

Spring Term Newsletter

Eden Girls' School, Slough



Eden Girls

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

April 2019
Issue 11

Our pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard this Spring Term. The school has once again been a vibrant place of activity. Learners have been very busy with a wide range of initiatives and projects.

Inside this edition of our newsletter 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.

During the Spring Term students have excelled in a range of areas.

The school has experienced, for the first time, the challenges of the final preparations for completing GCSE and equivalent courses. Teachers are demonstrating remarkable ambition for our learners by offering an impressive array of additional interventions at lunchtimes, after-school, weekends and in school holidays. The effort of our pupils is, likewise, incredibly impressive. They consistently demonstrate gratitude and willingness to engage with all these extra opportunities to raise their attainment in the summer.

At the heart of our activity this term has been a rich curriculum experience. The humanities curriculum has been brought to life through trips to Warwick Castle and closer to home in Rushall Farm. Our learners have consolidated literacy and reading skills through a comprehensive programme for World Book Day and have developed business and enterprise skills through the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge where we were delighted to see our top-performing team not only make it to the regional finals but to go one step further to the national finals of the acclaimed competition taking place in May.

Pupils in Year 9 took advantage of another special opportunity to enhance

their social development thanks to our annual French trip to Morocco, benefiting from rich cultural experiences as they experienced the wonders of Marrakesh and Essaouira. Our History department have followed suit this term running our first Berlin Tour for learners following the GCSE course.

To mark British Science Week in March, pupils participated in a range of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities. This included partnership events with Brunel University, King's College London and Windsor College.

Our pupils consistently capture the school's ethos of service, teamwork and respect in their actions.

We were delighted to be shortlisted for the Active Secondary Award at the annual Berkshire Get Active Awards and were very proud to be amongst the nominees on the evening. This builds on the excellent work of our sports leaders and strong performances of our teams who continue to thrive in the Slough School Sports Network.

A commitment to developing and maintaining effective partnerships is a crucial skill that we aim to nurture in our pupils. Our collaboration with Eton College and Heathfield School through their Phab club is inspiring and

supporting children, young people and adults with a range of complex needs. This very special community work is creating opportunities and forming social connections on a number of important levels.

Other key events this term have included an impressive fundraising effort for charity organisation Physicians Across Continents, which raised over £4000 to support the victims of wars worldwide; a strong programme of activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Day; the hosting of an impressive evening event to mark International Women's day and the culmination of the First Give Programme which saw a £1000 donation being presented as a result of the leadership skills demonstrated by our pupils in Year 7.

We were delighted that our school culture was recognised and noted in our Trust Quality Assurance visit in January where Director of Education, Shirley Gornall, commented that 'the school is a vibrant place where dreams and aspirations are created.'

I pray that all our families enjoy a blessed, peaceful and happy break during the Easter Holidays and look forward to seeing all pupils on Tuesday 23rd April for the start of the Summer Term.

"A vibrant and inspiring learning community"

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

Educational Excellence

Mosaic Enterprise Challenge

Over 2500 students participated nationwide in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge this year. Starting in January, teams in secondary schools across the country have played an online business simulation game with the highest scoring teams going through to regional finals to present a business pitch in front of a panel of judges. The game enables students to develop their understanding of business concepts and enterprise skills such as marketing and production. Participants also learn about issues related to business ethics and sustainability.

After weeks of incredible effort, motivation and dedication, working both independently in their teams and with Mosaic Mentors, five pupils in Year 8 from Eden Girls' School, Slough were successful in securing a place in the South-East Regional Finals in March. In this event they competed against 4 other schools, delivering a fantastic pitch for their business idea which impressed

the judges, sending them through to the National Finals.

The pupils are now diligently preparing themselves for the task ahead with the ongoing support of their mentors. We wish them all the best for the Grand Finals which will be held in London on Thursday 2nd May 2019.



World Book Day



World Book Day is held on Thursday 7th March every year. Its aim is to promote a love of reading in young people and ensure that every young person has access to books of their own.

At Eden Girls' School, Slough this year, we felt that one day just

simply would not do and decided to run a World Book Week.

The week launched with a streaming of a performance of Jane Eyre courtesy of the National Theatre. This was particularly helpful for our Year 11 pupils who are studying the text as part of their GCSE English Literature course.

The week continued with visits from famous author of 44 published books Bali Rai and the dynamic spoken word poet, Adisa. Both acclaimed visitors celebrate culture and diversity in their writing and were able to share with pupils their inspiration for both reading and writing.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in a book swap involving an exchange of more than 300 books.

The week finally drew to a spectacular close with a 500 word creative writing competition assembly. Members of staff read out the winning stories, celebrating the exceptional talent of students across the school.



Rushall Farm

During the Spring term Year 7 Geographers have been learning about industrial job sectors from basic raw material gathering jobs in the Primary industries (farming and quarrying etc.) to bioengineering in the Quaternary sector (scientific research).

They then went on to focus on farming and have analysed the spatial Geography of British farming and its produce. In order to develop a deeper understanding of where our food comes from, as well as the economic processes of the farming industry, the entire year 7 cohort visited Rushall Farm in Reading. Whilst there, they examined how modern technology



has changed the farming processes and led to a reduced farming workforce in the UK. Pupils also looked at the ways in which farmers have had to diversify their sources of income in order to survive.

For many of our pupils this was a rare experience of rural English life and an opportunity to develop their understanding of where their food and resources come from. This trip aimed to develop their spatial awareness of processes and links within our economic society. It also enabled them to appreciate the wider impacts of our food purchases on a local and global scale.



Warwick Castle

The History Department held its much anticipated Year 7 Warwick Castle Trip this year as part of the Historic Environment Unit.

Pupils listened intently to castle tour guides to hear some of the gruesome and torturous ways in which Norman soldiers held off invasions; including the use of hot sand and other offensive fluids through the holes of the castles' entrance.

Pupils were given the opportunity to see the world's only fully functioning Trebuchet machine; were thrilled by the manacles of the castle goal and braved the infamous Castle Dungeons.

It was particularly satisfying to see the impact that the trip had on pupil learning in assessments the following week.



British Science Week

British Science Week was held this year between Friday 8th March and Sunday 17th March.

The theme of the week this year was 'Journeys' with a focus on highlighting the development of science from the past to the present.

At Eden Girls' the celebration aimed at inspiring our students to take up studies and careers in the disciplines of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). During the week, Year 7 pupils took part in a Robocoding activity where pupils brought together their understanding of Science, Maths and Language concepts in an interactive coding workshop. Year 8 pupils paid a visit to the London Science Museum where they experienced learning through real-life space technology, interactive galleries and the UK's largest 3D IMAX cinema. Year 8 learners also participated in a Science Fair where they designed and implemented experiments in a range of areas using scientific methods. One of the winners of this Year's Science Fair, Rafina

Choudary, said 'With this experience, I feel more ready to do core practicals in GCSE.'

Our STEM Day helped pupils in Year 10 learn more about STEM Careers thanks to the inputs of representatives from King's College London, Brunel University, Windsor College and other invited guests. We hope that the experience helps many students to feel motivated to continue their studies in science beyond GCSE and to pursue a STEM career.



Brunel STEM Trip

It is widely acknowledged that STEM careers are male dominated and, sadly, only 15% of Engineering graduates are female. Brunel University invited Eden Girls' School, Slough to take part in a day of STEM activities in March to promote STEM

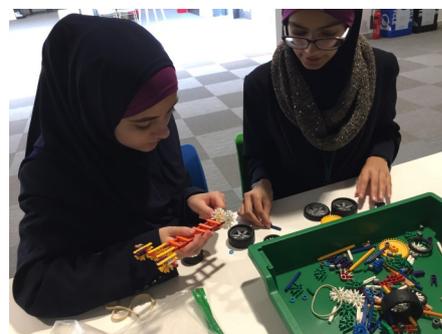


courses at their university.

Activities started with understanding the forces a racing car goes through at high speeds. Students had a chance to build a model sports car incorporating what they had learnt and the cars were put through their paces. The girls enjoyed the second

challenge which was chocolate welding to create a bridge. The bridges were tested to see which could withstand the higher mass.

The afternoon was spent coding a wireless sphero, using tablets to connect with the sphero and coding them to move around a circuit. It was an enjoyable experience for all!



Berkshire Get Active Awards and Sports Leadership

This term we were delighted to be shortlisted for the Active Secondary Award at the annual Berkshire Get Active Awards. This was down to the commitment from staff and pupils to promoting the benefits of living an active lifestyle through a wide range of opportunities and activities. The awards evening celebrated sport and physical

activity in the county. We were very proud to be amongst the nominees on the evening and are determined to continue developing our work to promote healthy lifestyles for our learners.

Our sports leaders have continued to excel this term. They have supported a number of events for the Slough School Sports Network where our leaders have been praised for their hard work and excellent leadership skills. To finish the term a number of girls had the experience of volunteering at the Berkshire School Games. This was a

great experience for the leaders who worked with hundreds of children and young people on the day as they competed against one another to be crowned the best in Berkshire. This included our own Year 7 and 8 Football Team!



Year 7 Football Tournament

We have had another successful round of competitions for our Year 7 and 8 Football Team. Having finished as runners up in the Slough Powerleague Competition before Christmas, the girls went one step further at the Slough Berkshire Games Qualifier, winning the tournament and representing Slough at the 2019 Berkshire

School Games! The girls were undefeated in the group stages of the competition. The final was a very tight game, going to extra time, before we scored and held on to the win. This ensured that we went through the entire competition without having a goal scored against us and secured our place in the Berkshire School Games. We are extremely proud of the team as this is the first time that pupils from the school have qualified for the Berkshire Games.

Morocco Trip 2019

Year 9 pupils, for the second time, benefited from the opportunity to take part in the school's exciting annual French trip to Morocco where they looked forward to being both thrilled by the hustle and bustle of Marrakesh and mesmerized by the serenity of the Ouzoud Waterfall.

17 pupils departed from London Stansted on a cold February morning, arriving in the warm welcome of Marrakesh, with the sun uplifting our spirits and setting the tone for the 4 days ahead. On our first day we visited the amazing Bahia Palace with our tour guide, learning much about not only Moroccan culture but also Islamic history, witnessing the beautiful Al Koutoubia Mosque and experiencing the beautiful sound of the *Adhaan* (Call to prayer).

modern shopping district of Marrakesh with the much anticipated Big Mac being a focal objective for most! The next two days were spent on the sands of Essaouira, enchanted by the souk and the welcome of its local people. A tagine was not to be missed during the trip and we enjoyed a lovely traditional meal, prepared by the group. We hope that the trip remains a rich life experience for all involved.



On the second day, we visited the Ouzoud Waterfall, with the captivating nature enriching our spiritual senses due to the amazement of this natural beauty and the miracle of its creation. After a long day, we visited the



Berlin Trip

Eden History department are excited to be able to present its first Berlin Tour to GCSE History pupils.

The aim of this trip is to consolidate and enhance pupil knowledge of Germany's rich political, economic

and social history and to begin to make some sense of the impact on its society and how it has shaped Germany today.

Teachers and pupils will be accompanied by our expert Anglia tour guide using an itinerary that will see us visit the Reichstag Dome, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the Topography of Terror.

to put their learning to the test! The History department would like to provide a valuable experience for pupils where theoretical study is supported with a living history experience. The visit is taking place from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th April. We wish the whole group a wonderful visit and safe return home!



We will contemplate at the significance of the Wannsee Conference House where important decisions about the Final Solution were made and silently reflect at the Roma and Sinti memorial. Parents have been well informed about the busy itinerary and pupils are excited



Attendance

Excellent attendance is the foundation for outstanding achievement at school. I am delighted to say that our attendance of 97.1% last year placed the school in the top 1% 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. Congratulations to all Form Groups that have achieved our target of 97% attendance this term!

Year Group Attendance

Year Group	Attendance
Year 9	97.6%
Year 11	97.4%
Year 7	97.2%
Year 10	97%
Year 8	96.8%

Form Group Attendance

Form Group	Attendance
7M	98%
7A	97.8%
8I	97.7%
9I	97.7%
9A	97.6%
9N	97.5%
11IM	97.5%
8A	97.3%
11AN	97.2%
7I	97%
10N	97%
10I	96.9%
10A	96.9%
8N	96.7%
10M	96.3%
7N	96.2%
9M	96.2%
8M	95.3%

Character Development

International Women's Day

The school held a special event to celebrate International Women's Day on Friday 8th March.

The evening event was organised for women only and involved pupils from all year groups performing role plays, taking part in discussions about current affairs relating to

women and personalised henna sessions.

We were delighted to be joined by prominent governor and gender-equality campaigner Julie Siddiqi for this celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Participants on the night also had the opportunity to highlight and discuss the areas where action is still

needed at all levels to bring about the necessary changes to ensure that we all are able to live in a more gender-balanced world.



Spirituality Day

The key theme for Spirituality Day this term was *Al-Isra wal-Miraj* (the miraculous Night Journey), a significant event in the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) where he was taken in one night from Makkah to Jerusalem and then ascended to the heavens.

The day was packed with a wide range of learning activities and pupils had the opportunity to explore themes associated with this special journey. The whole school started the day by watching the film *Jerusalem*, from which they learnt about the religious significance of the city to the Abrahamic faiths. Pupils in Year 7 and 8 took part in dedicated *taharah* (purification and hygiene) and *salah* (prayer) workshops. Pupils in Year 9 and 10 debated the topic of miracles.

In separate sessions, these pupils also looked at the significance of *Al-Quds* (the old city of Jerusalem) from a geographical and religious perspective. Some pupils also had the unique opportunity to learn about the Crusades and their historical significance for the Abrahamic faiths in the land of Jerusalem. Pupils concluded the day by focusing on the story behind the Night Journey and reflecting on key lessons that we can take from it.



PHAB Update

Eight pupils in Year 10 continue to give up their Friday evenings to work in collaboration with Eton College and Heathfield School on the delivery of a fortnightly Phab club, for this worthy cause. Phab is an organisation which 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 those without a disability. Over 150 Phab Clubs

across England and Wales, with 8,000 members, enable children, young people and adults with disabilities to get together with friends and family for all kinds of activities and social events.

Our local collaboration is delivered fortnightly on Friday evenings from Eton college.

Holocaust Memorial

Over six million people were murdered in the genocide known as The Holocaust which took place during World War 2. Holocaust Memorial Day was held this year on Sunday 27th January. To commemorate the day, pupils were involved in numerous activities which supported them in their reflections on the significance of this devastating human tragedy.

Firstly, there was a strong focus in whole school assemblies to remember the millions of people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and genocide must still be resisted every day. Our world often feels



vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all. This issue was debated during form time where a set of activities were prepared. This included short clips and discussion questions to introduce students to the genocides remembered on Holocaust Memorial Day. The students also had the opportunity to take part in the HMD 2019 Postcard Project which explores the theme Torn from home. Students learnt the history and explored life stories of people affected by the Holocaust and the Genocide in Cambodia. Each form were the given an opportunity to write a postcards to the survivors. Year 10 were also very fortunate enough to meet a Holocaust Survivor Uri Winterstein, who gave an insightful testimony into the tragic events he had experiences. Students showed great empathy to this emotional testament.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day took place on Friday 15th March. We joined other schools around the UK to participate in the fundraising programme, run by Comic Relief, that takes places every two years. Comic Relief is a UK charity which aims to create a just world, free from poverty. By taking part, our school can make a real difference to people's lives. Pupils also learn valuable life skills and gain understanding and empathy for others in the world, while coming together as a community.

We used it as a learning opportunity to help pupils explore the issues facing young people across the world, and how the money we raise can help. We started by selling Red Noses at school from Monday 11th March and then, on Friday 15th March, an hour

was set aside for activities and the selling of food and drink, donated by pupils and staff members. Through these activities, our community raised over £1500 for this worthy cause, an incredible feat!



Service to Communities

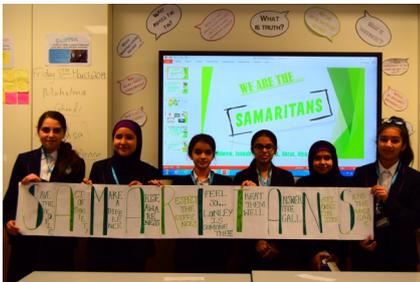
Bikeability

Bikeability is government-recognised, practical and professional training that allows cyclists to be more skilled and confident. It encourages people to see cycling as a healthier way to get around and reduces the time spent in a car. Pupils have recently been given the opportunity to undertake this formal training. Pupils who signed up for it gained practical skills, understanding and confidence for cycling on public roads. Over 40 pupils signed up for this and received a recognised training certificate for the 8 hours of training.



First Give

This year, First Give provided the 7 pupils with a passion, creativity and determination all the positive qualities that were harnessed for social change.



It provided the students with the opportunity to ignite a spark of social conscience in young people, develop key professional skills in young people such as: teamwork; research; public speaking and leadership and build a culture of giving in future generations. We had 4 groups of Year 7s who made their journey to the finals. These students have been able to identify social issues in their area and engage with local charities that address them. They have worked with their local charities which include: **Food Bank, RSPCA, Samaritans and PHAB.**

The group of students had the opportunity to compete for £1000



grant money. Teams completed this by advocating for their charity in a school competition finals, which was held on the Thursday 28th March 2019. We would like to congratulate Samaritans for winning the grant, and to all involved in this year's incredible First Give.

Slough Youth Parliament

The Slough Youth Parliament campaigns was an excellent start to Spring Term, involving posters around the school and presentations to pupils by candidates.

The effort, passion and dedication from all those who were involved was incredible.

25 pupils from Years 7 to 10 promoted their campaigns and encouraged pupils to vote for them to be the next Slough Youth Parliament representative. Ballot papers for were then delivered to form classes and pupils voted,

before their ballots were sent on to Slough Youth Services for counting.

The two pupils who have been elected as the Slough Youth Parliament representatives for Eden Girls' School for the next two years are Amelia Hussain in 10A and Minah Sabri in 9I. Well done to them both!

Fundraising Campaign for Physicians Across Continents

At the start of Spring Term, pupils took part in a two-week campaign to raise money for the charity Physicians Across Continents. This organisation aims to provide high-quality medical care, teaching and training to individuals and communities affected by crises worldwide. To meet these objectives, volunteers from the charity offered pupils the opportunity to engage in a fundraising competition.

During these two weeks, pupils raised a remarkable £4006.79!



Sky Ocean Rescue

Facilitators from the Transformation Trust, in association with the media company Sky, visited the school in January to deliver a workshop to 60 pupils in Year 9 about reducing the amount of plastic in the oceans.

Pupils were challenged to come up with an idea to help reduce the number of single-use plastic products we use and create campaigns. The best ideas have been entered into a national competition. All the best girls!



Chartwells

Chartwells Summer Term menu is now on the School Website. Please follow the link below or alternatively visit the School website, scroll to the

bottom of the page and click on School Gateway. Then click on the Chartwells Logo where a full menu will be available for you to view:

<https://www.edengirlsslough.com/school-gateway/>



Key Term Dates—Summer Term 2019

Start of Summer Term:	Tuesday 23rd April
Start of Ramadhaan:	Sunday 5th May
Start of GCSE Exams:	Monday 13th May
Y8 Vaccinations—HPV 1 & 2:	Tuesday 14th May
Big Iftar (Fast Opening):	Friday 24th May
Mid Term Closure:	Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May
Eid ul Fitr Holiday:	Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th June
Parents' Tea & Coffee Morning:	Wednesday 12th June
Y11 Leavers Celebration:	Friday 21st June
Parent Information Evening:	Tuesday 2nd July
Summer Holidays Begin:	Friday 19th July