



A Royal Visit



Pupils at Eden Girls' School, Coventry were invited to a special celebration of literacy attended by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall.

The event was held at Coventry's Central Library as part of Coventry's year as UK City of Culture. Her Royal Highness had a tour of the library, hearing all about its past as an entertainment venue and how it now engages with all the city's communities to ensure reading is available to all. The Duchess of Cornwall met with Year 10 pupils from Eden Girls' School, Coventry who presented posters they had created on the subject of reading celebrating its impact on young

teenagers. Pupils also discussed their favourite books with The Duchess and told how these books had helped to stimulate their interest in reading.

The Duchess praised pupils' eloquence and passion for literature; the meeting was certainly a memory pupils would cherish forever!

Raksha Ramnarain, English teacher at Eden Girls' School, Coventry said:

"Her Royal Highness was impressed with how well the girls articulated their enthusiasm for reading. We had a conversation about reading culture and how it is of vital importance for young people. The Duchess liked our specially created poster presentations on the subject of reading and our approach to teaching British classics. The girls were a credit to the school and the city of Coventry and were grateful for this unique opportunity which they said they would cherish forever."

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As we come to the end of the term we must acknowledge that the 2020-21 Academic Year has presented unprecedented challenges, and provided unexpected opportunities for growth and development. I am proud to have led the school through these challenging times and can, hand on heart, say that every member of the school staff, and wider community, stepped up to ensure that our children continued to receive the best possible education under these circumstances. The Eden family continued to be at one.

Whilst no one expected to return in September 2020 to our usual curriculum and timetable model, the introduction of 'zoning' the school building and 'staggering' the school day for different year groups, presented a model that made the school day far more efficient and productive, reducing lesson transition times and enabling breaks and lunches to be more effectively managed. This is a lesson that we will be taking with us into 2021-22, with the new timetable continuing the zoning of Year groups. The rigorous cleaning and operational changes introduced enabled the school to maintain the safety and wellbeing of its students and staff through effective identification and isolation of close contacts. Again, this is something that we will take with us into 2021-22, with the school determined to ensure that the spectre of Covid-19 does not significantly impact on our provision. However, Covid-19 also necessitated the need to maintain fulltime, online provision, for those students forced to work from home. This, by default, created a far more flexible approach to teaching and out of hours intervention, allowing staff the ability and mechanism to teach effectively from home, significantly reducing the impact of any staff absence. In line with this, student absence no longer has to mean the missing of work or learning, with all students having the capability to access lessons from home. Again, online provision is something that we intend to maintain, ensuring that no student has to miss learning through absence.

Our students have enjoyed a full curriculum, whether online or on site,

this year, and it is anticipated that there has been little disadvantage caused by the January to March lockdown. Again, I am proud to say that the staff showed adaptability and resilience in their determination to ensure that teaching remained of the highest quality. However, we are not naïve and are fully aware that there will be some residual impact for some students. The school has already adapted its curriculum to ensure that, where required, there is the opportunity for accelerated catch-up through intervention and additional classes. In addition, a summer school programme for Year 10 students is planned to ensure that they are prepared for the demands of Year 11 and their GCSE examinations/assessments.

Staff development and CPD has not stopped, and the school has maintained a comprehensive programme of 'tailored' training for all staff, teaching and support, in order to ensure that the school stays ahead of the curve. This will ensure that our children again continue to receive the highest quality education.

Finally, support for our outgoing Year 11s has been unwavering, and the school has just reached the end of the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) process with all Year 11 students fully engaged with the assessment programme, ensuring that the school is fully able to support and award grades in all subjects that truly reflect the abilities and efforts of all students involved.

We now look forward to the challenges of 2021-22. Our initial priority will be the rapid induction and integration of our new Year 7 cohort. The 120 girls joining us in September will have had very varied experiences of lockdown education from their primary schools. The school is fully prepared for a comprehensive testing and intervention programme to help ensure that all girls joining us are able to excel academically at the school.

We do not shirk our responsibilities and are now preparing for the anticipated challenges. I look forward to your continued support in the coming Academic year.

Anand Patel

Reflections from the Deputy Head Girl



These past four years I have spent at Eden have been years of growth, of development, and of enlightenment - not only academically, but spiritually. It is quite hard to recognise an environment wherein we are blessed in the smallest of details and in the most meticulous of routes by Allah, but upon leaving and reflection, I have come to realise that my journey here has provided me with a path towards a future we can all strive towards insha'allah, alongside the element of safety, security and success. From the education department and the teachers that have taught us with so much commitment and care - lessons that contain both academic knowledge but also worldly knowledge for our lives - to our Heads of Years that have coordinated throughout much of our school days, the Principal and Deputy Principal: all the people that have made Eden not only a school, but the ground of flourishing students, ambitious leaders and visionary mindsets. Our Islamic ethos that is set within the school has helped me so much to keep my faith on track - something that is not only a belief to us, but an identity - some which are the designated prayer times, the surah Fatiha before lessons and the surah Kahf on Fridays.

For everyone, times of stress and hardship are inevitable, but there is always a silver lining in every situation that we must walk towards.

The Quran states:

'Verily with every hardship comes ease' 94:6

Despite these times of difficulty, many of us have persevered through the exams which we have had to trial through, and as students, our minds have been carved with this willpower. Our time spent here in Eden has provided us with the balance of this pressure through roles of many leadership opportunities as I, myself, have had the opportunity of being Deputy Head Girl and helping to amplify the voices of Eden. Many other students too have had opportunities to be prefects, take part in a multitudinous variety of enrichment activities, volunteering, loyal friends made along the way, as well as fun activities and trips throughout the years. In the end, I can wholeheartedly say that my time spent here at Eden Girls' Coventry has indeed not only helped me to grow academically, but mentally and spiritually as a human being too.

Ayman Zaman, Deputy Head Girl

Staffing Updates

The school has been fortunate this year to retain its high calibre teaching and support staff. However, a number of additional appointments have been made and the school is happy to welcome the following members of staff to the team:

Mr L Kolouch

Site Staff

Mrs N Janagal

Teacher of English

Mr A White

Deputy Director of Learning – Mathematics

Mrs H Begum

Tarbiyyah Mentor and Teacher of History

Mr U Tailor

Teacher of English

Mrs L Brka-Caswell

Business Support Officer – Finance

Mrs S Jamal

Head of Year

Mrs S Imran

Teacher of PE and Sports Studies

In addition, the following internal promotions have been made:

Mr Z Khalifa

Assistant Principal, Pastoral

Mrs H Khalifa

HoY and Faith and Character Education Lead

The school is also sad to see the following members of staff leave for new challenges:

Mrs E Hatt

Business Support Officer Finance, promoted to Business Manager Olive, Birmingham

Mrs D Al-Tamimi

Teacher of English, moving to Small Heath Leadership Academy, Birmingham

Director of Learning – Mathematics, moving to Eden Boys, Birmingham East

Miss Jade Collins

Student Support Assistant, continuing professional studies

Mr D Cripps

IT Technician, moving to Hall Green School

We wish departing staff every success.

Every dark cloud has a silver lining

This academic year has been a real rollercoaster of emotions. I do not think that any of us could have anticipated just how challenging working in education amidst a global pandemic could be. However, as a school community we have done just that! If anything, it has proven that Dweck's "growth mindsets" exist—pupils and teachers hold endless potential to grow, achieve and succeed despite the circumstances.

In the science department, the challenges we faced continuously fuelled our growth. I am genuinely blown away with the work ethic of the teachers I am so privileged to call my colleagues. From identifying effective online-teaching strategies to figuring out socially distanced assertive-monitoring techniques, we have innovatively worked as a team and supported each other to maintain high expectations for ourselves and our pupils to ensure the quality of education is not compromised and that no child is left behind.

EGC is a community. The challenges the pandemic has presented have shone light on this time and time again. The heart of the school community- the HOYS, Teaching assistants and site staff have worked endlessly to ensure students are safe in every way possible. Not to mention, the sailors of our ship- the SLT who have remained a pillar of strength for everyone in the school through these unprecedented times. They have led with strength, purpose and kindness.

Lastly and most importantly, it fills me with honour and pride when I see how our pupils at Eden have innovated, tried, and attained more than they probably ever thought was possible for them. They have persevered through the toughest challenge and exhibited their immense resilience as learner

I hope that they remember this the next time they claim that they "can't do it" in the classroom.

Rabeeah Qaisar, Teacher of Science

I have worked in three different schools post qualifying as a science teacher prior to Eden Girls' School, and the first thing that stood out to me was the calm and positive atmosphere. Staff are always polite and greeting each other with a smile, students are respectful towards staff and understand the attitude and behaviour standards expected of them. The school is very diverse in various aspects, and every effort is made by staff to cater for inclusion. Teachers have high expectations of students' behaviour and etiquette during lessons, driven by the ethos of the school, which enables a safe and stimulating environment to learn in.

Working alongside an extremely talented team of teachers who are committed to all students, and not just the ones they teach, has been inspiring and motivating. I have developed a new sense of wanting to learn and work on different ways to raise attainment of students, innovative ways of making learning accessible as well as challenging these learners. Since joining the science team, I have clearly seen the impact teachers have had and it is truly remarkable. Every day I am motivated not just by teachers around me who keep the momentum of high standards of teaching and learning going, but by students who want to learn. Students who attentively sit in class listening to every word, some making notes as you are speaking on their own accord, and students who want to excel in their education. I absolutely love teaching the girls at EGC because they are resilient learners; as a teacher I am able to deliver lessons in challenging ways where students whole-heartedly accept it and work hard to succeed. It gives me a strong sense of purpose and high morale every morning when arriving at school; I absolutely love it and thrive on it.

There have been several opportunities where I have seen students in a different light, which has been such an eye-opening and wonderful experience. On Year 9 Enterprise Day, I watched students excitedly planning and working together to transform a product, and deliver presentations extremely confidently. Year 10 students had the opportunity to develop their public speaking skills and practice writing speeches on a topic they are passionate about. These opportunities allowed students to feel empowered to express their thoughts, opinions and creativity, as well as develop as well-rounded individuals. I felt so delighted and proud to be part of a school which enriches young women with academic and non-academic skills and knowledge to face real life situations once they leave the secondary education system.

I feel extremely proud to be working for an outstanding school and being part of a remarkable and caring community. It goes without saying that my teaching experience so far has surpassed my expectations since my first day and has been very positive.

Suha Saad-Rehman, Teacher of Science

Star Innovators Challenge

The annual Star Innovator Challenge was launched this term. Our world and its wildlife are amazing and beautiful, but they are slowly being damaged by the impact of humans.



Many of our wonderful species of plants and animals are in danger of becoming extinct due to significant and widespread changes to their ecosystems because of human life. The challenge was 'to help make this world a better place for everyone and everything!'. Students were set a task of coming up with a plan and create an innovative, futuristic model of a human biome or ecotown. The ladies here at Eden Girls stepped up to the challenge and got stuck in with ways to help the community and preserving our ecosystem. The Science faculty decided upon the finalists and awarded them with a prize for being selected to represent our school for the trust-wide competition.

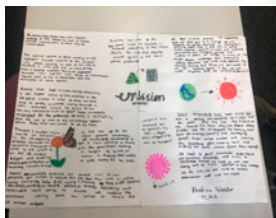
Well done to our KS3 finalists

Khadiza Talukdar 7LMO,

Nada A Milady 7OAK, and our KS4 finalists, Loven Sadullah 9JMN

and Takwa Shanab 9JMC. Below are pictures of their entries.

Nationally out of all the Star School, Nada A Milady won second place for the KS3 category. Well done, Nada! Your presentation was outstanding and a beneficial way of recycling and reusing our disposable masks.



Summer School

Due to the disruption caused by COVID-19 to all schools, including Primary Schools in the local area, it was deemed vital that Eden Girls' provided an opportunity for our new Year 7 cohort, for September 2021, to come and visit the school, meet staff and, most importantly, get to know one another.

It is important that students settle in quickly in September to make the most of the 'catch up' opportunities offered. The Summer School will give students the best possible opportunity to achieve academic and personal success at Eden Girls' in Year 7 as well as developing the confidence to embrace all the challenges associated with Secondary Education.

The Summer School is not just about academic success, or settling in. The range of activities planned will help students develop confidence and be creative. It will give our staff the opportunity to get to know your child outside of the classroom and help to develop important student/teacher relationships.

It is set to be a fantastic week, with creativity, personality and enjoyment at the forefront of activities.

Monday (9.00 - 3.30)	Tuesday (9.00 - 3.30)	Wednesday (9.00 - 3.30)	Thursday (9.00 - 3.30)	Friday (9.00 - 1.30)
Team Building Kickboxing Social Action Project Science Experiments Drama	Wellbeing Drama English Programming Art	Science Experiments PE Drama Art Maths	PE Social Action Project Humanities Drama/Art Languages	Rehearsals Performance to parents Bake Sale

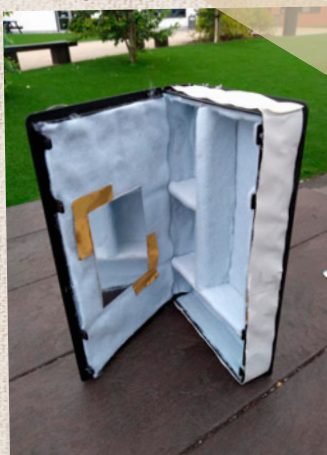
Faith and Character Development

Year 9 Enterprise Day

On Monday 14th June, Year 9 spent the day learning about what it means to be enterprising, and how simple ideas can be award-winning and revolutionary. Enterprise meaning 'having or showing initiative and resourcefulness.' The girls were tasked with repurposing old VCR boxes and turning them into something unique, useable and ultimately saleable.

The challenge was judged by Mr M Holcombe who is the CEO of The Birmingham Settlement Charity who stated 'I get given thousands of these things and I cannot do anything with them. It is pointless putting them for sale in my shops. People think they are helping the charity, but they just clog up the space in the warehouse.'

Year 9 astounded all staff and Martin, with their overwhelming creativity, design thoughts, business plans and productivity. There were some fantastic prototypes created, some of which can be found below.



The Judges said

'We chose this as the winner as it showed real ingenuity. We thought it was a great idea. There are great opportunities to customise. We thought that they could be given a 'retro' look.'


Suggestion:

'Item could be given an 80's retro feel by using pictures from the film covers as well. This would further improve the green/recycling credentials.'

Well done to all students, it was a brilliant day and you worked very hard. Congratulations to the winning team!

Challenge Brief

- In the 1980s and 1990s 'VCR' Video cassettes were very popular.
- The tapes can be recycled as they have valuable materials in them.
- However, the boxes currently have no alternative uses.
- Also being made from a sturdy plastic they are very difficult and uneconomic to recycle.
- This means there are probably millions of these currently 'worthless' boxes sat around in cupboards and storage and filling landfills around the country.
- As they are worthless any value you can add will be profit!



Your challenge is to take an empty VCR box and develop a product that would be desirable. As well as making a 'prototype' we would like to see business plans, advertising and evidence of the process you went through to get to your finished product.

Remember: Those who are creative, innovative and have a 'can-do' attitude have most chance of succeeding!



Coventry to Tokyo Challenge

The Tokyo Olympics 2020 was postponed due to the ongoing pandemic. They are due to now take place a year later in Summer 2021. To celebrate this the students, staff, friends and families of Eden Girls' were challenged to travel the 9522km required to get to Tokyo before the Opening Ceremony on 23rd July 2021. This could have been walking, running, cycling, using a wheelchair etc.

David Moorcroft OBE, Olympian, has a close connection with Eden Girls' Coventry, and is attending Tokyo 2021 as a broadcaster. He agreed that if we met the challenge, he would take the Eden Girls' logo to Tokyo, with him, a true honour!

The challenge was embraced by staff, students and families alike and I am pleased to report that we made it to Tokyo with plenty of time to spare. In total the school travelled a staggering 16,000km with more still being added. **Well done to all involved.**



Student Leadership

Student leadership is a vital part of Eden Girls' culture, and the designated leadership team are a staple of the school environment, and they lead positive change.

The role of a School Pupil Leader is not limited to one thing, it includes: assisting teaching staff, supervising during lunchtime, corridors and line up, organizing activities and maintaining order in the school. Pupil leaders are mainly chosen based on their leadership skills. The following leadership roles are available in school:

- **Head Girl**
- **Deputy Head Girl**
- **Games Captain**
- **Charities Prefect**
- **Library Prefect**

Alongside this, students were also given the opportunity to become Sports and Academic (English, Maths, Science) leaders.

Recruitment for these posts has taken place in several rounds.

1. Students were invited to apply for their chosen roles, using an online form. We received many applications for all posts.
2. Based upon the application forms received, heads of years, the Senior Leadership Team and myself shortlisted the candidates and those successful were invited to interview.
3. The interviews took place over the space of 2 weeks and all staff involved were incredibly impressed by the calibre of students who interviewed, it made the decisions very difficult.
4. Students were chosen based upon all evidence from interview, application and school data.

I am pleased to announce the student leadership team for 2021/22 are below:

Head Girl

Inaya Hussain

Deputy Head Girls

Saamiya Saleh and Amani Suleiman

Games Captain

Yousra Belgacem Lakoues

Prefect

Year 7 - *Zinia Haque, Sophia Deen, Hirah Nazar*

Year 8 - *Zoha Bukhari, Tasmia Golam*

Year 9 - *Raz Nouzad, Safiyyah Hassan*

Year 10 - *Hawwa Hussain, Samira Miah*

Library Prefect

Year 7 - *Aleena Naeem, Hirah Nazar*

Year 9 - *Doaa Idris, Saliha Farouq*

Year 10 - *Hawwa Hussain, Anzal Gelle*

Charities Prefect

Year 7 - *Zinia Haque*

Year 8 - *Ayeshah Bakali*

Year 9 - *Fahmida Begum*

Well done to all those who applied and interviewed. Please keep watch for additional opportunities.

Mrs Amos Wilkins

Speakers Trust Day

Year 10 spent an engaging and entertaining day completing 'Picture Yourself' workshops with speakers provided by the 'Speakers Trust'.

After analysing a portrait of Queen Elizabeth, they considered what they would choose to represent themselves to others before developing their own speech about themselves. The whole day was designed to improve pupil's confidence and public speaking skills. Facilitators commented on how impressed they were with

how much they saw these attributes improve within just one day. They also commented on just how friendly and welcoming they found all Eden pupils to be.

The best speeches have been recorded and entered into a national competition, with a final in London later on in the year.

Mr McCormick

Faith and Character Education



Remembering Srebrenica

4th – 11th July was Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week; this week marks the memorial of the killing and genocide of 1000's of, mainly Muslim, men and boys in Srebrenica in 1995.

4th – 11th July was Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week; this week marks the memorial of the killing and genocide of 1000's of, mainly Muslim, men and boys in Srebrenica in 1995. As a school, we marked this week with a number of activities. All pupils had a lesson on the topic, where they learnt about the events that led to such a dreadful loss of life. Pupils also created a display, focussed upon messages of peace and hope, using the white flower of Srebrenica. A special assembly was also held, during which pupils and staff listened to the stories of two survivors and their accounts of the terrible events in Srebrenica. Along with this, Eden Girls' Coventry, also had the privilege of

representing Star Academies at the national Srebrenica memorial event, which was held virtually this year. Moulana Zubair, our Faith and Character Education Lead, delivered the opening prayer for the event, and Ayman Zaman, Year 11 pupil, delivered a heart-moving speech.



Africa Day



On Wednesday 25th May, the school community came together to celebrate Africa Day!

Pupils and staff took part in a range of activities to recognise the amazing diversity and richness of culture in Africa. We have many pupils whose families originate from Africa, the flags of each of these nations were proudly displayed in the school. Pupils took part in an engaging quiz, where they learnt about some very obscure facts

about the great continent of Africa! Pupils and staff also dressed up for the day in beautiful African dress and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic African cuisine that was on offer at lunchtime.

All in all, a fantastic day of cultural celebration!



Service to Communities

Serving Our Star Community

During these unprecedented times, supporting vulnerable and needy individuals in our community has been of vital importance to us as a school. With Service being a key priority for us as a school, the current crisis called for us to do what we can to support and serve those in need.

As a Star Family Hub, the school has played a pivotal role in supporting local vulnerable families and homeless shelters during the current crisis. We have also continued to support national, as well as international charitable projects. Once again, we have raised over **£10,000** across the academic year for a range of charitable causes. We pray the Almighty accepts the efforts and donations of all who contributed, ameen.



Ramadhaan Charity Appeal

Eden Girls' School, along with all faith schools across Star Academies, once again focussed on charity during the blessed month of Ramadhaan. Pupils and staff appealed to family and friends and collectively raised an impressive **£6000**.

All donations received will go towards supporting families in Syria by funding hospitals and healthcare centres serving Syrian children, as well as providing access to clean water and hygiene kits for Syrian families.

Gaza Appeal

The terrible situation in Gaza left our school community devastated, as we watched the awful human tragedy unfolding before our eyes. As a school community we prayed for all who had been affected, for the families torn apart and the innocent children caught up in the midst of the carnage.

Along with all schools across Star Academies, we once again launched a fundraising appeal with the specific aim of supporting families and children in Gaza. Through our Shine Charity, we are liaising with the UNWRA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) to support their work in Gaza.

Useful Information

Attendance advice

As a parent, you set the standards and expectations for your child. Good attendance and punctuality are life skills which are passed from parents to children and affect their employability and future prospects. Good attendance in schools help pupils learn better, sustain friendships and enjoy school life.

At Eden Girls' School Coventry, we want all of our pupils to have a positive experience of school life and to reach their potential. One way in which parents can help their children do this is to ensure that they attend school every day.

- Our minimum expectation is **97% attendance**
- If your child is **very** ill, please don't send them
- If they have a 'minor ailment' please send them in
- **We do not approve any holidays taken in school time**
- Please contact the school straight away to let us know if your child is absent
- If there are ongoing medical problems, **please keep us informed.**

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days

Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	45 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	95 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	145 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	190 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	240 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	285 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	335 Lessons

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2021

School Re-opens	Wednesday 1st September 2021
Half-Term Closure	Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October 2021
Staff Inset Day	Friday 26th November 2021
Christmas Holiday	Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January 2022

