



Reaching the Summit

On Friday, 21st October 2022, 72 girls from Year 11, plus six staff left Coventry for Snowdonia. We left at 4.30am to beat the rush hour traffic and we arrived in damp, misty Llanberis at 8.50am.

We were warmly greeted by the mountain guides arranged by Raw Adventures to lead us up the mountain. However, almost immediately we were treated to rainfall and wind, but the girls persevered valiantly and slowly but surely wound their way up the Llanberis Path.

Naturally, the group began to split into groups: those determined to get to the top; those who were willing to tackle the challenge, and those who were happy to spend a few hours on the mountain slopes no matter how high up they went.

In the end, 44 girls (approximately 2/3 of the entire group) made it to the summit: 1085 meters! The highest point of all England and Wales! And they were treated to captivating views of more clouds and rain!

The remaining girls made a courageous effort to reach halfway and then they happily descended enjoying the views as the clouds parted to reveal the glories of North Wales. Those who returned early to the village of Llanberis were treated to a visit around the Slate Museum and we learned of the noble slate quarrying tradition of Snowdonia - how whole mountains were carved up to provide roofing for the world!

At 6pm, with everyone sat back in the warmth of the coach, we waved goodbye to our guides and began the long trek back to Coventry. A few slept, but most were still excited and were still 'buzzing' from what for many was the toughest experience of their life. And whether the girls reached the top or not, they all climbed a massive 'inner mountain' as they discovered hidden strengths and reserves of courage and determination.

The views will still be there for all the girls should they decide to return to Snowdon, hopefully with family and friends.

All the mountaineers should hold their heads high for, not only did they all achieve individual success, but they left a powerful impression on all our guides who praised them for the positivity and resilience. Well done, and bravo, Eden Snowdon Girls!

A huge thank you is needed to all the Year 11 students and the Eden staff team who made the day possible: Millie Hickinbotham, Saajida Imran, Saira Zobair, Umar Tailor and Zara Ahmed.

Muhammad Imran



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From the Principal



"Read, in the name of thy Lord who created man from a clot. Read, for your Lord is most generous, who teaches by means of the pen, teaches man what they know not." (AL-'ALAQ: 1-5)

It was my privilege to take the role of Principal at Eden Girls' School Coventry in September, and I am thoroughly enjoying my first term in this wonderful and unique educational establishment. Like a Star, the students and staff come together to form something impressive and fascinating from every angle. We are proud to bring you this edition of our Extra Mile Newsletter, showcasing the myriad of adventures and endeavours that have taken place over the past term.

At Eden Girls' School Coventry, we understand that every moment matters whether it is stepping out on stage to perform your first public speech, learning to solve an equation in maths, or building life-long memories while climbing Mount Snowdon. These are the moments that matter: the moments that build character, the moments that you never forget. They are the moments that give you the confidence and self-belief to push yourself harder, to reach that bit higher, to go the extra mile.

We are so proud of every one of our students at Eden Girls' School Coventry. Particular mention must be given to our 2022 cohort of Year 11 students who achieved excellent results in their GCSE examinations this summer. Our EBACC entry was 80%, with an impressive 86% of our students gaining a grade 9-5 in English and Maths. This resulted in an inspiring progress 8 score of 1.22. A particularly extraordinary achievement given that they have been through multiple lockdowns and periods of remote learning. This was also the first year of public examinations since 2019. Our students have shown great resilience and determination in the face of adversity, and we are very proud of their results. We also acknowledge the tremendous support of our dedicated teaching staff and our students' families who supported our students every day.

Eden Girls' School Coventry's Enrichment Programme has been evolving too over the past year, with different year groups working together on creative, charitable, academic, and environmental activities. It is fantastic to recognise just how much our school grounds offer the students beyond the curriculum. offering rich new experiences and the development of a broader range of skills. Indeed, employers look beyond raw grades to find the best applicants when they are recruiting; they want individuals who can problem solve, think creatively and interact confidently. An Eden Girls' School Coventry education enables students to develop all these skills and more, and they will go on to enjoy bright and successful futures.

Our Alumnae testify to this when they return to speak at careers events, and to celebrate with us at our annual GCSE Awards Event. The same sentiment is echoed by all - that an Eden Girls' School Coventry education is one that holistically prepares you for whichever path you choose to take in life.

So, please enjoy this collection of Eden Girls' School Coventry moments. I am confident that you will get a strong sense of the work we do within our community and what makes it the inspiring and empowering experience we all cherish.

Shazia Akram

Reflections from our Student Leadership Team

During this half term, there have been many commendable achievements from each house and every student. The dedication and perseverance shown from the staff and students alike has been extremely inspiring. We speak on behalf of heads of houses when we say the effort shown has been an incredible strength: each day we, as a school, have worked to showcase the four STAR values.

Firstly, we started off the half term with a Year 6 Open Evening displaying our wonderful curriculum and the facilities of EGSC. We had a lively Cake Sale in which the proceeds were given to the charity Zoe's Place, and 'Name the Teddy' was an eventful experience for those involved. As the term progressed, Spirituality Day was an exciting prospect for the students. Learning about previous Muslim soldiers and connecting spiritually with our faith expanded students' knowledge and further improved our mind. Additionally, the Salawaat challenge boosted our determination to improve ourselves and come together as a school and community to strengthen our faith together.

The role of the Head Girl team is to empower others and give unheard issues a new light. The responsibility is undeniably huge but, with great ambition and perseverance, this role is such a privilege, pushing the student leadership team to make EGSC a memorable place for all staff and students. Every student that achieves both big and small accomplishments should be applauded for their own excellence.

The range of different achievements and events achieved this term really are the epitome of what we hope to continue through the rest of the year. As a school, we hope to show recognition of all achievements and to celebrate the successes in our school. Success, we truly believe, will only continue to grow every half term: it is inspiring to see how well unit through competitions and events to really show the unity between us.

We hope that, through this newsletter, you will join us in recognising our successes this autumn. After reflecting on what has occurred this term, we can't wait to see what 2023 brings!

Saliha Farooq (Head Girl) and **Amna Jawfer** (Deputy Head Girl)



ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition

Eden Girls' Coventry had the privilege of having two teams of students participate in the heats of the ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition, one of the most prestigious competitions in the country.

Our teams, including our head girl, Saliha Farooq, and representatives from our Student Leadership team, debated about the urgency of recycling to protect our environment and about the disastrous impact of fast fashion on people and the environment.

Our students spoke passionately, delivering an eloquent speech. Students have been immensely grateful for this opportunity, and they have conveyed how this opportunity has helped them with developing confidence whilst facing an audience. This was EGSC's first entry to the competition and we look forward to continuing this journey next academic year.

Raksha Ramnarain

Keeping up with the Tudors

On Tuesday 22nd November, 50 Year 11 students visited St Mary's Guildhall in Coventry.

The students were involved in examining primary sources. They were particularly impressed with the tapestry and asked many questions about what it represented. The students were able to take part in a live demonstration of medieval ingredients used in the kitchen, and where these items came from during the Elizabethan era.

Our GCSE historians examined sources on whether Mary Queen of Scots was held as a prisoner in Coventry and most of the students agreed they did not think this was the case. Also, to lighten the mood, the students played a game called 'Keeping Up with the Tudors'. This was a fun interactive way of learning about the complexities of Tudor relationships. The Guildhall staff were very complimentary about how the students conducted themselves whilst getting involved in the workshops by asking perceptive questions.

Sabrina Sangha



Phenomenal Phonics for Year 7

We are delighted to now be able to offer Phenomenal Phonics, a DfE approved programme.

Several of our Year 7 students are on a journey to bridge any gaps in phonetical knowledge and assist our students in becoming articulate speakers, prolific writers and excellent readers. As per the national curriculum, we are ensuring that we unlock the reader in every child through a robust phonics and literacy programme.

Douaa, in Year 7 says: 'I feel confident in the way I speak as I am learning to pronounce words properly and understand English better.'

Raksha Ramnarain



Sparx Success

We are delighted to let you know that students will be completing their maths homework through Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework.

We know that parents and carers want to support their child's maths progress, so we've put together this article to explain how Sparx works, including why it is important to make sure that maths homework is 100% completed.

How does Sparx homework work?

Sparx personalises each child's homework, creating a weekly set of questions tailored to their level of understanding and learning pace. The questions are designed to be achievable whilst offering the stretch that learners need to make progress.

Each week, topics are set by your child's maths teacher and will make up most of the homework questions. Questions from previous topics will also be included in the homework so that students can keep practising the skills they have learned.

How can I help my child with their homework?

We appreciate that you will want to support your child with their home learning, but please try not to help them with a question until they've had a go first! It is important that they complete their homework independently, and that questions are marked as correct. Students can watch the support video if they need to. This way, Sparx can make sure your child continues to see homework that's at the right level for them.

Why does my child need to achieve 100% compulsory homework completion?

Sparx Homework is deliberately designed to help students really get to grips with and understand the concepts and skills they are learning. The software ensures they cover the essential building blocks needed to make progress in maths. Sparx' research (sparx.co.uk/evidence) has shown that an average of 60 minutes a week of this type of personalised maths home learning leads to clear progress. It is, therefore, advised that students complete their homework as early as possible, so they have the time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher if needed. Homework is not marked as complete until all the compulsory questions have been answered correctly, so starting early is key to finishing before hand-in time.

You can keep track of your child's homework completion in the weekly email you will receive from Sparx. We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in helping your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths to grow.

Andrew White

Read to Succeed

From having the ability to travel to the farthest of lands to being able to live in the past, present, and future simultaneously. From expanding your knowledge on a particular subject to recreating history. Reading can provide all of this and more!

Reading is at the forefront of our teaching practice here at EGSC. We believe that - with the right approach – all of our students can be successful in reading, and we can ensure that all child leaves school reading to the best of their ability. A student’s GCSE results – combined with their literacy skills – are vital in giving them the choices they deserve to go on to the next stage of their academic careers. Making whole-school literacy have real classroom impact is incredibly important. We do this by combining three elements: staff development; student involvement; and enlisting parents.

So, how does this actually look in practice?

Star Read Aloud

We have successfully launched the Star Read Aloud programme, which involved entire year groups reading an allocated Star book for the entire half term. The goal is to read six Star Reader books through as a collective form. Form tutors read to their form in the morning which ensures that students start the day with a host of benefits: Carl Sagan said that one of the greatest gifts adults can give to their society is to read to children.

Star Readers Challenge

Our Star Readers Challenge is an annual school-based challenge designed to encourage students to read the recommended books set out in the Star Readers Secondary Edition. To complete the Star Readers Challenge, students must read at least ten books from their year group book list. All students who complete the Challenge will be awarded a prestigious Star Readers Challenge certificate.



Reading Wise

The school-wide use of Reading Wise has also been integral in helping establish a reading culture. It is used as a homework platform, for pre-teaching and for increasing fluency through the phonics zip module as well as the decoding module. The comprehension module has been implemented as an intervention tool to improve pupil understanding of text to allow them to access the curriculum.

Word of the Week

We have recently launched a Word of the Week initiative. The low frequency vocabulary is linked directly to the corresponding Hadeeth of the Week, embracing the Islamic values and ethos of the school whilst also ensuring there is a sense of familiarity for the pupil. The root and etymology of the words are displayed to spark an interest in independent research and study of language.

NGRT Reading Tests

At the start of the year, all students took the NGRT test to assess their reading age. Since this baseline assessment, the reading ages of students has sharply increased thanks to the measures put in place by the school over the past term. The entrenchment of a vibrant culture of reading at EGSC will undoubtedly prove to be an integral part of the development of our students! Students will be assessed again in the Spring Term and we expect to see even more progress!

Umar Tailor



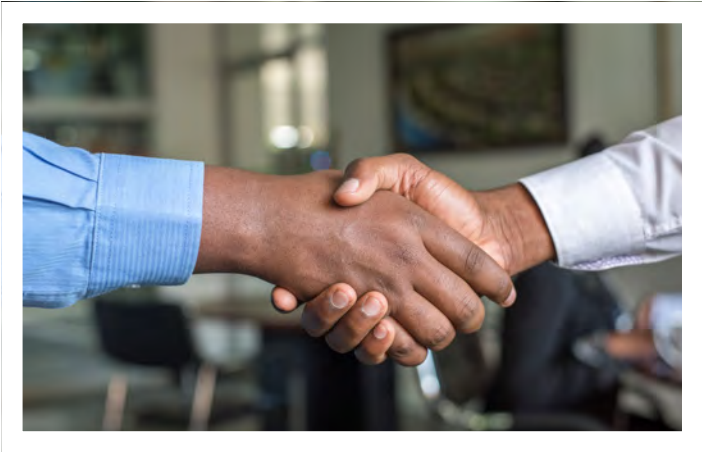
Mock Interviews

Our Year 11s ended their mock exam fortnight with a morning of mock interviews on Friday, 9th December.

There were a lot of nerves in the morning, but the students looked so impressive in their formal clothing: from business wear to more traditional dress. Students were worried about talking to professionals from the outside world and all nervously revising answers to possible questions prior to entering the reflection hall.

Students were matched with employers from around the community based on their CVs. Although nervous upon entering their interview, the students left with a real buzz about them: confidence levels were high, and our interviewers were highly impressed with the level of maturity and enthusiasm of these budding post-16 students.

Amy Novsarka



Power of Poetry

Following our visit from Coventry’s Young Poetry Laureate, Hawwa Hussain for World Poetry Day, our Year 7 students wrote poems based on the theme of the environment and the global climate crisis.

Topics included recycling, melting ice caps, and deforestation. Our Year 7s were also able to make classical connections with Demeter to emphasise the idea of Mother Earth.

The Year 7’s poems were so fantastic that we had a plethora of winners: 12 winners from Service, 17 winners from Teamwork, 13 winners from Ambition, and 15 winners from Respect.

Nisha Janagal



Educational Excellence

The Globe

To celebrate students' love of Shakespeare, the English department has forged a relationship with The Globe.

This enables students to engage with realistic theatrical productions of canonical plays- just as Elizabethans and Jacobean would experience them. This has enabled students to make clear links between learning the text on the page, in the classroom, and to then engage with the vivid details of the staging and production of Much Ado About Nothing, Macbeth and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Sheridan Johnson



Let's Celebrate!

With a progress 8 score of 1.22, it was time to celebrate with our Class of 2022 leavers, our former Year 11s! Invited back to honour their successes and achievements, last year's GCSE students were joined by staff, governors, honoured guests, plus keynote addresses from Sir Mufti Hamid Patel MBE and Zara Mohammed.

Held at the Royal Court, Coventry, the night was an absolute joy and solidifies itself as one of the highlights in our school calendar.

Amy Novsarka

The presentation evening was such a lovely night. It was a great opportunity for us students to catch up with one another and talk to teachers we didn't realise we would miss so much! The speeches from Mufti Hamid, Zara Mohammed, and our fellow student and Young Poet Laureate, Hawwa Hussain, were incredibly inspirational and left us all with a feeling of determination to achieve whatever we want.

Maariya Sheikh

The Year 11 celebration evening was nothing short of amazing. It felt so good seeing some of the younger years helping out as well. It was an enjoyable day for both my parents and I. Just the whole celebration aspect of it all was something I'm so grateful for: to know the school didn't just forget about us so fast was very heart-warming to see! Even if the end of Year 11 wasn't that long ago, it was genuinely great to see everyone who went off to other 6th forms and colleges collectively come back together and represent Eden's 2022 Year 11 class.

Salma Omer

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the presentation evening in November. It was truly wonderful to see all my teachers again, after not seeing them for a while. Although we had pretty much settled into sixth form, it was very comforting to be back with our friends and teachers from Eden, as they'll always have a special place in our hearts. The speakers, Mufti Hamid and Zara Mohammed, were so inspirational and made us realise that we can achieve whatever we want to and overcome any difficulties we may face, as long as we put the effort in and believe in ourselves.

I had the honour of giving some reflections on our time at Eden, and it reminded me of how blessed we were to have been part of such an amazing school and family, which I was so grateful for having the opportunity to see again. A lot of time and effort had been put into planning this event, which was very evident, and much appreciated by all the students.

Hawwa Hussain



Educational Excellence

Bletchley Park

The Year 10 computer scientists had a wonderful trip to Bletchley Park this Autumn where they discovered the secrets that helped Britain to win the Second World War. The girls were fascinated when they learnt that everyone who worked there had to keep the secret of Bletchley Park and that not even their families knew of the vital role they played in helping Britain succeed.

We were astonished at the impossible task that the Bletchley Codebreakers faced as each coded message received through the Enigma Machine was cracked. Many historians believe Bletchley Park was the single most important resource in fighting for the allied powers during WWII.

During our interactive workshop, we explored the past and the future of encryption: students were able to discover quantum computing. The students had so much fun not only deciphering the puzzles, but in creating their own codes for others to try and break.

Irfaan Khares



"Our trip to Bletchley Park was an especially inspiring and eye-opening experience in which we learnt the history of technology and code breaking. One of the most important contributions to history was the enigma machine which the computer scientists, working at Bletchley Park at that time, used to crack German ciphers (consequently saving millions of lives on Doomsday and ensuring the freedom that we have today). We were amazed by the fact that computers were a key player in the victory of World War Two. This made us explore further careers involving computer science and view it as an option to pursue in the future. We enjoyed venturing through the estate and admiring the beautiful infrastructure."

Imaan Shahzad and Amira Hassan

Character Development

The Climb to Success

My Duke of Edinburgh journey has been such a great opportunity to discover and learn so many new things!

When I first applied, I didn't appreciate the level of consistency I'd have to put in due to the three key elements: volunteering (6 months), skills (3 months) and physical (12 months). However, by prioritising, being organised, and putting in 100% effort, I have, alhamdulillah, almost finished the entire course! Completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award doesn't just mean that you camp and must know how to put up a tent or walk for hours on end; instead, it means you have to develop and grow patience, resilience and the ability to communicate within a team, being compassionate and emotionally intelligent to those around you even if you become tired or annoyed.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is such a great opportunity to learn independence by being able to meet personal goals and having a chance to make new friends; also, by being able to explore your surroundings and learning new life skills such as map reading or knowing how to use a compass. The practise and qualifying expeditions (which both took place for three days and two nights) were a challenge because, after walking for up to 6-10 hours in one day, it became quite tiring! However, learning how to build a tent, knowing what essentials are needed when camping, and being able to see the beautiful views, these are all experiences I am very grateful to have had.

Having this opportunity has made me step out of my comfort zone and become more confident: I feel like, as a person, I have achieved a lot, through my character especially. I feel I have become more patient and resilient, selfless, and even more considerate towards others. The Duke of Edinburgh Award really does work seamlessly against our very own STAR values at Eden. Physically, I feel as though I understand what it means to be healthy and how important it is to keep up any sort of physical activity.

Aisha Kausar



Recently, I was given the chance to take part in a once in a lifetime experience which I am extremely grateful for and enjoyed a great deal!

I gained many new skills, both socially and educationally, which will support me in the future. If given the opportunity, I would certainly recommend Duke of Edinburgh to anybody who can go. It is something that requires your full commitment to complete, but (after both my peers and I persevered) you will finish with a sense of enormous satisfaction.

The practice expedition took place locally in Coventry. The campsite was beautiful, and the weather was amazing. During the practice expedition we came across lots of challenges for example cooking our own meals, putting up our own tents etc. However, the purpose of the practice was to make mistakes and we learnt from them for next time. During the walk, we were accompanied by a mountain leader who helped us a lot. Overall, the practice expedition was an unforgettable experience as we got to spend a lot of time with each other and have fun.

For the qualifying expedition, we had the amazing opportunity to visit the Peak District. This was very different to the practice expedition as we were more independent and had to utilise our time management skills. As part of our assessment, my group put up tents, made dinner, and got ready for the day ahead. At the end of the expedition, my team passed which was massive relief, however we were all aching and were in definite need of rest!

Zaynab Bibi



Ready, Steady, Bake!

Wednesday 30th September saw staff from Service, Teamwork, Ambition, and Respect come together to test their cooking skills to see who would become the 2022 EGSC MasterChef.

Each chef was tasked with cooking a vegetable couscous and macaroni and cheese. They were each permitted to bring their own secret ingredients to spice things up! A highly competitive and slightly chaotic cooking session got going which was live streamed into the dining room for students to watch as it all unfolded.

Cooking was complete by 4.30pm and it was time to invite the judges to blind taste the food. After much debate and the need to do a few taste checks, the judges came to their conclusions. It was very close to call, but a huge well done must go to Mr Imran who won it for House Ambition. A big thank you must also go to both Mrs Amos Wilkins and Mr Imran for the organisation. It was great for students to get to see staff outside their comfort zones. Well done to all the participants: all of the food was delicious and a very close call for the judges!

Millie Hickinbotham



A Monologue: Anti-Bullying Week 2022

Let me ask you a question, have you ever been bullied? Made to feel inferior? Or ugly? Or stupid? Or insignificant? Like nothing that you say or do matters? Have you been made to hate the way you look in the mirror? The way you speak? Act? Has even thinking about yourself positively been made seemingly impossible? And was this because of another person's harsh words? Words meant to break you down so much that building yourself back up is a hopeless effort?

I've always said that people are like glasses. You break them, and then when you fix them, they're misshapen, their scars always visible. And one day, when you've broken them so much, is it even possible to put them back together?

Bullying is the persistent behaviour of hurting someone else. It can be physical, verbal, or emotional, and can happen anywhere, even at home or at school. Bullying can have such a huge impact on a person, no matter their age. In fact, people bullied as children tend to carry the effects well into adulthood, and people who are bullies themselves are also immensely affected. This is why we, not only as a school but as a society, stress the importance of antibullying so much, because of how serious it is. Children who are bullies tend to have a higher risk for substance use, academic problems, and violence towards others later on in life. This just goes to show how serious bullying is, even for the bully. Research studies have shown that everyone involved in bullying, whether that is the bully or their victim, has an increased risk for depression. Bullying can cause long-term damage to self-esteem, leading to severe insecurities within oneself.

As someone who was bullied at the age of 7, I know how hard it is to pick yourself back up, especially when you feel like you've been shattered to pieces. Whenever I was told I wasn't loved any more, whenever I was told that I was insignificant and told to 'shut up' because my thoughts weren't valued, part of me broke. Whenever I was body shamed, made to feel like I was 'weird' because I didn't act like everyone else, part of me broke. If you really want to prevent bullying, stop it. Stop letting people bully you, stop bullying yourself, and stop bullying others. Kindness is the greatest medicine, the most powerful solution.

I'd like to end with a quote: "Be careful with your words, once they are said they can only be forgiven, not forgotten." As humans, rarely will we ever forget what people have said to us. Whether we like it or not, the likelihood is that they will always have some effect on us, we can never forget the hurt we felt from the words of others. Whether we like it or not, harmful words will almost always break us, and even if we try to fix ourselves, they still affect us, they still leave scars. But do you want to be the cause of someone's long-term insecurities? Do you really want to be remembered as a person who hurt another so badly, they couldn't cope? When you're bullied, it's like you're drowning in a sea of self-doubt and insecurity. Do you want to be the cause of someone drowning in a place where there is no water? Do you really want to be a bully?



Let's Talk About...

RESILIENCE

with House Teamwork

HEAD OF HOUSE TEAMWORK, Miss Hickinbotham

1) How do you deal with setbacks in your daily life?

"I try to remain positive, focus on the solutions rather than dwelling on what went wrong."

2) How do you cope with pressure and feelings of being overwhelmed?

"I make sure I get out in nature, that I am getting enough sleep, exercise and eating properly. I also do some meditation."

3) Describe a time when something didn't work out as well as you'd hoped. How did you move on from it?

"I took a job with a small boutique recruitment company focussed on recruiting finance professionals in the USA. I was tasked with building out a new area for the business, but from early on it was clear that I didn't have the tools to do that. I tried to make it work for a few months but eventually I asked to meet with both directors and told them I didn't think it was working. We mutually agreed to notice terms and parted ways, after which I secured a fantastic new role."

4) Have you ever been in a situation where you were close to giving up? How did you overcome this?

"My first year at university was tricky. The jump from A-Level to degree level work, combined with moving across the country so having to make new friendship circles etc, was quite overwhelming to start with. I eventually immersed myself in the university life, getting involved in the women's rugby and climbing clubs, as well as gradually getting to know the people on my course better. I went on to have three amazing years!"

STUDENT DEPUTY HEAD OF TEAMWORK, Nasra Mohamud

1) What does resilience mean to you?

"Resilience means the will to persevere against odds and challenges. To me, it is resourcefulness and a proactive mindset."

2) How do you deal with the pressure of assessments and exams?

"I have a support system and an outlet to relax. Also, I always remember the end goal and have an incentive to motivate me."

3) Which inspirational figure do you look to with regards to resilience?

"Malcolm X: Malcolm's remarkable resilience in the face of life's challenges is an inspiration, which can be summarised by one of my favourites of his quotes: "There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance next time."

4) Why is it important to show resilience?

"Resilience allows you to not be stunted by circumstance and is crucial as not everything will go our way. However, if we develop a resilient attitude then this will not be a boundary."



Character Development

Zara Mohammed

On 18th November, we invited Zara Mohammed into our school to not only speak in our assembly, but to meet with our student leadership team and then, in the evening, be the guest speaker at our Year 11 Celebration event.

Zara made British history by becoming the first woman, first Scot, and youngest person to be elected (at the age of 29 years old) to lead the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), a national umbrella body representing over 500 Muslim organisations. Mohammed's appointment was a significant moment for many British Muslim women and our students were, understandably, blown away by her words.

She spoke about what she had discovered since being appointed secretary general for the MCB. She said that the reaction of many members of both the MCB and the wider Islamic how outdated traditional stereotypes truly are.

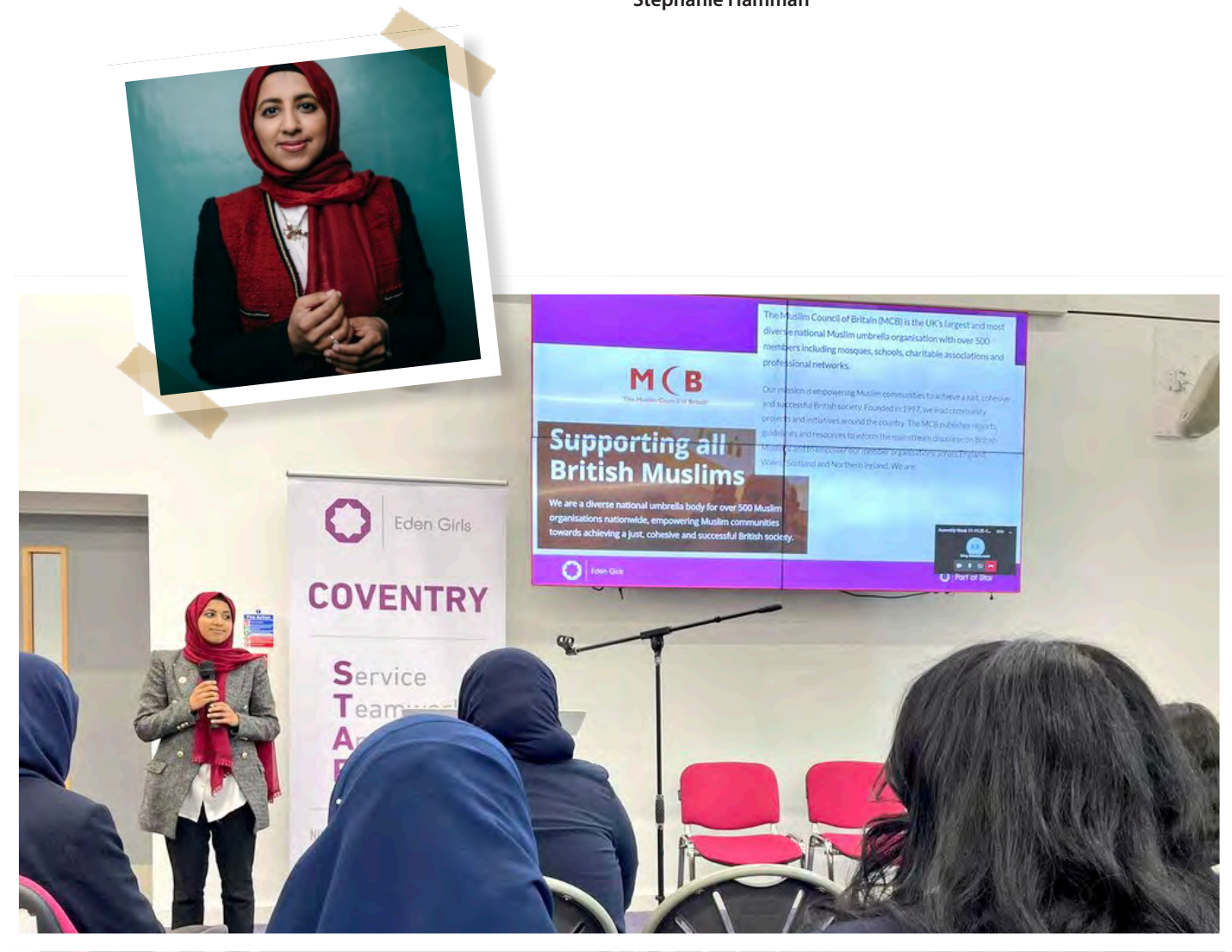
"I travel a lot - Blackburn, Leicester, Manchester, London – and I was moved by the way I was greeted."

"I sat with some of the most conservative scholars, and I was given the chair's seat. It's amazing for a woman to sit in that seat. Lots of scholars and imams were there and they were sitting on the floor, but I was in the chair – I got their respect."

The men were so over the moon. They really welcomed the change. They have daughters, granddaughters, nieces."

Having an international and inspirational spokesperson such as Zara Mohammed visit our school was an exciting and exhilarating experience. Everyone who met her spoke of her intelligence and modesty. The impact Zara Mohammed made on her visit to Coventry cannot be underestimated for, we are very sure, inspired by her words are a whole host of future secretary generals.

Stephanie Hamman



Character Development

Netball Success

This year, our netball teams have been unstoppable: the energy, drive, and enthusiasm have been second to none. Also, since the Covid restrictions were lifted at the start of the year, we have had the opportunity to place competitions against other schools in the area. Each match is a credit to the school, with the students showing grace and teamwork no matter what the result.

Here are the results of our most recent fixtures:

Date	Year	Home/Away	Location	Result
6th October	Year 8	Home	President Kennedy	Lost: 1 - 5
14th November	Year 10	Home	Meadow Park	Won: 4 - 2
21st November	Year 7	Away	Coundon Court	Won: 13 - 0
21st November	Year 8	Away	Coundon Court	Won: 5 - 1
29th November	Year 8	Away	Sidney Stringer	Lost: 6 - 7
29th November	Year 8	Away	Sidney Stringer	Lost: 18 - 3
30th November	Year 11	Away	Blue Coat	Lost: 13 - 1
1st December	Year 10	Home	Barrs Hill	Won: 10 - 7

SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM

The school's house system has made a roaring start to the year. After the final handovers from last year's leaders, the interview process began for this year's house team.

Head of House	Student HoH	Deputy Student Hoh	SLT Link
Aicha Benali	Setaish Popalzai	Nafisa Miah	Ijaz Muhammad
Millie Hickinbotham	Leena Khan	Nasra Mohamud	Steph Hamman
Tiffany Tolley	Layla Ise	Doaa Idris	Zubair Khalifa
Umar Tailor	Nay Dyari	Bahar Sais	Mohammed Rehman

From MacMillan Cake competitions to mental health campaigns, from Timetables Rock Stars to Reading Wise, the school calendar has been packed with house events!

Caroline Amos-Wilkins

Service to Communities

A Flying Start

Our students have again been picking up their excellent work within the community.

The year got off to a flying start with the McMillan bake sale which raised almost £400 for this cancer care charity. The event also included our annual pupil 'Bake-off' challenge. Last year's winner, Takwa Shanab, and the catering staff had the unenviable task of choosing the winner from many very high-quality entries. After some very intense deliberation and discussion, the honour and donated prize went to Aisha Bham from Year 7.

Collecting is now underway for our Winter Gifts program. Forms are collecting for two local care homes as well as the Children's ward at the hospital. Donations have been pouring in and every gift will help to brighten-up a client's day. Special mention goes to Ms Benali's form who raised enough to buy 240 pairs of socks and are presenting these in gift packs with some carefully chosen toiletries.

Moving into spring lots of exciting things will be happening. Plans are ongoing to revamp our peace garden, utilising prize money won by students last year from their Goldsmith's Community award success. Year 10 will soon start planning their community challenges for this year. We will also be having many more opportunities for students to get raising funds and awareness for good causes.

Finally, a polite request. If you do receive any unwanted gifts over the winter break, the school would be very grateful if you could pass them on to us. We will look to sell these on a 'bric-a-brac' stall at the summer bazaar, with proceeds going to our good causes.

James McCormick

Winter Gift Programme 2022

Friday 2nd December was the deadline for collecting gifts for our local community.

This year, our school is supporting Allambie House Care Home, Arden Park Care Home, University College Hospital Children's Ward. Houses Teamwork and Service collected for the two care homes, and Houses Ambition and Respect collected gifts for the children's ward. Once again, we are delighted to be able to support our neighbours during this time of the year and thank you to every student and adult who has donated so generously.

Hafsa Khalifa



Service to Communities

Mental Health Ambassadors

We are delighted to welcome five mental health ambassadors to our school community. Students went through an interview process and the following students were successful: Sophia Deen, Aizah Bhukari, Eeza Saleem, Lyba Ghafoor, Imaan Shazad, and Syaurah Sofyan.

In this role, students are responsible for:

- spotting signs of stress, such as exam stress, in others and themselves, identifying what can be done and how to communicate to others that they are stressed. They can then share this with peers so they are more able to understand, manage and reduce levels of stress.
- being a mental health role model, taking responsibility for their own wellbeing, and identifying qualities they would like to work on. Talking about mental health with their peers should become common practice so any awkwardness around the topic of mental health is banished throughout the school.
- increasing the awareness of non-verbal communication such as eye contact, gestures, posture, facial expression, voice tone, and volume. This helps the Ambassadors understand how identifying more emotional or non-verbal communication can help them to identify when their peers may be thriving or struggling.

During the Year 11 Parent's Evening in October, our Mental Health Ambassadors manned a stand to raise awareness of mental health issues amongst students and their families. The Ambassadors handed out our suggestion slips to parents and will be planning their support accordingly based on what families feel they need.

Saaleha Jamal



Service in Action

There was an outstanding celebration of service by several students who volunteered their time and created gift packs for our Winter Gift Programme.

A wonderful group of 17 students from House Service worked amazingly well to make 80 gift bags. The gift bags will be given to two local care homes, Allambie House and Arden Park Care Home. They contain essentials like socks, toiletries, and snacks.

We also included a small card written by our Year 7 students which contained thoughtful and uplifting messages. As their Head of House, I would like to thank every student who donated, especially 11S for their enormous generosity and dedication, even whilst working through a full week of mock exams. May Allah bless you all.

I would like to celebrate these girls and congratulate them for their hard work and dedication:

7S: Syifa Babul Salam, Aisha Bham, Aisha Bakerhail, Aicha Rahimi, Praise Abolarin, Hanifa Tholley, Amara Abbas

9S: Hania Khan, Aminah Alma

10S: Zara Fiaz, Zoha Bukhari

11S: Aisha Salim, Hevin Sadik, Amira Rahman, Setaish Popalzai, Hafsa Awan, Aliyah Kadeer

All Stars Succeed

Our All Star Succeed team raised £103 for Zoe's Place, a palliative and end-of-life care to babies and infants aged from birth to 5 years.

They raised this money through two means: there was a cake sale which was highly delicious, and a Name the Bear! Students had to guess the name of the bear. The winning name was... Mr Hugs!

Paul Moorcroft



Attendance Matters!

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 school helps students learn better, sustain friendships and enjoy school life.

At Eden Girls' School Coventry, we want all our students 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 to school
- 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.

The table below shows how attendance percentages link to time missed from school.

Attendance	Missed Days: One School Year
100%	0
98%	Less than 4 days
97%	Less than 6 days (school target)
95%	9½ days
90%	19 days
85%	28 ½ days
80%	38 days

Dates for your diary - Autumn term

Staff Inset Day	Tuesday 3rd Jan 2023
School Re-Opens for Students	Wednesday 4th Jan 2023
Half-Term Closure	Monday 20th Feb - Friday 24th Feb 2023
Easter Holiday	Monday 3rd Apr - Friday 14th Apr 2023



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