

# Summer Term Newsletter Eden Girls' School, Slough



Eden Girls

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

July 2019  
Issue 12

Inside this Summer Term edition of our newsletter you will be able to learn about the exciting trips, activities and events that have taken place this term and the learning that pupils have gained. We hope all pupils have an enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to seeing them in September.

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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.**

Our school community has pulled together this term to ensure a successful GCSE exam season for years 10 and 11, a memorable time of reflection and spirituality during Ramadhaan and a fun-filled finale to the year during Activities Week.

Staff and students alike have worked extremely hard throughout the term to ensure that no stone has gone unturned as students have undertaken the final preparations for their GCSE examinations. A remarkable range of additional interventions were delivered to students by teachers in after-school sessions on weekends and during the May Half-Term. Pupils maintained an impressive level of resilience as they engaged with these extra opportunities to boost their attainment. Levels of behaviour and attendance have remained similarly very high and demonstrate the commitment of our entire community to educational excellence.

Learners across all Year groups have seized opportunities to achieve impressive outcomes and enhance their leadership skills. We have witnessed, once again, the impressive conscientiousness of students in Years 7 to 10 demonstrated through their positive and hardworking approach to their end-of-year exams. Beyond the

classroom, pupils have enjoyed success in a wide range of areas: Sports Leaders from all years have received considerable praise for their contribution to numerous events this term such as the high-profile Berkshire School Games; Year 10 learners have enjoyed learning how to survive in the great outdoors as they have worked towards the completion of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and Year 8 Team, LAZANIA, performed brilliantly to win third place in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge National Finals.

Students and staff benefited from the spiritual lessons of the holy month of Ramadhaan, with a comprehensive enrichment programme and prominent charity campaign enhancing this period of reflection and growth. The month culminated with a very successful Big Iftar which brought members of our school and local community together and included a Keynote Speech from former MP for Slough, Fiona Mactaggart.

The school community experienced for the first time the process of saying farewell to its oldest group of students as learners in Year 11 completed their last GCSE exam, participated in their final assembly and enjoyed their Leavers Celebration at Baylis House.

This group of students have done a wonderful job as our first pioneering cohort of students who have set an

example for future year groups to go on to emulate and improve upon. We wish them every success in their next steps at Sixth Form or College and throughout their future lives.

As I prepare for my own next professional journey, I was delighted that Star Director of Education, Kieran Larkin, was able to write to members of our school community in May with confirmation of the appointment of Sajid Khaliq as the next Parincipal of the school. Sajid and I have been working through a handover process this term as he prepares to lead the school in the exciting next phase of its development from September. Sajid will be supported next term by an enhanced Senior Leadership Team as newly appointed Assistant Principals, Maschil De Guzman and Lisa Kiely take up their roles alongside the existing members of the team.

I would like to express my most sincere thank you to all the parents of Eden Girls' School, Slough for your exceptional support this term and throughout my time as Principal of the school. Our parents contribute so much to make the school the special place that it has become and it is this collective community spirit that will continue to ensure that the school goes from strength to strength in its incredibly bright future.

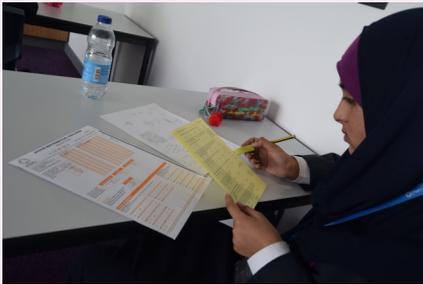
*"A vibrant and inspiring learning community"*

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

# Educational Excellence

## United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Challenge

This term, over 60 students from year 7 and year 8 took part in this year's



UKMT Junior Maths Challenge at the end of April. The UKMT Individual Maths Challenges are lively, intriguing multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in Maths. The three levels cover the secondary school age range 11-18yrs and together they attract over 600,000 entries from over 4,000 schools and colleges.

We are delighted that our students performed extremely well in the competition. 3 students achieved silver awards: in Year 8 Ashwa Naz and Sana Iftikhar, in Year 7 Sara Ahmed. A further 12 students achieved bronze awards. Well done



to all students who took part. The experience will stand all in good stead for achieving excellent results in their GCSE maths exams in Year 11.

## Macbeth

*"So fair and foul a day I have not seen."*

There has been a focus this term on Shakespeare's masterpiece, Macbeth. Years 10 and 11 enjoyed an engaging and dynamic contemporary performance of the play delivered by the drama company, Box Clever Theatre. This experience helped learners to enhance their understanding of the



play. Students then worked with the actors during a workshop to analyse the text in closer detail.

Students in years 9 and 10 have also enjoyed a dramatic end to their Shakespeare studies this year through a captivating series of drama lessons. After closely analysing a pivotal moment from the play, the Banquet scene, they decided on the most important speeches and wrote a modern script around them.

The girls then had fun performing

the arrival of Banquo's ghost. The drama allowed them to explore Macbeth's reaction to the ghost in contrast to Lady Macbeth's reaction to him and the increasing suspicion and incredulity of the Lords.

Watching back the film of this mini production will provide students with an engaging and entertaining way to resume their 'Macbeth' revision in the run up to their exams.



## National Citizenship Service (NCS)

Year 11 students attended a series of NCS workshops in our school.

The NCS is an exciting programme open to all teenagers aged 15-17 to discover who they are and what they can do. Designed in four-phases, the programme provides participants with a range of new experiences. It gives students the chance to meet a wide range of people and enhance their UCAS statements and CVs in preparation for university and



employment. It is an ideal summer activity for Year 11 pupils following the sitting of their GCSE exams. The programme is voluntary and independent of school and aims to bring a diverse social mix of young people together from all walks of life to form groups that work successfully together in order to achieve amazing things for themselves and their communities.

The NCS gives young people a framework to present their skills and experiences during interviews and on future job applications. It includes challenging activities, away-from-home residential experiences and self-designed social action projects.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)

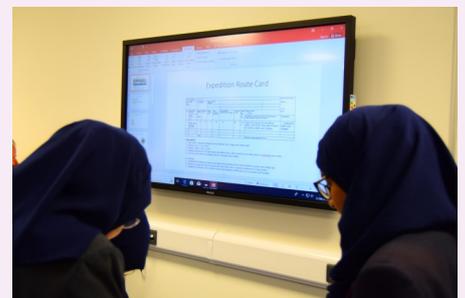
We are proud of the fact that for the second year running, students in Year 10 have successfully completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Scheme through the school.



The Award is nationally recognised and provides students with the chance to do things that they would not have thought possible in the past. It develops a 'can do' culture among our students which is so valuable in the modern world.

The Award is split into the following sections:

- Volunteering:** undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- Physical:** improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests.



**Expedition:** planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK.

Throughout the year, students build up evidence of their progress in each of the skill areas before developing the essential skills necessary to complete the residential expedition.

## Slough Youth Parliament

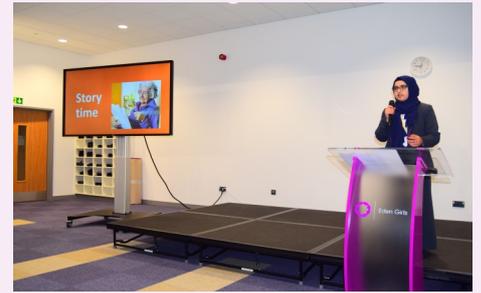
The school is proud of its partnership with the very successful Slough Youth Parliament. At every point of the year, the school engages with the parliament's priority activities. In the Autumn Term, intense classroom discussions



take place around the issues to be voted on as part of the Make Your Mark Campaign. The ballot decides what issues Members of the UK Youth Parliament should be campaigning on and is the biggest democratic consultation of young people in the UK. Issues include Equal Pay for Equal Work, Improving Mental Health Services and Votes at 16.

Our school members of Parliament, Minah Sabri (Year 9) and Amelia Hussain (Year 10), have worked hard to help improve many significant aspects of their local area. The Slough Youth Parliament manifesto for this year focused on reducing homelessness in Slough and providing support for those

without stable housing and poor mental health. Representatives were involved in clarifying where people can get help when they feel they need support. Members have also engaged with projects aimed at educating the youth on the most effective ways to tackle knife crime, an increasingly high-profile issue for the police and decision-makers at a national and local level.



## Star Pupil Council

The Star Pupil Council is instrumental in ensuring pupil voice is at the heart of Star Academies.

During the 2018-19 academic year, the Council successfully brought together pupils from across Star's diverse network of schools and provided a forum for them to share their views and opinions and bring about positive change in Star schools.



This term Star Pupil Council members across the Trust had the opportunity to give feedback to the Star Senior Leadership Team in a virtual meeting. Pupils were consulted on a wide range of topics from the curriculum, behaviour, careers advice and uniform as well as having the opportunity to discuss topics of specific importance in their schools.

Our Star Pupil Council members this year have been Year 10 students, Amira Abdillahi and Hijab Shah who have done an excellent job in representing the student voice of our school.

# Character Development

## Sports Leadership

From our work with the Slough School Sports Partnership we have



had an extremely busy term of leadership events. These have included coaching and facilitating a wide range of primary sports events such as: Cricket, Kurling, Athletics, Change4Life and Sports Days.

This has given a vast number of our students the opportunity to boost their confidence, learn new skills and show their leadership expertise.

The Sports Partnership have praised the school and our pupils for their hard work and commitment to the successful delivery of the events.



## Berkshire School Games



Our Sports Leaders have done such a great job this year that the organisers of the Berkshire School Games requested their assistance at both the winter and summer events!

Additionally, for the first time our three Young Ambassadors, Momina Naz, Hussay Paywand and Adna Ali attended the residential leadership camp.

They undertook many roles on the day and even gave the Mayor and a number of other distinguished guests a tour of the event.

## Climbing



GCSE PE students took part in a 6 week course of Rock Climbing at Longridge Activity Centre. This was part of their GCSE PE course and will form practical grades for many students.

Students learnt many new skills and took responsibility for developing these throughout the course. They also had to film each other presenting the climbing skills that they had learnt.



## Rowing

A number of Year 8 & 9 students were given the opportunity to travel to Dorney Lake and learn how to row.



The first session was mostly land based, where the girls worked on machines to practise the correct rowing technique before learning how to set up and get into their own boat. The next three weeks saw the girls out on the water, moving from being in boats as groups of four to being in their own single boat.

They worked on being able to stand up in the boat, turn effectively and manoeuvre around obstacles.

## 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!

Form Group Attendance	
7M	97.9%
7A	97.6%
9I	97.6%
8I	97.5%
9A	97.4%
10A	97.3%
8A	97.2%
10N	97.1%
9N	97.1%
10M	96.8%
10I	96.6%
7I	96.6%
7N	96.6%
8N	96.2%
9M	96.1%
8M	95.6%

Year Group Attendance	
Year 7	97.2%
Year 9	97.2%
Year 10	97%
Year 8	97%

# Community Service

## The Big Iftar

The Big Iftar at our school was underpinned by the Prophetic statement: "Whoever feeds a fasting person will have a reward like that of the fasting person, without any reduction in his/her reward." One of the many responsibilities we have as a faith-school community is to ensure that we depict an accurate image of the values that we uphold when educating our pupils, and represent a true embodiment of the faith-based ambassadorship amongst staff and pupils at our school. Ramadhaan was the perfect opportunity to reflect on the nature of our interactions with: *Allah (God), Ourselves, Our families and Those around us (Wider community)*.

Throughout history, one of the main factors that shaped the successful relationship between Muslims and their non-Muslim host countries was the strong element of trustworthiness that existed within the various diverse factions of society. In line with this central premise, we at Eden Girls' Slough were honoured to host a massive Iftar this year. 200+ guests attended,

including many local leaders and faith-based dignitaries from various religious backgrounds; coming from all walks of life. Everyone enjoyed the scrumptious 3-course Iftar meal that was very generously sponsored by a member of the local community. This included a variety of fruit & dates, *Papdi chaat, Hummus, Tabbouleh, Samosas, Pakoras, Chicken Pilau rice, Lamb curry and so much more!*

It was an amazing sight to see our pupils being ambassadors for such a powerful event and uniting the local community. This symbolised how education that stems from global religious values can be the driving force for community cohesion and tolerance.

Among our many distinguished guest speakers we were honoured to welcome former MP for Slough, Fiona Mactaggart, who delivered a memorable speech on the topic of community cohesion.



## Knife Crime and Mental Health

Members of Thames Valley Police and Slough Borough Council delivered an important assembly on Mental Health and Knife Crime to pupils in Years 9 and 10 this term. The pupils were very engaged and showed strong feelings about the issues raised.

Some pupils showed the maturity and courage to share meaningful experiences whilst others asked thoughtful questions to gain a deeper understanding.



## Spirituality Day

The main theme for Spirituality Day this term was Hajj (the pilgrimage). Pupils began the day by watching a national geographic film called 'Inside Mecca'. This followed the Hajj of three pilgrims from the US, Malaysia and South Africa and gave an account of the challenges they faced and how they overcame these. Next, Year 7s and 8s began the day by engaging in a special Hajj workshop and taking part in the Tour de Hajj challenge. In the Hajj workshop, pupils were taught about the skills required from a *Haji* (Pilgrim) and engaged in tasks that encouraged them to reflect on how they could incorporate these qualities within their everyday personal, spiritual and academic goals.



Pupils were encouraged to reflect on having aspirations that would benefit their local community and contribute towards the wider society. Meanwhile, Year 9s and 10s were busy taking part in the Hajj tour brochure competition and Hajj travel-writing competition. This put their creativity and knowledge of Hajj to the test.

Pupils ended the day by sharing reflections of what they had learnt about and took part in a special Hajj quiz. The primary focus of this day was to move away from looking at Hajj as a legal act of worship undertaken by pilgrims only, and really put the character strengths that are required to fulfil Hajj under the microscope and brainstorm how we can apply these in our everyday lives.



## Road and Water Safety

Members of White Watch from Slough Fire Station visited the school in June to give a



presentation to pupils in Years 7 and 8 regarding water, fire safety and road safety.

Pupils were reminded not to use mobile phones and to take out headphones while crossing roads so that they are able to hear oncoming vehicles.

Pupils were also taught about the effects of cold water shock and how it can cause the inhalation of large amounts of water which can lead to drowning and death. The



firefighters emphasised the importance of not jumping into cold water in the hot weather.

## Year 6 Induction

The primary-to-secondary School Transition Day took place on Tuesday 2nd July to prepare pupils



for starting a new chapter in their educational journeys.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to meet new classmates, build friendships and become familiar with the layout of the school. They were able to engage in taster sessions in subjects such as English, Maths and Science in their future school surroundings.

The transition day helped to ease the pupil's nerves about starting secondary school and alleviate any



fears or anxieties that they may have had prior to coming.

The day was a real success and we look forward to welcoming them back in the Autumn term as Year 7.

## Chartwells

The Chartwells menu can be found on our 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/>



## Star Academies Communication

Star Academies has published the second issue of its termly magazine –

Starlight - to keep parents, carers, governors and friends of the Star community informed about the latest news from Star Academies.

The magazine can be accessed by following the Star Academies website

link below:

[https://staracademies.org/news/publications/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=StarLight%20EGSlough](https://staracademies.org/news/publications/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=StarLight%20EGSlough)

## Key Term Dates—Autumn Term 2019

### Staff Inset Day

School reopens for pupils in Y7 & 11:

School reopens for pupils in Y8,9 & 10:

Mid-Term Closure:

Christmas Holidays:

**Monday 2nd September**

**Tuesday 3rd September**

**Wednesday 4th September**

**Monday 28th October — Friday 1st November**

**Monday 23rd December — Tuesday 7th January**