explore and interact with the faculty members who were present to answer questions and provide valuable insights. This immersive experience helped the Year 11s make informed decisions about their academic pathways, fostering excitement about the learning opportunities that lay ahead.

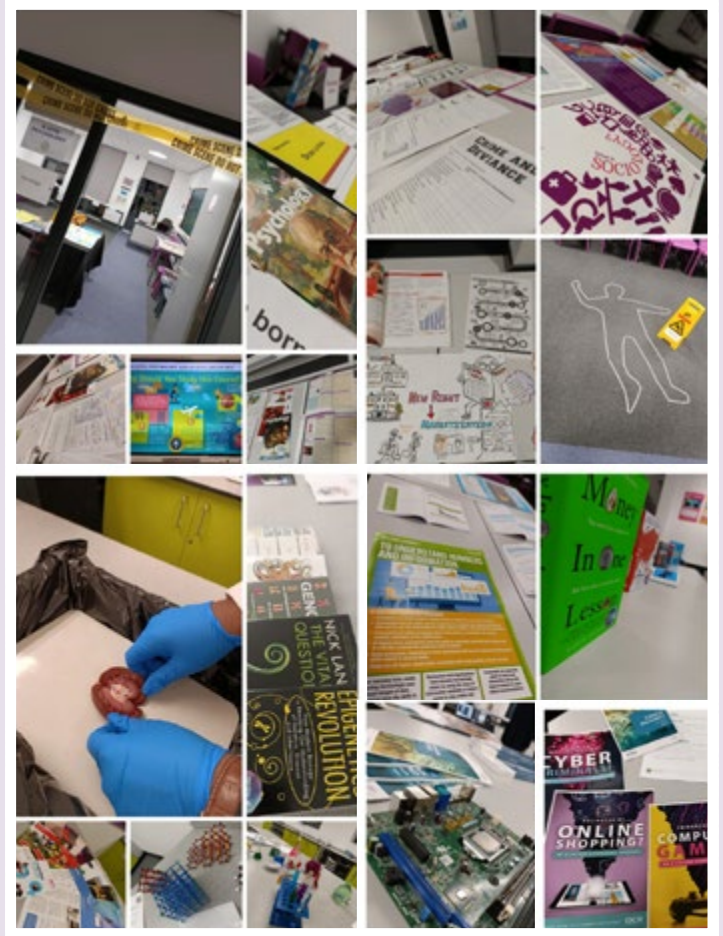
The event reached new heights with an empowering speech delivered by the Head of Sixth Form, Mrs. Ali. Her words resonated with the future Year 12s as she shared anecdotes, emphasised the importance of perseverance, and highlighted the endless possibilities that higher education can unlock. Mrs. Ali's encouragement served as a beacon for the young men, motivating them to embrace the challenges and opportunities that come with the transition to college life.

Adding a personal touch to the evening, Muhammed Karbhari, a distinguished Head Boy, shared his experiences and insights with the eager audience. His journey from being a Year 7 pupil to a current college student was a testament to the transformative power of education. Muhammed's words of wisdom provided a unique perspective, offering valuable guidance and reassurance to the Year 11s as they embark on their own academic adventures.

The TB6 Open Evening served as a crucial guide for Year 11 pupils, offering a wealth of information and inspiration to aid them in making informed decisions about their academic future. The event not only showcased the academic offerings of the college but also fostered a sense of community and support that will undoubtedly be instrumental in the students' transition to Year 12.

The TB6 Open Evening was a resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on the Year 11 students who attended. The captivating faculty displays, empowering speeches from Mrs. Ali and Muhammed Karbhari, and the overall atmosphere of enthusiasm and support created a memorable event. As the Year 11s move forward in their academic journey, the TB6 Open Evening has undoubtedly set the stage for a promising and fulfilling experience.

**Muhammed Karbhari**  
Year 13



# The Sacred Journey of a Lifetime

The second cohort of TB6 Year 12 students had the honour of embarking on the sacred, spiritual journey of a lifetime to perform Umrah - one of the holiest pilgrimages in Islam.

Sixteen students alongside our esteemed principal Mr Ditta, Head of Year 12 Mr Vali and Catering Manager Mr Falak. The trip was made even more special as four students were going for Umrah for the first time. It was an experience that will stay with us forever. The trip was a remarkable combination of spiritual growth, cultural learning, and personal development.

Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah, where Muslims perform a set of rituals in Masjid e Haram. It is a non-compulsory pilgrimage that can be undertaken at any time of the year, unlike the annual Hajj pilgrimage. The trip was an exceptional opportunity for us to grow spiritually and gain a deeper understanding of our faith. It allowed us to connect with our fellow Muslims from around the world, who had come together with the same intention of seeking the pleasure of Allah the Almighty.

During our time in Makkah, we were able to spend hours in the Grand Mosque, which was an awe-inspiring sight. We were also blessed to visit Masjid Nabawi, the Prophet's (SAW) Masjid. The tranquillity, peace and beauty of the city and the Masjid itself was an experience that will live long in our memories.

In addition to the spiritual aspect of the journey, we were able to immerse ourselves in the culture and customs of Saudi Arabia.

We began our journey in Makkah, the blessed birthplace of our prophet Muhammad (SAW). Here we had the chance to visit many important places of Islam, including the cave of Hira, where

the prophet Muhammad (SAW) received prophethood as well as the first revelation, and the cave of Thaur, where the prophet Muhammad (SAW) sought protection from the disbelievers when they were hunting for him during the journey of Hijra.

We also visited Taaif, a city near Makkah, where we learnt about the heart breaking but awe-inspiring story of the abuse our prophet (SAW) suffered; only for him to respond with complete mercy. Whilst in Taaif, we visited the library and masjid of Abdullah Ibn Abbas, one of the greatest Sahaba (companions). Witnessing the historical sites of Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah was beyond our imaginations, contributing to a deeper understanding of the Hajj experience. It was truly a very humbling experience.

In Madina, we had the opportunity to visit the newly completed, state of the art Seerah Museum alongside an opportunity to visit a date farm to partake in a feast, purchase our dates as well as collect and drink as much Zamzam as possible. We visited the culturally rich and profound historical sites in Madina such as the battlefields of Badr and Uhud and the virtuous graveyard of Jannah Al-Baqee. However, the highlight of our time in Madina was the chance to perform our Fajr in Riyadh Al-Jannah (paradise) which has been said by the prophet (SAW) to be a piece of Janna itself.

The trip provided us with ample opportunities for personal growth and spiritual development. We were given the chance to work collaboratively as a team, and to support one another throughout the trip. It was also an opportunity to develop our social and communication skills, as we interacted with people from all over the world from various cultures and backgrounds. Overall, performing Umrah was an extraordinary experience that we will treasure for the rest of our lives.

We are immensely grateful to our school and the organisers for making this journey possible. We hope to continue to develop our faith, and we pray that Allah the Almighty accepts our Umrah and rewards us accordingly and allows us to partake in this blessed journey many times over - Aameen!

**Abdul Moeed Malik**  
Year 12





# A Sad Farewell to Some; A Warm Welcome to Others

For many who join the school, it is the safe haven the school offers that makes leaving the TIBHS' family so difficult. And for those that are still very much part of the school, it is always sad to bid farewell to staff moving to pastures new.

We wish all our leavers the very best of luck in their future endeavours.

- *Mohsin Patel - Dol of English/Head of Character Development*
- *Aroua Nagati - Teacher of Nasheed*
- *Rizwana Mayat - PA/School Business Manager*
- *Ashid Mahmood – Estates Manager*

Whilst farewells are always hard, we have welcomed a number of staff into the TIBHS' family this term.

- *Muneera Umerji – School Business Manager*
- *Saba Butt - Learning Support Assistant*
- *Nadiyah Patel - Learning Support Assistant*



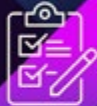
TIBHS would like to wish all pupils, parents, staff, and stakeholders a blessed and peaceful term

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



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