



Eden Girls' School Coventry Presentation Evening



Our exceptional GCSE results were the centrepiece of the Presentation Evening, held on Friday 14th February 2020. The Class of 2019 achieved a phenomenal Progress 8 score of +1.61, ranking the school third in the national performance league table!

Due to the high level of success and outstanding levels of attendance achieved by all girls, it was not an easy task to select the top performing students. Last year's Year 11 showed such motivation and drive that the evening was awash with recognition.

During the evening, not only did we celebrate the success of our students, but Eden's staff were recognised for their hard work, dedication and commitment. Our staff had given up many an evening, weekend and holiday to ensure students were confident in their own level of understanding. A raft of awards were presented to our staff to recognise this dedication and commitment.

We were honoured to have our evening recognised by three special guests, Mufti Hamid Patel (CEO), Lina Bettayeb and Cllr Ann Lucas OBE. Lina, who due to a horrific accident has been challenged with paralysis,

and Cllr Ann Lucas both spoke about working hard to achieve your goals and never giving up in the face of adversity. Whilst Mufti Hamid reminded the students of the importance to embed our STAR values outside of their school careers.

Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers who took the time to honour our successes, reminding us how blessed we are to work within such a unique community.

"So, undoubtedly, along with the hardship there is ease" Quran - 94:4

As millions around the world are affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, there is a sense of fear and panic amongst many. Fear of not just being affected by the pandemic itself, but also a fear of the longstanding consequences it could leave behind in its trail. However, a true believer will have complete faith in God, knowing full well that God, with his infinite wisdom, only intends good for His servants.

Such afflictions also present mankind with an opportunity to rise up and face the unprecedented challenges they pose. At times like these, our togetherness and community spirit come to the forefront to deal with these challenges. It is for this reason we here at Eden Girls' school have been working harder than ever to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum and the school can function to the best of its abilities through these testing times. Staff have been working tirelessly preparing learning packs and on-line teaching amongst other things to maintain a degree of continuity in the education of our pupils.

While none could have anticipated such a prolonged break, we will ensure that our pupils continue to remain our top priority. Whilst face to face access may be limited, our LCs and HOYs continue to remain available for pastoral care and support. Our dedication and commitment to our pupils remains unwavering as we try to meet their requirements in such challenging times.

As for when school will reopen, we could well see a very different world. The 'normal' that we were all well accustomed to could well be a thing of the past as the world tries to adjust a new 'normal'. In any scenario, our drive remains not only to prepare our pupils for new challenges but to equip them to become leaders of tomorrow.

We firmly believe we will come out stronger once this is over and cherish our opportunities even more. We hope to take this current opportunity to grow closer to our families and loved ones and value every moment with them.

With hope arising that this pandemic is slowing and coming to an end, we look forward to once again welcoming you back to Eden Girls' School and working together to achieve the goals of our pupils.

Ms Bhikhu
Acting Principal

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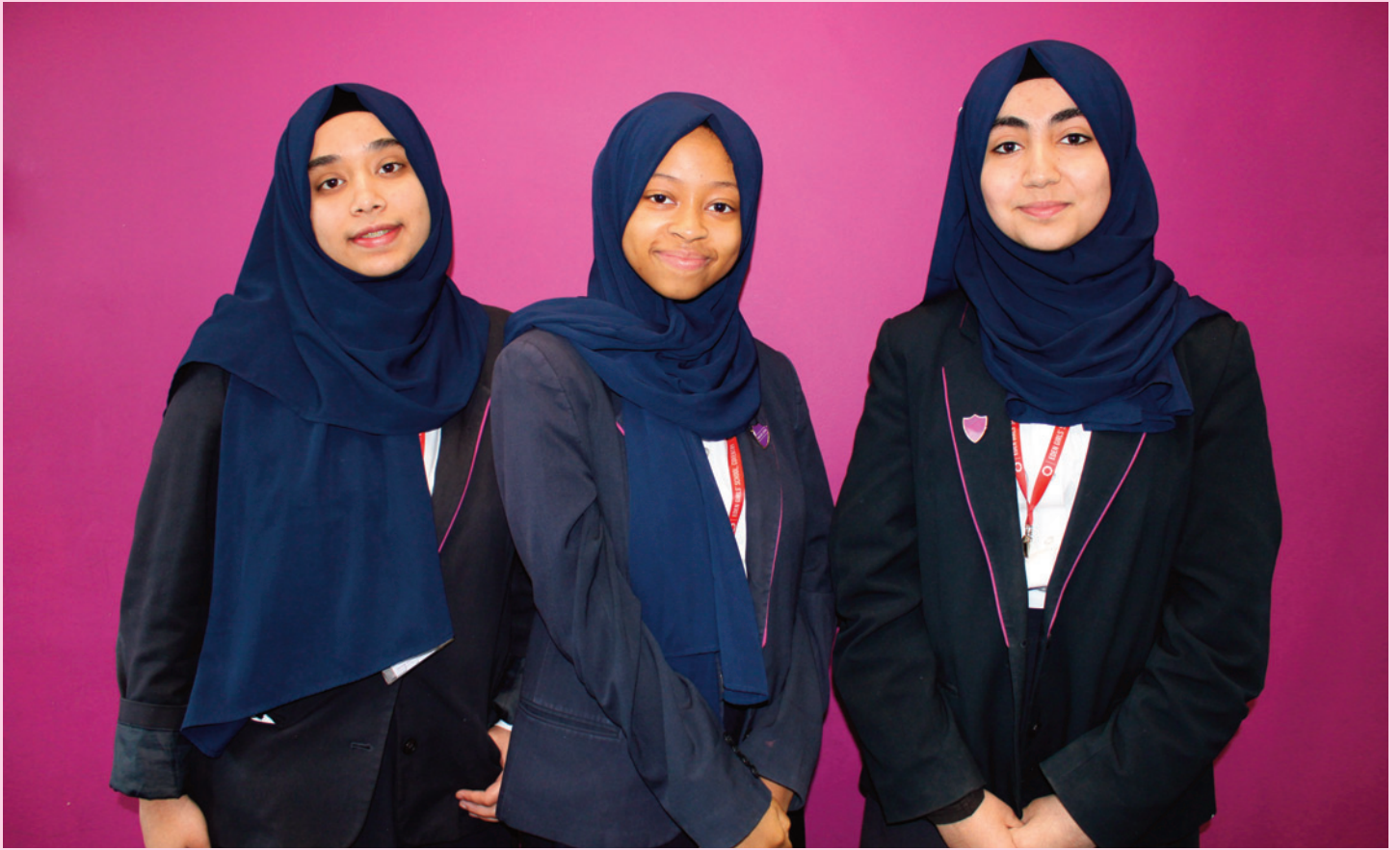
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From the Student Leadership Team



Assalamu'alaykum, I hope everyone is strong, healthy and is doing well during this pandemic we are facing at the moment.

Before I address this situation, I would like to say how well our school has managed in providing us with an education even when we are not physically at school.

"The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim" (Hadeeth – At-Tirmidhi)

Without education still taking place, what knowledge would we gain during such a time. Learning at home has been a very different experience and is making a huge difference as we are continuing with our learning, uploading our work online,

submitting assignments and writing notes together. Our teachers have been very supportive, as every week after learning online, our teachers give us a call and ask if we are alright and how we are coping. Lock down is something no one has experienced before, staying indoors is not something I am used to. I love to go out and spend time with family and friends. Alhamdulillah, we are managing well, with the support of the school and family, we continue to look after each other through such an unprecedented time. Lock down at first was quite worrisome, I have found focusing on my studies and doing extra revision, fill in gaps in my knowledge and doing my own research on things to prepare myself in advance, do the things I haven't had the time to do before and actually get things organised and sorted. We should take advantage of this time and use it to reflect, self-improve and focus on practising our faith; improving as a person and spend extra time studying. We must also remember to take care of our health and the

people around us. The Prophet [PBUH] was an illiterate child, but that did not stop him from receiving knowledge from his Lord. Nor can this pandemic become a barrier to receiving knowledge.

"With hardship, comes ease" (Quran)

Inshallah, when this pandemic is over, we will once again reunite as one, as the Eden Girls' School family and as a community.

Being grateful for what you have is one of the lessons we should learn from this experience. Taking inspiration from Her Majesty's words: *"Together we are tackling this disease,"* she said. *"If we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it, we will be with our friends again, we will be with our families again, we will meet again".*

**Kauthar Abdul, Head Girl,
on behalf of the Student Leadership Team**

Educational Excellence

Attendance Premier League

Academic success reaches its greatest heights when pupils' attendance is outstanding. Therefore, we must ensure that attendance and punctuality are the highest they possibly can be in order to prepare our pupils for their future adult life.

Every half term, we award the winners of our Attendance Premier League with one of our range of Attendance Rewards. The winners for Spring Term 1 were 8JMC, their second success this academic year! Their Head of Year, Mrs Novsarka, was immensely proud:

It is with huge pride I say congratulations to 8JMC who have yet again won the premier league for their outstanding attendance for Spring 1 term. This is the second time they have won this academic year and were treated to a trip to Sprinkles for ice cream sundaes last time around.

As their head of year it does not come as a surprise to myself that they have won again, as I see daily how much of an emphasis their

Learning Coordinator, Mr McCormik puts on attendance and punctuality. This starts upon their entry into school, where he will declare their attendance and lates to the class during line up, myself and any SLT they meet along the way. He has a way of making it a fun competition and it is this constant reminder and emphasis that leaves no student unaware of the expectation and part they play in the form group.

8JMC deserve this win again for their hard work and commitment to each other and their own learning by making sure they are in school every day, regardless of slight illness or medical appointments. I hope to see this continue and look forward to planning their reward as soon as possible.

Well done 8JMC

Mrs Novsarka
Head of Year 8



Mobile Phones

No mobile phones on school site.

These devices can hinder learning, lead to inappropriate behaviours and affect students' health.

Eden Girls' School Coventry policy on no mobile phones on the school site is to encourage our pupils to develop communication skills and improve pupils' self-esteem and mental health by ensuring the develop social skills and are not constantly checking social media.

Evidence from the scientific and education experts suggests that having mobile devices such as mobile phones in schools can hinder learning, lead to inappropriate behaviours and affect students' health.

Impacts on Learning

Distractions that cause problems in the classroom. Rather than focus on learning, students may feel tempted to use their phones to text their friends, use social media apps, watch videos or browse the web. This splitting of attention can cause students to miss out on important information taught in lessons.

One study published by the London School of Economics traced the impact of banning mobile phones at schools on exam scores. Researchers found that students in schools with phone bans earned higher test scores and that low-performing students benefited the most. *"Restricting mobile phone use can reduce educational inequalities,"* concludes the study.

Another study published in the Journal of Communication Education found that students without mobile phones performed better in several different areas. They wrote down 62 percent more information in their notes, were able to recall more detailed information from class and scored a full letter grade-and-a-half higher on a multiple choice test than those who were actively using their mobile phones.

Potential Impacts on Health

Mobile phone usage at school can potentially affect students' mental health due to the impacts on social interaction and the effects of misuse. Cyberbullying can lead to issues such as depression, low self-esteem and physical conditions that affect students' quality of life. Even students who don't face cyberbullying can experience adverse effects when electronic communication takes away from face-to-face communication with peers.

Research published by the University of Chicago found that even if cell phones are turned off, turned face down or put away, their mere presence reduces people's cognitive capacity.

The effect of banning mobile phones from school premises adds up to the equivalent of an extra week's schooling over a pupil's academic year,

according to research by Louis-Philippe Beland and Richard Murphy, published by the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics.

Risks of Inappropriate Use

Devices could be used for bullying, which can cause physical and emotional harm. Bullying can happen across social media platforms, text messages or any messaging platform. This behaviour creates additional disciplinary issues the school needs to handle to keep students safe. The potential for students to send inappropriate or illegal messages is another one of the disadvantages of allowing a phone to be used in class. Students could interact with strangers outside school and become victims of crimes.

Safe use of devices at home

We are aware that mobile devices and the internet have become an integral part of our lives and pupils have access to them at home. To ensure all pupils are using them appropriately and safely parental controls can be used to help you to block or filter upsetting or inappropriate content, and control purchases within apps. You can install parental control software on your child's and family's phones or tablets, games consoles, laptops and your home internet.

Parental controls can help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- manage the content different family members can see

If you have a question or need support and advice about keeping your children safe online, you can talk to the experts from the free O2 & NSPCC helpline: 0808 8005002

Star Readers

Today's Readers, Tomorrow's Leaders

Ladies, it's a universal truth that those who read, read and read, particularly good books achieve not only higher academic success but something greater: a wider outlook on life!

When you read, you are using a part of your brain that helps you to imagine – a part of the brain that some people have never used and some have not used for decades!

Reading is a luxury, a joy a gift to be enjoyed and savoured!

Those who truly understand this are already in a league of their own!

STAR Reader: What's it all about?

Each year group has a list of **25 books** and your mission, is to read at least **10 books** on the reading list during the course of the academic year.

There will be a special **STAR readers Awards Ceremony** organised to recognise pupils' commitment to reading. Pupils will also have the opportunity to organise interactive book clubs, where they will develop their **critical thinking skills** through discussing and analysing their favourite books.

The books selected in each year group will hopefully 'speak' to you an intellectual, emotional and spiritual level and encourage a life-long love of reading.

"These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: You are not alone."

Roald Dahl.

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850: She was the first full-time American female book reviewer in journalism).

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

Dr. Seuss (Children's author, political cartoonist, illustrator, poet & filmmaker).

"In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you."

Mortimer J. Adler (1902-2001: American Philosopher, Educator and Author).

Mrs Ellahi

Director of Learning, English



Faith and Character Development

Making the most of Ramadhan

Many of us approach Ramadhan much like we have approached every Ramadhan in our lifetime previously. We have similar routines, pray the similar amount of Quran and in essence come out of Ramadhan as we have every Ramadhan previously.

Imagine if your best friend came up to you after Ramadhan and asked, *"How was your Ramadhan?"* And the first response that came to your mind was, *"I had the best Ramadhan EVER."* And what would be meant by the statement, is that you accomplished everything you set out to complete during the month. This should be the goal of every Muslim – to maximize their Ramadhan and extract as many blessings from this month as we can.

We can try the following:

— TWO —

Set a target

Goal-setting is something we all do. Whether it be personal resolutions, performance targets for our jobs, or planning a better life for our children. With so much up for grabs during this month by way of good deeds and forgiveness from Allah for our past sins, it is helpful to set an achievable target.

— ONE —

Treat this Ramadhan like it is your last

Try approaching this year's Ramadhan as if it was your last. There is no guarantee that you will see Ramadhan next year, so prepare for this year's Ramadhan accordingly. Think of this Ramadhan as the final time you will be able to fast, pray tarawih in jamaat and complete reading the Qur'an.

— THREE —

Remove distractions

To attain the goals you've set during this blessed month, it will most certainly have to come with sacrifices and trade-offs. An area that we should consider doing away with, are the many distractions we have surrounding us. This includes minimising our viewing of the television, idle conversations with our friends, and usage of social media.

Let us all try and make this the best possible Ramadhan, with the aim of becoming better Muslims and closer to our Lord.

Faith and Character Development

Beautiful Character of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was an inspirational figure whose life and legacy lives on to this day. At Eden Girls' we take inspiration from his life and the manner in which he conducted himself. The students are encouraged to adopt these mannerisms in their daily lives through the Hadeeth of the Week; a collection of 40 Hadeeth's that teach us how to behave like the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The characteristics and habits of our beloved Prophet continue to provide us with inspiration and an aspirational aim. He displayed kindness to all he came across, regardless of their beliefs, background, culture or creed. He treated people in a manner that endeared him to those he met which resulted in people wanting to listen to his inspirational words and eager to follow in his footsteps. He achieved all of this through the sheer strength of his character. The Prophet (PBUH) was renowned for being a good person even before

prophethood. From a young age, he became widely known and respected due to his character. He was even bestowed with two very complimentary titles: As Sadiq and Al Ameen, The Truthful and The Trustworthy. He came to be known by these titles due to his unflinching commitment to truth and honesty. It meant that when he spoke, people knew that he was telling the truth, they also knew they could place their trust in him.

Let us all use the beautiful character of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as an inspiration for our own lives. By aiming to follow in his footsteps, by treating all with kindness and respect, by telling the truth and being honest, we will foster an environment and community that is based upon the highest levels of integrity; a community where we are all treated with respect.

World Book Day 2020

Ann is a local writer and has been published since 1995. She has been writing since her early twenties but was published as an author much later in her life. She has written 38 books and has won some local and national awards for her writing.

She shared with the pupils that she had written seven books before she was published. Each time, each book was rejected but her seventh book drew the attention of the publishers. As an inexperienced writer, rather than making improvements, she would begin a new book.

Of those six rejected books, she returned to them years later, improved them and had three of them published.

Pupils enjoyed her honesty about rejection and failure and were inspired by her persevering spirit.



Holocaust Survivor visits Eden Girls' School

We were privileged to welcome Holocaust survivor Ivan Shaw to the school on Monday 2nd March. Mr Shaw was just five-years-old when the Nazis began deporting Jews from his home town of Novi Sad in the former Yugoslavia. His parents were just two of the many Jews in the area who were told to go to an assembly point where they were transported to Nazi concentration camps.

In their absence, Ivan was cared for by an aunt until his concealment was given away by a neighbour. At just five years old, he was taken away by the Gestapo to a prison cell where he stayed overnight, alone and afraid.

He was taken to a transit camp where he was found by friends and family who helped to care for him. After 10 days, all the inmates were marched to Novi Sad train station to be transported to a further camp.

One of Ivan's aunts, who had been following his movements from outside, used the opportunity to stage a daring rescue where she snatched him from the line. She then bravely took him to her home and managed to conceal him for the remainder of the war.

Ivan later learned the tragic news that both his parents had died in Nazi concentration camps – his father in Buchenwald and his mother in Bergen Belsen just days after liberation.

For Zubair Khalifa, Faith and Character Development Lead at Eden Girls' School, Coventry, it is essential that pupils continue to be taught about the Holocaust.

He said: *"Learning about the Holocaust is vitally important as it demonstrates the dangers of prejudice and discrimination, be it the antisemitism that fuelled the Holocaust or other forms of racism and intolerance. It also allows the pupils to reflect upon modern issues that we are faced with in today's society and to ensure we are all doing everything within our capability to ensure the past does not repeat itself."*



Laser Quest!

To recognise and celebrate the continued efforts of Year 11 students who worked diligently to apply themselves in their lessons, have 100% attendance and excellent punctuality, Miss Mohammed organised an adrenaline filled afternoon of fun at Laser Quest. The Year 11 students were able to de-stress and allow themselves to feel re-energised to hit the books again ready for their exams! This trip was filled with competitive spirit and the students showcased excellent behaviour and camaraderie!



Faith and Character Development

Diamond standard behaviour rewarded with trip to Birmingham Jewellery Quarter

A select group of year 8s recently visited Birmingham's historic jewellery quarter as a reward for outstanding behaviour, attendance and progress.

The packed day started with a visit to the city's new assay office. Here they met staff and students from the 'Birmingham school of jewellery', which is now part of the University of Central England. They found out about courses the school offers as well as career opportunities working with jewellery and luxury goods.

Staff and students at the University later commented how impressed they were by the enthusiasm, politeness and behaviour of the Eden pupils.

A highlight of the morning was a 'Gemstone detectives' workshop. Using state of the art equipment pupils learnt how to study valuable stones and spot if they were genuine or fake.

After a short lunchbreak they then had a guided walk through the quarter, Mr McCormick, never missing an opportunity to do some physical Geography, showed them a glacial erratic rock. They also saw evidence of where the area had been bombed in World War II and the factory that produces the school 'Prefect' badges.

They then visited the Birmingham pen room, a pen factory that has been preserved. Pupils completed a range of activities, these included making their own pen nib with original machinery, calligraphy and having their handwriting analysed by an expert. They also learned about the social history of the 1000's of women who used to work in this industry.



Enrichment List

- Positive youth foundation
- Science club
- Humanitarian club
- HillZ Radio
- Multi sports
- GCSE Urdu
- Nasheed Choir
- Chinese culture club
- British sign language
- Trampoline
- Cooking
- Empower Her
- Fitness
- Football
- Archery
- Badminton
- Creative writing
- Debating Society
- Netball
- Health Champions

Service to Communities

Star Hubs

At Eden Girls', along with our pupils excelling academically, we also aim to foster a love for the communities they come from and to making a difference by giving to those less fortunate than ourselves.

In response to the Coronavirus crisis, staff and pupils at Eden Girls' Coventry joined forces with schools across Star Academies to support the most vulnerable and needy in the local community. We have been doing this by providing emergency food and hygiene packs to local vulnerable families, care homes and homeless shelters. We are thankful to our partners at Fare Share UK and The Hygiene Bank for supporting us with our work by supplying essential food and hygiene items. If you would like to donate towards this cause, then donations can be made at the school. We are taking donations of tinned and non-perishable items, along with basic hygiene essentials such as toothbrush, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, etc.



Ramadhaan Charity Appeal

This Ramadhan the school will be joining Trust schools across the country in raising funds for two vitally important projects

Project 1 – Supporting our Family in the UK (Lillah and Sadqah-e-Nafl)

Through this Ramadhaan Giving Programme, we will support each of the communities around our schools throughout the country. This will provide: 1. Food vouchers and food packs to impoverished families. 2. Sanitiser, wipes and other essentials to families so that they can maintain full hygiene. 3. Protective equipment to our local care homes, GP surgeries and hospitals. 4. Stationery and other educational resources to impoverished families so children can keep learning.

Project 2 – Supporting our Family in Syria (Zakah)

In the midst of the conflict in Syria, refugee families are particularly vulnerable to the Covid-19 pandemic. They lack shelter, food and access to basic medical and hygiene care. They also live in crowded areas and have many underlying health concerns. Through this Ramadhaan Giving Programme, we will fund access to clean water, distribute hygiene kits and support hospitals and healthcare centres across the region.

Any amount can be donated for the above two categories. A letter has been sent to all pupils via text, informing them of the fundraising campaign this Ramadhan. Donations can be made via ParentPay and we will be accepting Lillah (voluntary charity), Sadaqah (voluntary charity) and Zakah (annual compulsory charity for Muslims) donations. Our school target this year is £12000 which roughly equates to around £20 per student, with staff donations too we should be able to surpass this target.

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