



## Internationally Acclaimed Poet, John Agard, Visits Eden

Eden girls were delighted with the school's first Activities Week which was held at the end of the summer term. This was a week devoted to enrichment activities, trips, and experiences that students wouldn't normally gain during the average school week. The idea behind this is to broaden the curriculum by providing opportunities for creativity and time for first hand experiences in the world beyond school.

Trips included visits to the Natural History Museum in London (science), Shakespearean Stratford-upon-Avon (English), Warwick Castle (history), Coventry Cathedral (RE) and participation in the 'Jack the Ripper Tour' in London's East End (history). There were opportunities for students to cook, create mosaics, apply their numerical skills in a range of maths challenges, engage in fashion design and we held our first Sports Day.

One of the highlights of the week was a visit by world renowned poet John Agard, who spent an afternoon with us and recited a number of

his most famous poems. Agard grew up in Guyana where he developed his love of writing, received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and his poems regularly feature on GCSE English Literature papers. A unique and energetic force in contemporary British poetry, John Agard's poems combine social observation, puckish wit and a riotous imagination to thrilling effect.

The girls were particularly captivated by his rendition of 'Half-Caste', one of Agard's best-loved poems, which brilliantly turns that phrase's offensive absurdity inside-out.

After taking to the Eden stage for nearly 2 hours John kindly signed books and other keepsakes for the girls who kept him in conversation well after the train he was booked onto left Coventry.

**[Read more about Activities Week on pages 4 and 5...](#)**



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## From The Principal...

An explanation for the name of our termly newsletter – **The Extra Mile** – is long overdue as this is now the third edition! We thought long and hard about a title that would befit the importance of our newsletter. After much deliberation we took a quotation from our Trust's Mission Statement. Our Mission Statement is a public declaration of all that we stand for and what is important to us. We were drawn to the phrase:

*We are part of a community that believe that we should demonstrate the values of Ikhlas (Sincerity), Ihsan (Going the Extra Mile) and Itqan (Striving for Excellence) in everything we do.*

Having worked in several Tauheedul Trust schools, I'm strongly of the opinion that these three values hold the keys to the success of our schools. We were delighted to hear in October that our founder school, Tauheedul Islam Girls High School (TIGHS), and the boys school in Blackburn, TIBHS, were ranked 1st and 3rd nationally in the Government's league tables for Progress. This massive achievement was only possible because of the dedication and hard work of all the staff, students and their parents who persistently demonstrated Ikhlas, Ihsan and Itqan. Eden sends its congratulations and respect to Mr Ahmed and Mr Ibrahim, the Principals of TIGHS and TIBHS, and to all their staff, for inspiring us with such excellence and by 'Going the Extra Mile'.

Thus, **The Extra Mile**, seemed a fitting title for our newsletter as Ihsan is what we see in our staff, students and parents on a daily basis. There are many ways in which our parents 'Go the Extra Mile' for the school. Just one way is by giving their time to our **Parent Shura** (Council). Our parents form an integral part of the Eden family and providing a voice and a forum for our parents is vitally important. Research shows that students are more likely to succeed if their families are involved with their education.

Parent Shura meets half termly and allows our parents to get more involved with what happens at Eden. It gives parents a voice on issues that are important to them and allows us to capture and benefit from their varied skills, interests and knowledge. By joining you will have the opportunity to work with the school in making a real difference. Please do contact us if you are interested in joining. We want representation across our diverse school community. If English is not your first language, we are happy to investigate providing an interpreter.

Similarly, we have been hugely impressed with people in our immediate school community, and beyond, for the way they have gone the Extra Mile for the school. This was especially true for our Eid Bazar this term (see page 11). Our communities are key stakeholders at Eden Girls' and we want to enhance this relationship. Anyone wishing to get involved with the school is encouraged to join our **Friends of Eden** group. If you are interested, please email [friends@edengirlscoventry.tetrust.org](mailto:friends@edengirlscoventry.tetrust.org) and take the opportunity to shape this new and exciting venture.

**Linda Thompson**



# Educational Excellence

## Reading Matters!

*"The Library is the heart and soul of a school. It is not just a sanctuary to read, relax and reflect in, it is a place where you can escape from the daily demands of every day school life. When you enter a library, you enter a warm and amiable environment you want to be in; an environment where you have so much in common with the pupils; a love and passion for books and a genuine love for reading!"*

**Mrs Ellahi, Director of Learning: Communications.**

We are delighted that so many students are now using the library for borrowing books and for working at lunchtimes. It's a great space and looks great now the English team have put up some great displays celebrating the books our students have enjoyed reading and the authors and poets who have visited the school this year.

There is one board that is currently empty. This is awaiting the display for a competition for World Book Day on 'World of Stories' which is being led by some of our Year 10 students. We'll let you know how we get on and whether we win one of the prizes of money to buy more books!

Finally, we are particularly proud of our school librarians who keep the shelves stocked and manage the borrowing system. In the words of Aamilah Noor, our Year 8 Librarian, "Every school needs a library because books are vital to a great education. They allow you to express your creativity, imagination and individuality". Spot on Aamilah!



## Top Performers

At Eden, the girls sit assessments at the end of every half term. These show how well each student is doing, where they need to improve, and whether they are on track to get good GCSE grades at the end of Year 11. Even for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, the assessments tell us how far pupils have progressed on their learning journeys.

Congratulations to the following pupils for their excellent progress this year. They have exceeded their target levels in all three core subjects: English, maths and science.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8
Hibo ABDI	Fardawsa ABDI
Hodan ADAM	Sakina ROBAT
Eeman AFTAB	
Wafah AHMED	YEAR 9
Makbule ALI	Asiya ABUKAR
Sharmin BEGUM	Lamees AHMEDABADI
Alina HANIF	Zakia NUUR
Maryam JABEEN	YEAR 10
Hamamah MATEEN	Rumaysa ALI
Arzash MEHTAB	Muna OSMAN
Kauthar SULEMAN	Atqiya TASNIMA



# Educational Excellence

## Summer Term Activities Week



## Tomorrows Engineers

Women are currently significantly underrepresented in engineering – a fact that leads to a loss of talent and innovation in the discipline. As part of Activities Week we wanted to raise the profile of women in engineering and to encourage Eden students to see it as a potential career destination.

We invited in 'Tomorrow's Engineers', a government backed organisation who aim to enthuse and motivate young people to engage in engineering related careers.

The group ran a two day seminar for Years 8 and 9, where students engaged in a range of activities, including programming and using robots, manufacturing engineering based products, and taking part in engineering experiments.

In addition, girls were asked to research different careers in engineering and present their thoughts on the role of women in engineering. Hopefully, we may have ignited the potential of a future 'Dyson'.

## London History Visit

The history of Victorian London and Jack the Ripper are an integral part of the history curriculum and students are taught about 19th century police investigation techniques including an in-depth analysis of police operations today. As part of the Year 8 London Trip, pupils took part in the 'Jack the Ripper' Tour which offered them an insight into the dark and dangerous side of London's East End.

The tour was led by a historian, in period costume and character, who specialised in studying the life of, and motivation behind, one of England's most notorious mass murderers. During the tour police reports, eye witness testimonies and criminal profiling were used to present a definitive story of the Autumn of Terror.

Students were captivated with the story telling elements of the tour and were thoroughly engrossed in the historians almost poetic verbal description of events and culture at the time.

This experience helped pupils to further understand what life was like in Victorian England with a view to supporting their studies.



## Other Activities

Other activities which the pupils took part in during Activities Week were:

- A five-a-side football tournament organised by Coventry City Football Club.
- A Bastille Day Celebration French Breakfast.
- A mosaic making workshop.
- A session introducing the Mandarin language.
- An enactment of a Shakespearian sketch.
- Basic computer programming.
- Desktop publishing.
- The use of nature in art.

- A fashion design workshop led by the Positive Youth Foundation.
- Solving 2D and 3D mathematic puzzles.
- Eden Girls do Brunch! ... an exercise in food preparation and service.

Planning for Activities Week 2017 is already under way and we expect this to be an annual feature of the school Summer term calendar. We would be interested to hear of any bright ideas from parents and other stakeholders for the next one.



Bastille Day Celebration  
French Breakfast



Eden Girls  
do Brunch!



Solving 2D & 3D  
mathematic puzzles



## Poetry

### You're part of us

We carry you in us; we teach you to be one of us,  
those days and nights we spend,  
yet we never know when it'll end,  
where our sons come to us and say,  
"You're part of us".

They underestimate what we can do,  
and never think what we have done for them,  
but stand with pride in front of us,  
we wait for that time to come,  
when they hug us willfully,  
but we yearn for it daily,  
and remember the moments we spent,  
and wait for them to say,  
"you're part of us".

When we save them from any harm,  
they say they've saved themselves,  
and make themselves like a charm,  
but never say to us mothers that,  
"you're part of us".

Let us all unite,  
that will give those men a fright,  
We will make them say...  
"you are part of us".

**Aishah Parveen, 10A**



## Aishah's Inspiration For The Poem

This poem represents my personal views and opinions. Firstly, I strongly believe in equality in women's rights around the world. The main message is that all women should be treated equally. We need to remember that it is not only men who are strong and capable of achieving, women are strong and capable too. However, this is often hidden in history and history is only now being re-evaluated to account for roles of women in history.

Secondly, we should also consider the impact of our mothers on our lives. Many of us don't even think about our mothers when we've succeeded in something but only say "I did it!". Our mothers' support often remains 'unseen'. This poem aims to remind you that your mother is also a part of you and that they should be loved immensely, with appreciation and unconditionally. This should be clear from the first line.

However, this poem also has deliberate uncertain meanings to allow your imagination 'to go wild'. I would like you to develop your own ideas about the role of women in society. I would like you to find your own interpretations and even consider what your role in society will be after Eden.

# Curricular Enrichment

## Residential Trips 2016/17

Eden has a strong commitment to the values of learning beyond the 'normal' school day and beyond the school premises. Consequently, last year we ran a number of educational enrichment visits which our students and parents rated highly.

This coming year we will be running our first programme of residential trips. These have been provided in response to lobbying by students and parents over the course of last year.

Residential trips help to prepare students for life beyond school. They contribute to building their confidence and independence as well as introducing students to other places in the UK and abroad that are quite different to Coventry!

Planning and booking for some of these trips has already begun. They are very popular with most filling up the day after letters went home! Residential trips that are on offer for 2016/17 are shown below.

TRIP TITLE	FOCUS	LEAD TEACHER	COST	APPROXIMATE DATES
Osmington Bay	Outdoor Education	Mrs Hafejee	£180	7 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July (Weekend + Activities Week – 4 days)
Paris & Euro Disney	French	Miss Mushtaq	£370	10 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter Holiday – 4 days)
London (Slave Trade & Empire)	History	Mrs Akram	£140	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> February (Half Term - 2 days)

*Parents should note that all trips are subject to demand.*

## Eden Careers Fair

We held the first in our programme of careers events this year for our Year 9 and 10 students on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The Careers Fair gave our students the opportunity to meet with various local professionals and learn about the skills they will need to secure a successful career in a range of professions.

We were very fortunate to secure representatives from many professions, including the National Health Service; the Royal Air Force; the police; accountancy; social work; optometry; education and many more, who were more than happy to share their knowledge

and expertise with our students. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended the event.

The Fair followed a 'speed dating' format with groups of five to six students spending 5 minutes with each professional, where they fired questions they had previously prepared at them. The event was a huge success with the students gaining a meaningful insight into various professions and what it takes to succeed at the highest level.



# Curricular Enrichment

## GCSE Art

As part of our enrichment entitlement for pupils at Eden we launched Art GCSE from September 2016. Art and Design is an important part of our curricular offer as it enables pupils to stretch their creativity, broaden the spiritual and cultural aspects of their education and develop their emotional intelligence. Pupils began their coursework by looking into different aspects of the art specification such as

artistry work, digital software (Photoshop) and experimentation with a collection of medias and materials. A selection of topics will be covered over the two year course such as Distortion and Identity, Botanical forms, Prints and Art through Passage of Time. GCSE Art sessions run on Mondays and Fridays after school and will allow students to achieve an additional GCSE.



Artwork by Safiyaa Nawab - 9B



## Intra-school Sports Competition

The brand new intra-school sport competition got off to a great start with the forms in each year group playing each other. The first sport selected was Basketball as it allowed the girls to showcase the skills they had been practising in their PE lessons.

Each match displayed a high level of competitiveness whilst good sportsmanship was evident throughout. Well done to every girl that participated and a particular mention to those girls in Year 10 who turned out in huge numbers to both participate and also support their classmates.

Finally, a special congratulations to the winners within each year group: 7B, 8A, 9D, 10A.



## Female Fitness

Female Fitness is a weekly extracurricular activity that has been introduced this term. The sessions have, so far, had a consistently good turn out with this opportunity opened up to enable the Eden Girls' female relatives to also attend. Those females attending are assisted in trying different exercises and taught new techniques to enable more effective fitness activities.

With full access to the gym equipment, and an extra dose of enthusiasm, all those participating are able to enjoy exercising in a friendly environment. Their progression each week is tested and further enhanced by the tricky, but very rewarding, fitness challenges!

We welcome more mums, aunts and female family friends to attend next term!

## Multi Sports Club

Multi Sports Club takes place once a week and covers a wide variety of sporting activities. The girls have the freedom to choose either a new sport they are unfamiliar with or simply to develop their skills and knowledge of a sport they have previously played.

The sessions cater to a wide variety of interests and ability levels creating a fun and rewarding environment.

As lots of girls attend these sessions it allows them to enhance their teamwork skills and make new friends as they interact with those from different age groups. Most importantly, the sport sessions enable the girls to enjoy themselves with smiles on faces seen all round!

## Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival is a celebration of the food grown on the land. The festival takes place around the beginning of October to mark the end of the Harvest Season. There are Thanksgiving services held in many Churches, to give thanks for the crops that have been grown and also to celebrate the end of the hard work involved in reaping them. During Harvest time, the less fortunate are particularly remembered and food is often donated to people in need.

After being inspired by an assembly from the Christian Mosaic Church the school's Humanitarian Club decided to arrange an

inter-form competition to collect non-perishable food items for the Harvest appeal. Form classes were given two weeks to collect as many items as possible. The response was amazing: students arrived daily with carrier bags laden with beans, pulses and rice. Every single form contributed but the overall form winners were 10B. Well done 10B, an excellent team effort.

Thank you to everyone for their food donations, the food has been collected by Mosaic Church and has been distributed to Coventry Food Bank and will go on to help the people of Coventry.



# Character Development

## Ashoorah Iftar Event

The start of the Islamic New Year brings with it a very special day on the 10th day of the New Year which is called Ashoorah. Ashoorah means 'tenth' and this special day falls on the 10th of Muharram. Muharram is the first month in the Islamic calendar. Ashoorah is considered sacred as an incident attributed to the Prophet Musa and the Israelites that took place on this day. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him), in recognition of this incident and to display reverence for the Prophet Musa, encouraged Muslims to treat this as a day of significance within the Islamic calendar.

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) made a point of fasting on this day and strongly encouraged others to do so. The Prophet also encouraged people to fast on either the day before Ashoorah or the day after as a mark of extra reverence for this day.

To mark this special occasion our students were encouraged to fast on the day of Ashoorah and many took up the opportunity. A community inter-faith Iftar (break of fast) event was organised for the evening of 11th October. The event was attended by our Governors, staff and students, breaking their fast with prominent members of the community, from all faiths and backgrounds.

The evening was a fantastic success with everyone enjoying a lovely meal after an enlightening programme of speeches, Tilawah and Nasheeds. We were very grateful to Imam Abbas Khalifa, an NHS chaplain, who delivered a lovely talk on the relevance of Ashoorah and the importance of remembering those who are less fortunate around the world. The evening was certainly a 'spiritually uplifting' experience for all who attended and emphasised the importance we place as a school on our Faith Ethos.

## Aim High

Having visited Eden Girls' School this month to encourage aspiring young female lawyers to aim high, I was delighted that I also came away from the experience having learnt several valuable lessons from both the staff and students.

I have memories from my own school years of tedious weekly assemblies, lacking in originality and inspiration, and which felt more like a 'box-ticking' exercise for Ofsted's benefit, rather than the opportunity to provide us students with valuable life lessons. It was, therefore, refreshing to experience the stark contrast of an Eden Girls' School assembly, which incorporated a diversity of approaches; from both professional and spiritual career guidance, to moments of reflection, and even a unique means of encouraging the students to strive towards full attendance.

When I later provided one-on-one guidance to Eden's students, I was inspired not only by how incredibly polite and eloquent the girls were, but also by how ambitious and academically-driven they were, even amongst students as young as 12. I was humbled by one student's amazement when she discovered that not all lawyers are "old males", as she had first thought. It highlighted to me the importance of providing such assemblies and workshops, in order to not only ensure that children of all backgrounds are able to learn about the career opportunities out there, but also to encourage them to seize such opportunities and overcome social barriers.

It is sad to think that some of our brightest children consider that many doors are shut for them because of their gender, ethnicity or family income, though we as adults can do more to show those students that any door is open to them if they want (and work hard enough for) it to be.

I was moved by Mr Khalifa in assembly, as he encouraged the girls to act as symbols of kindness and compassion in their communities, particularly in light of the unfortunate prejudice and misconception which exists amongst the society in which we live. As I listened to Mr Khalifa, I found myself wishing that misinformed members of society, could listen to his words on the true values of Islam, and see for themselves the kindness and compassion which is inherent amongst every Eden girl and member of staff.

For now, I hope to do more to help Eden's girls in pursuing their career ambitions and overcoming social barriers, as I am proud to work in partnership with such an inspirational institution.

**By Beth Thompson, Paralegal at DWF in Manchester**





# Service to Communities

## From the Head Girl... Restart a Heart Day

18th November marked Restart a Heart Day. This was dedicated to educating the wider public about the deaths caused by cardiac arrests each year across Europe. Many die because members of the public are often unable to save them. So, across the country, teams of paramedics were dispatched into different schools to educate young people about how to resuscitate someone suffering a cardiac arrest. Be it happening on the streets, in school or even at home; students were taught how to handle heart attacks in a calm way.

Eden Girls gladly took part in one of these sessions provided by the NHS. Our paramedic mentors were funny and made the session engaging, relevant and effective. They explained the process of CPR as well as the signs indicating that a person is having a cardiac arrest. We were able to carry out CPR on models and also assessed the risks around this procedure.

With thanks to the University Hospital Team, 30 girls from our school can now carry out CPR. We look forward, inshallah, to becoming one of the first schools to have every pupil and member of staff educated in the procedure of CPR as it could, alongside other schools, half the

number of fatal arrests. BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire also came on the day to interview us and asked us how we felt about being given the opportunity to help save lives. We felt proud and privileged as many of us have experienced family members suffering cardiac arrests. In the future one of us could save a life. Inshallah.

**Head Girl, Rabiah Khan Year 10**



## Eid Celebration

Eden Girls' School was proud to host its very first Eid Bazar and Open Evening on Thursday 15th September. The event was a huge success as staff, students and members of the local community enjoyed a fun filled evening of food (lots of it!), stalls, games, a bouncy castle, barbecue and the most popular attraction of all; pie the teacher!

As many will be aware, Eden Girls' school runs a weekly food bank which operates from the Muslim Resource Centre, helping needy individuals from the local community every Friday afternoon. We operate the food bank in conjunction with Fare Share. The Eid Bazar, as well as being an opportunity for members of the local community along with staff and students to celebrate Eid, was organised to contribute funds for the delivery of the food bank over the next year. We are proud to announce that through the support of the local community, the school was able to raise in excess of £1500! A big well done to everyone!

Members of our Parent Shura played a hugely significant role in organising the event and ensuring the evening was a success. Hours of preparation and planning were needed and without their support and endeavour, the school would have struggled to put on such a fantastic event. Our students also played a big role providing tours of the school and selling cakes. Members of the local community, who hadn't had an opportunity to visit the school before, were hugely impressed by the school building and, more importantly, by the



conduct of our students. At Eden, along with aiming for academic excellence, we strive to focus on character development within our students and this was very much in evidence during the event.

We would like to say a massive thank you to the following people for their contribution towards our Eid Bazar:

**Henna Stall:** Mariam Noor, Inaiz Faatima Takolia & Halima Takolia.

**Cupcakes:** Ayesha Takolia & Shehnaz Novsarka.

**Cakes:** Zainab Khalifa.

**The Khans Ltd from Nuneaton:** Mr Khalil Akil Khan.

**Maps Cash & Carry from Leicester:** Mr Yasin Limbada.

**Princes Local from Nuneaton:** Mr Mohammed Kalu.

# Useful Information



## Catering Update

From September 2016, Chartwell's have been providing our catering service. Food is available at morning breaks and at lunch times and is proving very popular with students.

Whilst the company is in the process of sourcing a HMC accredited meat supplier, they are providing vegetarian food and fish. Our parents should be reassured that our Trust Head Office is working with Chartwells to resolve this as quickly as possible. There is, nevertheless, still lots of choice for students. The menu rotates every 3 weeks and there is at least 2 full cooked meal choices each day together with a range of hot 'fast food' items. Examples include Quorn Lasagne, Cauliflower Bake with roast potatoes, Fillet of Fish and Chips and Mexican Vegetable Chilli. The pizza slices are especially popular!

We will be introducing a cashless system after Christmas. This will mean that parents will need to pay in advance for meals and snacks, via Parent Pay as Chartwells will no longer be accepting cash. The benefit of this will be that students won't need to queue as long to get their food. Further details will be sent to parents nearer the time.

## Uniform Donation

Our Parent Shuura has proposed the great idea, that we set up a scheme for outgrown/unwanted school uniform. Has your daughter outgrown her uniform? If so, would you be interested in donating her uniform to the school? If we receive enough interest we can offer this service for parents, who are experiencing financial difficulty, to be able to obtain uniform at a minimal cost. All income received will go to charity. If you are interested in donating unwanted uniform, then please contact Miss Mangera on 02476 220937.

## Dates For Your Diary

### Spring Term 2017

School Re-opens	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 10 Parent's Evening	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January
Half Term Closure	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 8 Parent's Evening	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Safeguarding Parent Workshop	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March - 5.15pm - 6.45pm
Easter Closure	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April

### Summer Term 2017

School Re-opens	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day Closure	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May
Half Term Closure	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Eid ul Fitr 1438*	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 7 Parent's Evening	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 9 Parent's Evening	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July
Summer Closure	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July - Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September

*\*Eid holidays may be revised slightly according to the sighting of the moon.*

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