

Summer Term Newsletter

Eden Girls' School, Slough



Eden Girls

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

July 2018
Issue 9

This Summer Term Edition of our School Newsletter marks the end of our third year and celebrates the significant achievements and milestones of the term.

Our whole school community has demonstrated the STAR Values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect both in our day-to-day work and through the many exciting events that pupils and staff have participated in and led. We can take great pride in the recognition that our school has received this term and be very excited about our potential for ongoing growth and development.



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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.

As we reach the end of the summer term it is my great pleasure to write to parents to express my deep gratitude for all the support and encouragement that we have received throughout the year.

Ofsted Inspection

We were immensely proud to be graded as “outstanding” in every category in our first Ofsted inspection in May this term.

We were delighted that our report highlighted our “*vibrant and inspiring learning community*” where “*pupils make rapid progress across the curriculum from their starting points.*”

The inspection recognised our school commitment to inclusion and determination to realise the potential of all: “*every child really does matter in this school...Pupils who have SEN and/ or disabilities make strong progress.*”

Inspectors praised our pastoral provision, safeguarding arrangements and the leadership opportunities available to pupils and identified our school's strong sense of community, commenting that “*staff morale is very high*” and that “*pupils love coming to school.*” Inspectors also commented on our “*nurturing, caring environment*” and commitment to keeping pupils safe, happy and well and praised our work on promoting pupils' personal development in conjunction with our STAR values.

Pupils' behaviour was considered to be “*outstanding*” and “*exemplary.*”

The invaluable role played by the Local Governing Body was recognised as inspectors noted the impact of “*astute and ambitious*” governance and the effective combination of “*support and robust challenge.*”

Section 48 (Faith School) Inspection

Our Ofsted inspection was followed shortly in July by our Section 48 (Faith School) Inspection which was undertaken by the Association of Muslim Schools (AMS).

We were delighted that the Inspection Team judged the school as “outstanding” in all categories. Inspectors praised the school's approach to developing the character and self-discipline of our pupils. The inspectors were impressed by the pride taken by pupils in their work and the value that they place on the opportunities provided to them. Learners were described as ‘socially aware’ with a good understanding of other cultures and a strong sense of right and wrong.

Teaching was judged to be highly effective with pupils developing impressive independent learning skills. Inspectors were also impressed by the quality of curriculum planning and class discussions.

Other Highlights

The high quality of our stunning learning environment also received recognition this term. The school was represented at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Awards (RICS) 2018 following the school building's nominations for Community Benefit and Regeneration Awards. The event took place at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford and, while our construction project did not end up claiming the awards, its nomination amongst such a prestigious shortlist is a credit to our contractors, Galliford Try and architects, ADP.

This term we have also experienced the start of an exciting phase with ‘Tauheedul Education Trust’ changing its name to ‘Star Academies’. The new name reflects how our Trust has grown and developed over the past few years, our commitment to educational excellence, helping each of our communities to improve and develop and our core values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect.

We look forward with great optimism to September and to the contributions that our special group of learners will go on to make both as individuals and as a community. I hope that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and pray that every member of our community has a peaceful and happy summer break.

“A vibrant and inspiring learning community”

“Pupils make rapid progress across the curriculum from their starting points.”

Educational Excellence

English and Literacy across the Curriculum

Eden students benefitted from Stage-Ed performers visiting the school in June. Years 7 and 8 watched a thoroughly engaging introduction to Shakespeare with scenes from across the spectrum of comedy, history and tragedy. For Years 9 and 10, the actors concentrated on the individual plays they had studied; enhancing pupils' knowledge of the context, themes and key ideas of each. The Eden student volunteers did a fabulous job of acting alongside the professional actors. We greatly look forward to welcoming the group back in October for their Year 11 interactive revision workshop on 'An Inspector Calls.'



Literacy has been successfully interwoven into many areas of school life this year. Students in Years 7 and 8 have weekly Accelerated Reading lessons that help them to ensure reading levels and comprehension skills are monitored and developed. They also have weekly library lessons and receive the support of a regular reading buddy scheme when required.



Our interactive weekly word-of-the-week sessions culminated this term in a whole-school Spelling Bee where students competed to demonstrate their range of challenging vocabulary and accuracy of spelling. The final round created World Cup-like excitement levels as students battled it out to win the title of Spelling Bee queen.

Our winning forms were 7M, 7N and 9M where each of the girls raced through the spellings without a moment of cogitation (the action of thinking deeply about something)! Well done to all for a tremendous

Oxford University Partnership

This term students have benefited from presentations from Oxford University Outreach representatives and trips to the university itself. These experiences have given pupils involved a secure understanding of the requirements for further study at Oxford and at university in general.

It was inspiring for our learners to meet an ex-TIGHS (Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School) student in her second year studying medicine at the University of Oxford. She instilled encouragement and ambition in pupils during their visit, talking to them about her own school experiences.



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 year has matched the standard set last year at 97% once again, an outstanding achievement for the school.

We must continue to strive collectively to ensure that our attendance improves further. The tables below highlight attendance by year and registration groups. Congratulations to all Form Groups that have achieved our target of 97% attendance!

Year Group Attendance	
Year 8	97.4%
Year 7	97%
Year 9	96.9%
Year 10	96.3%

Form Group Attendance	
7A	97.8%
8I	97.7%
8A	97.6%
7M	97.2%
8M	97.2%
9N	97.1%
9M	97%
9A	96.9%
7N	96.8%
10IM	96.8%
8N	96.6%
9I	96.5%
10AN	95.9%
7I	95.9%

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

Aside from the World Cup it has been another exciting term of sport at Eden Girls' School, Slough:

- Our Year 7 and 8 cricket team played their first competitive cricket game with Slough and

Eton and won a thrilling match by one run.

- Our GCSE PE students competed impressively in a Slough cricket tournament against 3 other schools.
- 5 students attended a residential leadership camp organised by the FA to develop leadership skills.
- Over 30 pupils have enjoyed opportunities to lead

tournaments, skill sessions, and school games.

- Badminton Team success - winning 4 out of 5 matches.



FA Leadership Camp

Five students from our school were nominated to take part in a leadership camp being run by the Football Association with the aim of getting more girls in to Football. As a school we have engaged with the programme throughout the year. Students that took part worked with other likeminded people from across the country in a variety of workshops; including sessions with members of the women's England team.

The girls that attended reported that they found it inspirational, fun and they developed their leadership skills and confidence throughout the camp.



Members of the Lionesses (The women's England team) rounded up the closing ceremony to finish an amazing experience for all involved.



Active Movement

The school's Active Movement Programme continues to challenge sedentary behaviour through strategies to help pupils become more physically active. Routines to promote activities such as Active Register and Active questioning are embedded across the school.

The initiative has been enhanced this term by the addition of Active Movement Ambassadors who are providing student leadership for the initiative.

We ask all parents to continue to encourage our young people to stay healthy and active over the summer.

British Values Get-Together

In May, our school hosted and participated in the Berkshire Schools British Values Get-Together with pupils from six local schools.

Teachers and pupils from six Berkshire secondary schools attended the event including Desborough College, Upton Court Grammar and Langley Academy. The pupils presented their findings having engaged in a British Values project through the spring and summer terms.

Guest speakers included the Mayoress of Windsor, Margaret Lenton and Dr Anthony Lewis. Pupils explored the British Values and how collectively we

can positively contribute to society within this framework.

The pupils enjoyed the opportunity to discuss and share their findings with pupils from local schools. Inspiring presentations on the unifying power of the concepts of democracy, tolerance and mutual respect.



Character Development

Spirituality Day

Pupils continued to develop their understanding of identity through workshops delivered as part of our Summer Spirituality Day, which took



place on 4th July. One theme of the day involved an exploration of feelings of loss and isolation in drama sketches about refugees.

Pupils also received an important input from the organisation *Unblurred Lines* on sentiments of self-confidence through having a positive body image.

The topic of spiritual and physical purity was also covered, and pupils gained an invaluable lesson about Islamic teachings on cleanliness and hygiene.



The day ended with pupils reflecting on the key teaching points that they received and sharing these with their peers through thoughtful and creative presentations. in whole-year assemblies.

Grenfell Tower Anniversary

On Thursday 14th June, we marked the one-year anniversary of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. In the aftermath of this harrowing event, we experienced the importance of people coming together to show support, solidarity, strength, care and compassion. We promoted this sense of community spirit at school by observing 72 seconds of silence at midday on 14th June

to remember the 72 victims who tragically lost their lives on that fateful day last year.

We also gathered to say special prayers for the victims and their loved ones. After the end of the school day, a group of pupils and staff members travelled to London to participate in a Silent Walk organised by the *Grenfell United* community group in a moving display of communal cohesion that captured the interest of the nation.



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Sessions helped learners to recognise and appreciate similarities over differences.

Nisa Nashim

Nisa-Nisham are an organisation that aim to strengthen the community and build stronger relations within the Muslim and Jewish community.

This term the group visited our school to work with pupils and staff. The workshop was delivered to pupils in Year 9 and aimed to provide pupils with an understanding of how diverse communities can be brought together. Julie Siddique and Laura Marks from Nisa Nashim shared many thought-provoking articles with the girls in relation to hate crime. Pupils explored these articles and images and discussed the challenge of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and how they can be tackled.



The sessions helped learners to recognise and appreciate similarities over differences leaving the pupils with lots of fruit for thought.

Duke of Edinburgh

Pupils in Year 10 have completed both their Practice and Assessment Expeditions as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme.

This started on Thursday 12th July and involved them trekking for over 17 miles through the open country carrying tents, clothes and provisions to last them for two days.



They camped overnight before completing their expedition the next day.

During this exhausting endeavour, pupils learned about themselves and developed many practical skills including orienteering and tent pitching. Pupils were expected to operate as part of a team and without any support from staff.

The Duke of Edinburgh is the world's leading achievement award for young people and is highly regarded by universities, colleges and employers. It encourages young people to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork through being involved in a personalised programme of activities. It was recently voted by the United Learning Trust, a consortium of major employers, as the extra-curricular award that they see as most important for potential applicants to have attained at school.

The Award is split into four sections: volunteering, physical activity, skill development and expedition.

Service to Communities

Slough Youth Parliament

Pupils from Eden Girls' School, Slough joined MP for Slough, Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese and students from Langley Academy and Baylis Court School at a parliamentary reception to mark the success of Slough achieving top percentage turnout (80%) in the MakeYourMark ballot.

We are proud to have won the Slough Youth Parliament Democracy Award in two consecutive years.



Opening Ceremony

Our STAR values were evident at the School's Official Opening Ceremony, on Monday 14th May where we were honoured to welcome Lord Theodore Agnew, Under Secretary of State for the School System as our Chief Guest.

Students led much of the ceremony, speaking with confidence and dignity. Guests enjoyed recitations from the Holy Qur'an, poetry and speeches on student leadership. The organisation of the day was a true testament to the effective teamwork

of our staff and a great amount of behind the scenes activity of pupils.

Lord Agnew, guests from the Department for Education, members of the Local Governing Body and local dignitaries were all highly impressed by the presentations and



demeanour of our students and the welcome provided by our staff.

Lord Agnew enjoyed a special tour of the school. During the tour he met with pupils and observed lessons to see first-hand how our school pursues the highest educational standards and aims to foster a love of learning. He also heard how the school plays a vital role in the local community through charitable and social action projects.

The ceremony concluded with an inspiring speech from Lord Agnew and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to officially open the school building.

Induction Day

On Tuesday 3rd July, Eden Girls' Slough was delighted to welcome our Year 6 pupils, who will be joining us in September 2018.

Pupils from a number of Primary Schools came

together to meet their teachers and new friends.

Students took part in a range of exciting activities including Origami, Team Building and Computing.

They also had a chance to meet their Learning Coordinators and learn

about the school's values, structures and rules.

We are all very excited about the next academic year with our new learners who are already proud to be a part of the Eden family.

Our STAR values were evident at the School's Official Opening Ceremony on Monday 14th May

Ramadhaan

During the summer term our school community enjoyed sharing the holy month of Ramadhaan together. Pupils benefited from a range of opportunities to promote their spiritual development including fasting, charitable giving, Islamic enrichment and a Big Iftar Event.

Thanks to the generosity of parents, the school raised over £4500 for charity through its Ramadhaan charity appeal which included the provision of Eid gifts, sponsoring of orphans and the donation of lunch money.

The school also hosted a Big Iftar Event with guests from Slough Youth Parliament, local charities and local

dignitaries. Guests enjoyed presentations from the Mayor of Slough and key inter-faith speakers.



Phab

We are very excited about the launching of our Phab club in October 2018. Phab is an organisation that inspires and supports children, young people and adults with and without disabilities to make more of life together - breaking down community barriers, reducing social isolation, and creating opportunities for disabled people to enjoy the same activities and challenges as, and alongside, those without a disability.

Phab Clubs bring together people from different communities to take part in various activities and social events.

Our local Phab Club will be run every other Friday from at Eton College. Meetings will also take place there at the same time on alternate Fridays to plan the activities to run or the events to hold.



Eid Fair

We held our first Community Eid Fair on Saturday 23rd June. The event provided us with an opportunity to celebrate our successful Ofsted Inspection with our parents and the wider community.

Key Term Dates—Autumn Term 2018

Staff Inset Day 1:	Monday 3rd September 2018
School Re-opens for Y7 & Y11:	Tuesday 4th September 2018
School Re-opens for Y8, Y9 & Y10:	Wednesday 5th September 2018
Mid-term Closure:	Monday 22nd October - Friday 26th October 2018
Xmas Holidays:	Thursday 20th December - Wednesday 2nd January 2019