

# Autumn Term Newsletter

## Eden Girls' School, Slough



Eden Girls

*Nurturing today's young people,  
Inspiring tomorrow's leaders*

December 2017  
Issue 7

This Autumn Term Edition of our School Newsletter is our first since moving in to our permanent school building.

This first term of the year has been exciting and eventful. Our pupils and staff have worked extremely hard and have exceeded our expectations time and again in the core areas of our school mission: Educational Excellence, Character Development and Community Service.

In addition to getting used to their new surroundings, our learners have been very busy with a wide range of initiatives and projects. Inside this edition you will be able to learn more about the key trips, activities and events that have taken place this term and the learning that pupils have gained.



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# Principal's Message

**All Praises to the Almighty, Lord of the Worlds and the Master of our fortunes: salutations to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the seal of the Prophets and the guide for all our actions.**

## Educational Excellence

Our move in to our permanent school building at the start of this term has been a truly significant experience for us all.

We now benefit from an estate that communicates the Tauheedul brand of academic excellence. Our central staircase creates a hub that buzzes with energy as pupils move between lessons and our breath-taking central wall is a stunning feature of our entrance hall as we welcome visitors and inspire our pupils on a daily basis. The specialist learning facilities are having a clear impact on pupils' attitude to learning and their progress.

Our curriculum continues to develop and pupils have enjoyed an array of

memorable learning experiences both in and out of the classroom. Results from assessments completed this term provide evidence of the impressive progress that pupils are making.

## Character Development

It is inspiring to work with our pupils and share in their journey of character development. This term, we have welcomed Maulana Ruhul Ameen as our Faith and Character Education Coordinator for the southern cluster of Tauheedul Schools and are already benefiting greatly from the experience and expertise that he brings to the role. Learners have used faith events such as our Ashoorah Fast-Opening, Autumn Term Spirituality Day and Interfaith Week as rich opportunities for reflection and growth.

## Service to Communities

It is a pleasure to witness the many remarkable contributions being made by our pupils as leaders in their community. With the incredible support of parents, they have, once again, astonished us with their response to our appeals for a range of worthy causes including Macmillan Cancer Support, Children in Need, Slough Food Bank and The London and Slough Run Winter Gift Programme.

I pray that all our families enjoy a wonderful and well-deserved break and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. We wish a peaceful and happy Christmas to all members of our community celebrating over the holidays.

## English Adventures

### Eden Girls' Debating Team

Eden Girls' School were fortunate enough to be given the opportunity of attending a debating competition at Eton College this term. Pupils were paired up and participated in two rounds of quick thinking Mace-style debating against teams from other schools.

At the end of these rounds, pupils returned to the main hall to hear sixth form speeches and the final results. Learners benefitted from the modelling of structured, well articulated expression and from the advice that they were given during the day. They have been sharing these tips

with other students since their return to school.

Finally, the results were announced and we were all delighted to hear that our pupils had excelled and Eden Girls' School had been placed in the top five schools. We could not have been more proud of our representatives.

### A Christmas Carol

On the 18th December, pupils in years 7-9 attended a highly memorable production of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' in the State Apartments of Windsor Castle. This superb backdrop, with floor to ceiling famous paintings, provided an impressive setting. The

girls were mesmerised with such an immersive production and loved having the actors perform around them. As this famous story unfolded, the girls watched as the ghosts hauntingly revealed Scrooge's failings and the consequences of them. As the play moved towards its happy conclusion, the audience also moved into St George's Hall, festively decorated for the occasion.



# Educational Excellence

## The Living Rainforest

On Wednesday the 6th of December 120 Year 8 pupils travelled to the 'Living Rainforest' in Thatcham for a Geography trip led by Mr Sandhu. During the second half of this autumn term the students have been learning about different types of global ecosystems with a focus on tropical rainforests. The purpose of this visit was to provide pupils with first-hand experience, and a deeper understanding, of the rainforest environment as well as their plant and animal adaptations.

The Living Rainforest facility is home to a variety of animal species with professional guides to lead visitors. Pupils benefitted from an in-depth educational tour and collected research to enrich their Geographical study.

The visit proved to be a huge success for both staff and pupils who came away with lots of inspiration and knowledge. The employees at the Living Rainforest organisation also praised the behaviour and learning attitudes of our pupils which was a great testament to the school's growing reputation.



Exploring the physical adaptations of animals.

Interview practice with Telefonica UK professionals.



## Telefonica UK Partnership

The school has developed a partnership with Telefonica UK this term. Experts and leaders from the global telecommunications organisation have visited the school to share their expertise by running mock interviews with each of our pupils in Year 10. These ran over three days, with pupils experiencing what a job interview may feel like and the volunteers kindly giving them individual feedback on their performance. This initiative will continue after the holidays in the Spring Term with one final cohort of pupils taking their mock interviews.

Volunteers from Telefonica UK also ran workshops on public speaking and on leadership during two separate days. These engaging workshops, attended by all pupils in Years 9 and 10, provided pupils with the skills needed to improve their confidence and enhance their prospects during their time in education and beyond.

Providing effective information, advice and guidance for pupils about potential career paths is an important aspect of our school work. We are very grateful to the professional services offered to us by Telefonica UK.

## Attendance

Excellent attendance is the foundation for outstanding achievement at school. I am delighted to say that our attendance of 97% last year placed the school in the top 5% of schools nationally. Well done to all parents, pupils and staff for helping us achieve this high standard of attendance last year and for consistently demonstrating an impressive commitment to Educational Excellence.

Our attendance this term has been mainly very good again although it has dipped very slightly below the standard set last year. Our overall attendance for this term is 96.9%.

We must continue to strive collectively to ensure that our attendance remains at the highest standards. The tables below highlight attendance by year and registration groups.

Congratulations to all Form Groups that have achieved 97% attendance!

Year Group Attendance	
Year 8	97.4%
Year 7	97%
Year 9	96.7%
Year 10	96.1%

Form Group Attendance	
7A	97.9%
8M	97.9%
8I	97.7%
8A	97.5%
9A	97.3%
9N	97.3%
7I	96.9%
7M	96.9%
10IM	96.6%
7N	96.4%
8N	96.3%
9I	96.2%
9M	96.2%
10AN	95.6%

## Attendance Matters

The School strives for 100% attendance for all pupils. If a pupil achieves at least 97% attendance in one whole school year, they will have missed less than 5 days from school.

We ask the support of all parents in ensuring that their child arrives at school on time, dressed in full uniform and ready and equipped to learn. Please also ensure that all appointments are arranged after school and avoid arranging holidays/leave during term time except in exceptional circumstances.

## Sporting Achievements

This term has witnessed the developing competitiveness and leadership of our pupils across a wide range of sports.

Our pupils have performed admirably at local football, netball and sportshall athletics competitions. Tauheedul Education Trust has recently been designated an FA Girls' Area Hub and joins a network of

organisations that support and deliver girls' football across England. Our school celebrated the announcement during Girls' Football Week with daily football taster sessions.

In addition, our Sports Leaders have been developing their skills through the Slough Young Ambassadors Programme and leadership of a number of primary school events including the Change 4 Life Festival and Key Stage 1 Slough Cricket Competition.

# Year 10 Physical Geography Fieldwork Enquiry

## The River Pang

On Monday the 9th of October, 26 Year 10 GCSE Geographers carried out a physical geography fieldwork enquiry on the processes at work on the River Pang in Pangbourne, Berkshire. This is an essential part of their GCSE programme whereby pupils need to collect fieldwork



data based around a natural physical process, which they are assessed on in Unit Paper 3: Geographical Applications.

The pupils were led by The John Symonds Trust organisation near Rushall Farm, Reading, that provided professional instructors to guide pupils with equipment and locations. The pupils visited three different sites along the river covering a stretch of eight kilometres. They worked in teams and used specialist equipment to carry out data collection and recordings themselves.

This data collection forms an important focus for their geographical skills study this term which will require pupils to analyse and evaluate their data



collection methods and results.

It proved to be a successful day as pupils found themselves outside of their comfort zone and working in teams to achieve their aims.

Eden Girls School is now forming a long-term partnership with staff at Rushall Farm and The John Symonds Trust organisation that sees pupils in Year 7 and Year 10 visiting every year as part of their Geography curriculum.

## Active Movement

It is proven that people are becoming more sedentary and that this has a negative effect on health and well-being. Increasingly we find ourselves sitting for long periods of time with little in the way of physical activity.

As a school we aim to promote an active lifestyle and for our students to understand the positive impact this can have on their learning. As such, we are proud to be one of a number of local schools taking part in the Active Movement Programme.

The aim of the programme is for students to be more active in lessons; therefore standing and interacting more with their learning. The school has introduced

an Active Movement room where teachers can dedicate lesson time to active learning. Students have really engaged in the programme and we are starting to see the benefits not only in their learning but in day to day life as well.



# Character Development

## Spirituality Day & Interfaith Week

Pupils have worked hard to develop their understanding of spirituality and the beliefs of others throughout this term. During Spirituality Day, pupils learnt about core Christian and Sikh beliefs and took part in workshops on spirituality, charity and female leadership in Islam. The day provided an opportunity to stop the usual routines and reflect on the

spiritual goals set each week as part of our ongoing character development.

In November our learners marked inter-faith week through a range of cross-curricular projects. The study of international celebrations, Bread baking, stained glass window production and poetry writing were all vehicles for the exploration of different faiths and beliefs. The outcomes and final products were brought together as an exhibition

with pupils, parents, staff and local faith representatives invited. Pupils also used the opportunity to showcase their work on the value of tolerance.



## Slough Baptist Church Visit

Year 7 pupils visited the Slough Baptist Church on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November for the “Christmas Unwrapped” presentation. The purpose of the visit was to enrich pupils in their understanding of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus in Christian tradition. Pupils were able to take part in a variety of learning activities to unravel the key features of Christmas and the importance of the festival for believers of this faith.

Pupils also explored Gospel Teachings as part of a carousel activity enabling pupils to work in groups to complete challenging activities. Many engaging speakers delivered the Nativity story using a variety of both visual and active teaching styles. Other key features of the visit included making mince pies (vegetarian) and a Q&A session with the “Nutty professor” an expert in the Christian faith. This visit proved to be a rich learning experience on the importance of Christmas in Christianity.



An engaging and interactive presentation at The Slough Baptist Church.

# First Give

## Helping Young People Improve Their Community

### First Give

Year 7 pupils have been working on the First Give programme this term. First Give is delivered over eight lessons and encourages all year 7 students to identify social issues in their area and engage with local charities that address them. The students will then have the opportunity to compete for £1,000 of grant money. Teams will do this by advocating for their charity in a school competition.

Charities involved this year include: Food bank, Shelter, Slough Refugee Support and Age UK Berkshire. Through team work, presentations and research, students show their passion, creativity and determination, all positive qualities that can be harnessed for social change and a brighter future for all.

Our school has developed a strong and successful partnership with First Give. We were delighted that our school was, for the second year running, nominated for their School

of the Year award in September in recognition of our dedication to the programme.

The First Give awards, which take place in London aim to recognise the outstanding contributions made by schools, teachers and students through the First Give programme. Over the last two years all of our pupils have benefited from the First Give programme and have been able to offer support to a range of charities in the Slough area, including cancer charities, a food bank, charities supporting homeless people and a trust that supports terminally ill children and their families. This includes financial support of £3,000 over two years, thanks to the money awarded by First Give to the winning classes in each year of the programme.

We are very proud that every single one of our pupils has benefited from the First Give programme. The programme is a practical vehicle for achieving our aim to encourage pupils to take positive social action and has enabled us to fulfil our mission to serve our local community. Through working with First Give and engaging with local charities, our pupils are developing a real sense of responsibility to their community. The work we do with First Give encourages a social conscience and supports young people to develop the skills and confidence to take positive action.



Working with people from a variety of charities in and around Slough, our pupils have seen how their fundraising is making a difference in our local community.

In addition to the honour of the nomination we were also extremely proud of Zunaira Bilqees in Year 10 who was selected to perform the role of Master of Ceremony during the Awards ceremony.

Zunaira was invited to take on the role of MC at the First Give annual awards, after impressing the First Give judges with her public speaking prowess at our school final in 2016.

Zunaira was incredible on the evening and took the awards ceremony completely in her stride, despite first feeling nervous about taking to the stage.

We all look forward to seeing the final projects and presentations of our this year's Year 7 participants in March 2018 as they continue to strive to improve our community.



# Service to Communities

## Macmillan Cancer Support & Children in Need

We would like to say a massive Thank You to all our pupils, parents and staff for helping to raise over £2000 for our Macmillan Cancer Support and Children In Need

campaign this term. The response from our school community to both these worthy causes was humbling. Events such as these are very powerful in teaching our young people about charity and fundraising. We are very grateful for everyone's support.



## The Winter Gift Programme

The Winter Gift Programme is an approach to charitable giving taken by Eden Girls' School that annually seeks to help those who are facing

difficult circumstances. This year, we teamed up with the London and Slough Run charity to deliver Warm Outdoor Wear (WOW) packs to homeless people in the Slough area. As well as raising over £1200 of donations from pupils and their families, pupils were actively engaged in wrapping the WOW

packs and adding to them, short messages for their recipients. Pupils showed enthusiasm in promoting this noble cause and we hope that those who are less fortunate than us will find comfort in the gifts offered and the kind words expressed by our pupils.



Our pupils preparing and packing the WOW packs as part of our Winter Gift Programme.

# Slough Youth Parliament



All pupils voted this term in the Make Your Mark Campaign. This initiative gives young people the opportunity to influence our democracy in the UK's largest ballot for school students.

As a result of pupils' efforts, we were extremely honoured to win the 2017 Slough Youth Parliament Democracy Award which recognises the extent to which schools engage with the scheme and voter turnout. The



school has now won the award for two consecutive years, a testament to the civic leadership that our girls are developing. Well done to all involved!

## Slough Food Bank

Year 7 pupils visited the Slough Baptist Church to offer contributions and donations generously provided by our school community for the Slough Food Bank.

Thank you to all of the families that helped to provide food and essential toiletries for the food bank. We are delighted with the response we have had in supporting our local charity.



## Key Term Dates Spring Term

<b>Staff Inset Day 2:</b>	Wednesday 3rd January
<b>Start of Spring Term:</b>	Thursday 4th January
<b>Parents' Tea &amp; Coffee Morning:</b>	Tuesday 9th January
<b>Year 10 Parents' Evening:</b>	Thursday 18th January
<b>Parent Shura:</b>	Thursday 1st February
<b>Year 9 Parents' Evening:</b>	Thursday 8th February
<b>Mid-Term Closure:</b>	Monday 12th February — Friday 16th February
<b>Parents' Tea &amp; Coffee Morning:</b>	Tuesday 27th February
<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening:</b>	Thursday 1st March
<b>Parent Shura:</b>	Wednesday 21st March
<b>Easter Holidays:</b>	Friday 30th March — Sunday 15th April
<b>Start of Summer Term:</b>	Monday 16th April