

Lockdown Special Spring & Summer Term Newsletter

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

Inside this Lockdown Special Spring & Summer Term edition of our newsletter you will be able to learn about the exciting trips, activities and events that have taken place over the last two terms and the learning that pupils have gained. We hope all pupils have an enjoyable break and look forward to seeing them in the new academic year.



Inside this issue..



Page 2
Principal's Message

Academic Excellence

Page 3
Centre Assessed Grades
Star Awards

Page 4
Stars of Hope
Eton College Maths Mentoring

Page 5
Home Learning

Page 6
Attendance
Year 6 Transition

Page 7
Warwick Castle Trip
Holocaust Memorial Day

Page 8
World Book Day

Page 9
Mental Health Awareness
The Big Teach: Knowing More, Remembering More

UKMT 2020

Character Development

Page 10
Black Lives Matter

Page 11
Career Guidance Opportunities

Page 12
Duke of Edinburgh
Oxford Partnership
Ramadhaan

Page 13
Sports Relief
Sports Competition
Sports Event

Page 14
First Give

Page 15
Farewell Year 11s

EGS Hub for Vulnerable and Key Worker Pupils

Community Service

Page 16
Food Bank and Hygiene Packs
Grenfell Anniversary

Loneliness Week

Page 17
Student Council
Starline

Key Term Dates — Autumn Term 2020

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.

What an incredible year this has been! My first year as Principal, what can I say? We are in unprecedented times; future generations will be discussing our times with such fascination and interest, in every field of human endeavor. We have the unexpected opportunity to spend endless days in each other's uninterrupted company. This has undoubtedly brought many golden moments for some families.

A chance to pause, prioritise and learn together. To overcome any barriers thrown our way, extended home learning, new ways to socialise, new ways to work and through your tremendous fortitude, together we have supported your daughter to continue the path of lifelong success.

We have actioned our school values and the ethos that we have created to ensure that your daughter thrives and benefits from the richest experiences and opportunities, even in the most challenging of circumstances. Many silver linings have started to appear. Skills in working independently, acquiring new knowledge from different sources, responding to several forms of interaction and engagement have,

without doubt, improved over the last few months. This is testament to your hard work and support of your daughter's well-being, learning and consequent progress.

It is unfortunate that our phenomenally hard working and selfless Y11s have not completed their GCSE exams. However, they will be receiving their GCSEs under revised OFQUAL guidance. I am looking forward to seeing our Y11s back in school, with much excitement to have them open their envelopes containing their GCSE results. We will also, follow this up with a Y11 GCSE Awards Evening Insha' Allah (God Willing), later in the new year.

As is always, we have together, been able to get through to the end of this academic year, with many successful activities and events performed with our pupils and staff. I must highlight a few. The Star Awards Evening held in Blackburn showcasing our staff and pupils across the Trust, Stars of Hope competition where our students did so well, new Y7 Induction Transition meeting with Parents in a live broadcast, Warwick Castle visit, World Book Day, UK Maths Trust Challenge results were the best we have had to date, Black Lives Matter work with pupils and staff, Duke of Edinburgh awards, many

charitable events, special Y11 farewell party and a new venture we have started at this fortuitous time, Emergency Food & Hygiene Bank for our needy and vulnerable families.

I would like to thank you personally, in my first year as Principal, in the kindness, commitment and support you have offered, so that we can continue providing the best level of service to your daughters. By the Grace of the Almighty, we have been able to achieve these fantastic outcomes and more, whilst working in partnership with you. And although we try our best, there will have been times during the year (and particularly over the past few months) when we made mistakes or caused upset or worry to you or your daughter. I apologise for any shortcomings and ask for your patience and understanding as we work hard to improve in the future.

I wish you a safe and lovely break during the summer. I would also ask for your prayers for the school and that the Almighty protects each of our daughters and everyone who works tirelessly on their behalf.

Aameen.

Academic Excellence

Centre Assessed Grades 2020

As you will know, all GCSE exams were cancelled due to the coronavirus situation. Pupils will be awarded Centre Assessed Grades for all their GCSE subjects. They will receive certificates and their qualifications will have exactly the same value as usual. Our teachers worked hard and applied good

professional judgement to submit grades for year 11 and year 10 (early entry) pupils. They used classwork, homework, mock exam results and other assessment data to arrive at Centre Assessed Grades for every pupil in every subject. There was a Quality Assurance process within school and scrutiny from Star Academies before we submitted our grades. We feel that the grades are fair and represent what pupils would have achieved in the summer. The

grades remain confidential at this stage and exam boards will complete a standardisation process decided by Ofqual for all grades. Our grades could be changed as a result of this process. We look forward to celebrating some wonderful results with our class of 2020 pupils in August insha'Allah (God willing). They have worked so hard and deserve every success.

Star Awards

Star Academies celebrated the success of its inaugural Star Awards Ceremony which was held in March at the Grand Venue in Blackburn. The glittering event was held to honour the outstanding dedication and achievements of our schools, pupils and staff governors.

The annual Star Awards bring together schools from across the Star Academies family to celebrate the achievements of pupils, staff and governors who embody our STAR values. The Star Trust comprises of 28 Schools, over 2,000 staff and 16,000 pupils. The Awards are designed to celebrate the stars in our schools - both the unsung heroes and the high achievers - and there were separate categories to recognise the many different ways our pupils, staff and governors contribute to the Star community.

We put forward twenty six of our staff and pupils, nominated for the categories given. We were fortunate to have four of these nominations selected as finalists to go through to the Awards Evening. They were:

Miss Hayes 'Newcomer of the Year'
Mrs. Kosturska 'Support Staff Member of the Year'
Mrs. Aslam 'Teacher of the Year'
Ms Riasat 'Rising Star of the Year'

Ms Riasat was the winner of the award in her category. A phenomenal achievement not just for Ms Riasat but all our finalists and nominated staff. Can you spot them in the picture?



Stars of Hope

During the Easter holiday, the Trust set a creative competition across all Eden and academy schools. The idea was to write a poem that could take any form, that will bring a message of hope through poetry. The message of each poem was to be uplifting. Our girls wrote some incredible poems: some were serious, some funny, some philosophical, some drew on historical ideas. The English Department were impressed with the calibre of the entries. It was inspiring for us to read about what was making our pupils laugh, what was helping them to get through this situation, what good has come out of this situation, what they were looking forward to and what was inspiring them.

Below is a year 9 entry from Fizzah Sharif

THE TIME I HAVE

Pencil, paper and paint
Await sat on my desk
Tucking my chair in
I greeted them with a grin

A sip from my mug
I browsed through pages
They sailed into my head, the ideas
To make them easier to swallow I broke
them down to pieces

The creativeness flew through my
fingertips
It made my pencil dance on paper
The simple sketch wanted to thrive
I was on a journey to make my thoughts
alive

One today another tomorrow
Considering the time I had
It was perfect to practice some art
Something that gives peace to my heart
Some days a bin would be near
Rubbish ideas would be tossed in
And...there goes another one
Started with loads of plans but now there
were none

Pencil, paper and paint
Await sitting on my desk
Tucking my chair in
I greeted them with a grin

What shall I draw today?

Eton College Maths Mentoring

Eton College mentors work with our students to Master Maths.

A-level Maths students from Eton College have been mentoring high-performing students at Eden Girls' School Slough, for the third consecutive year, to help them achieve the best possible outcomes in GCSE Maths .

Eton College is a 13–18 independent boarding school for boys. It was founded in 1440 by King Henry VI and alumni include from the British economist John Maynard Keynes, the writers George Orwell and Ian Fleming to more recently Princes William and Harry. Eton is a high performing school achieving outstanding GCSE results and their excellence along with the outstanding performance of Eden Girls' students', this match is a recipe for success.

As part of the extra-curricular activities offered in Eton College for A-level students, mentoring younger pupils from less privileged background is among the most popular activity chosen by Eton A-level students. With the support of the Director of Learning of Mathematics in Eden who provides the relevant resources to challenge the students and engage them to outstanding learning, 22 Eden Girls' students benefited from this scheme this year. Every Monday afternoon, Eton students with our students have been working collaboratively in groups of two or three to answer advanced problem-solving exercises that involve a number of different areas of mathematics in order to reach a solution.

The feedback provided, both from the mentors themselves and the two Eton College Maths teachers that accompanied the students to their visit at Eden is excellent for the girls' mathematical knowledge and understanding, analytical and problem solving skills; all the skills that are of high importance for successful GCSE, results aiming at the top grades. The positive feedback comes also from our students who participate in the scheme finding the program very helpful and a great opportunity to work on higher topics.

Home Learning

Over the last 16 weeks we have implemented a robust online programme of lesson support to enable home learning to flourish for all of our pupils. Through the use of Microsoft Teams we have been able to deliver lesson support based on a system of three lessons and three pieces of work completed every day.

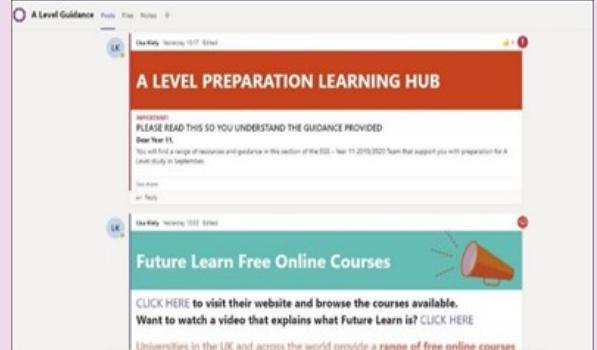
Since the start of lockdown, we have taught over 300 live lessons to our Year 7-10 pupils. We know that interaction is key and we have been overwhelmed by how well our staff and pupils have coped with our online learning. Through Microsoft Teams our staff have been able to deliver online learning for 30-45 minute slots and have shared countless pre-made video resources to support their learning.

We have also made accessible to learners a variety of high quality online learning platforms and have more recently introduced a return to school programme for our Year 10 pupils who are able to safely visit the school and participate in face to face support sessions with their teachers.

 <p>History are sharing virtual resources helping to bring alive topics they are exploring</p>	 <p>Feedback from pupils and parents has been positive – they are enjoying being taught online in Maths, Science and English.</p>	 <p>PE are sharing educational video clips related to sports, producing a hub of sporting excellence on Teams.</p>
 <p>In Year 7 pupils are learning 26 facts about faith and religion discussing themes like atheism, religion dress, creation, Darwin and extremism.</p>	 <p>Every year group have the opportunity to participate in our Black Lives Matters competition created by Art.</p>	 <p>Kahoot knowledge quizzes have been created and shared with Year 7 and 8 as a competition but also as a way to recap prior learning.</p>
 <p>Year 7 and 8 pupils wrote to the staff at Windmill Care Home saying thank you for their amazing work.</p>	 <p>The Library team have launched an online library sharing reading links, reviews and creating a space for discussion on key texts.</p>	 <p>Pupils in KS3 have participated in the STAR Science Competition receiving support and guidance through Science Masterclasses.</p>
 <p>In Y7 pupils have been challenged to make posters all about themselves, using their learning in a creative way.</p>	 <p>Geography has shared video links to BBC Teach clips that support and guide revision of topics studied this year.</p>	 <p>Pupils in Y7 and 8 are participating in a Berkshire wide virtual games, undertaking sports challenges whilst at home.</p>
 <p>We are sharing with Y10 Expert Knowledge lectures from UCL for them to participate in weekly.</p>	 <p>Every week a new challenge is set for Y7. Last week it was a recipe challenge. This week it's a picture during lockdown challenge!</p>	 <p>Year 8 have started to think about their future careers through Kudos, our career guidance online programme.</p>
 <p>On the BLM forum pupils have access to creative resources that teach about discrimination.</p>	 <p>Weekly discussions are taking place in the BLM channel on the year group helpdesks exploring the big issues of racism and white privilege.</p>	 <p>Every week we share at least one career talk where a different industry leader shares their career journey and experiences.</p>

See some of the amazing things we have been doing on our online learning platform – Microsoft Teams.

We have also provided our leavers in Year 11 with a source hub to support their transition into A level study.



A screenshot of the 'A Level Preparation Learning Hub' Microsoft Teams page. It features a red banner at the top with the text 'A LEVEL PREPARATION LEARNING HUB'. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'IMPORTANT PLEASE READ THIS SO YOU UNDERSTAND THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED' with a note: 'Dear Year 11, You will find a range of resources and guidance in this section of the EOI - Year 11 2019/2020 Team that support you with preparation for A Level study in September.' There are several cards below the note, including one for 'Future Learn Free Online Courses' which says 'CLICK HERE to visit their website and browse the courses available. Want to watch a video that explains what Future Learn is? CLICK HERE'.

Attendance (up to Lockdown 20th March 2020)

Excellent attendance is the foundation for outstanding achievement at school. Whole school attendance of 96% from September 2019 – 20th March 2020. Our Pastoral Team of Heads of Year have worked especially hard reminding pupils of the school's attendance target of 97% and supporting pupils throughout the term. Special congratulations to Year 11 for having the highest Year group attendance this year with 97%. Well done to the following form groups for achieving beyond the whole school target: 7I and 9I for both achieving an amazing 97.27% and for 11N for achieving 97.22%. Congratulations to all pupils who have maintained exceptionally high levels of personal attendance.

The table shows the attendance for each year group and form group.

	%
Year 7	96.54
Year 8	95.33
Year 9	95.63
Year 10	95.34
Year 11	96.71

	%
7I	97.27
7M	96.27
7A	96.6
7N	96.02
8I	94.94
8M	95.79
8A	95.72
8N	94.91
9I	97.27
9M	94.28
9A	96.1
9N	94.79
10I	96.15
10M	95.1
10A	94.56
10N	95.63
11I	96.32
11M	96.34
11A	96.96
11N	97.22

Attendance Matters: The School strives for 100% attendance for all pupils. The whole school attendance target is 97%. If a pupil achieves at least 97% attendance in one whole school year, they will have missed less than 5 days from school. Evidence clearly shows, students with higher attendance, make greater progress in their subjects. Please ensure your daughter aims to have at least 97% attendance to school, to meet her aspirational targets and so future successes.

Year 6 Transition

Like many things this year, our Year 6 to 7 transition process is a little different than usual, due to COVID19. We have been in touch with Primary Schools to make sure we have all the up to date information about the pupils who will be joining us in September in Sha Allah (God willing), so that we can make sure we have everything in place to be able to support them the best that we can. We have provided a range of online transition resources, including a virtual tour, on our school website to

enable the pupils to get to know our school despite not being able to attend a physical transition day. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September 2020. We have had a very successful live MS Teams Y7 Induction Parent Evening meeting attended by many parents, who found the event highly informative.

Warwick Castle Trip

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 murder holes of the castles' entrance.

Pupils were given the opportunity to see the world's only fully functioning Trebuchet machine; 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. All students had a wonderful time and were a credit to the school!



camp with a week of pre and post reflection activities; preparing for questions we wanted to ask and sharing how we felt about the responses we received. We were joined by Jakob and Rohan Holocaust Youth Ambassadors from Langley Academy who opened the event and Dr Samantha Mitske who delivered a special workshop with Gifted and Talented students on identifying the collaborators and bystanders.



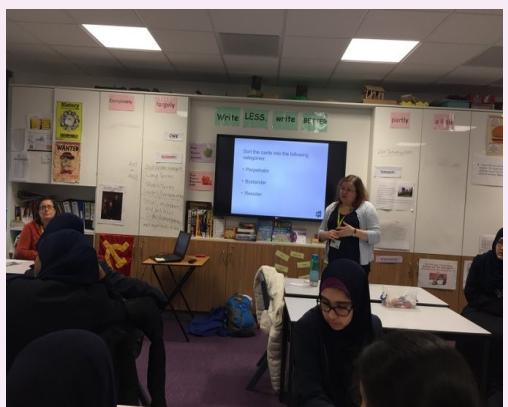
Holocaust Memorial Day

On the 24th January 2020, Eden Girls' School Slough joined schools, faith groups and local communities around the nation to watch a live testimony with MBE Susan Pollock's testimony. Susan is a Hungarian Holocaust survivor from the largest death camp in Poland, Auschwitz-Birkenau. We commemorated 75 years since the liberation of the Auschwitz- Birkenau

Faith & Character Lead Mr Ahmed prepared a very poignant assembly on the acts of kindness displayed by members of the Muslim European community.

Miss Dolan and her creative year 9 students created a wonderful memorial made out of student pledges, displayed in the shape of the Holocaust memorial flame. Year 8 students wrote postcards to Susan thanking her for sharing her experiences. We want to thank

everyone for participating in creating a memorable learning experience.





World Book Day

Eden Girls' School thoroughly enjoyed another World Book Day this year - varied activities were on offer. The students initially tried their luck at a 100 clue literary crossword. Many of our students came close to finishing this and impressed their teachers with both their knowledge and love of reading.

Savita Kalhan engaged and excited the students with readings from excerpts of her fiction and with her very honest talk. It was truly inspirational to hear how a local lady had endeavoured to write for teenagers and had eventually become a successfully published author loved by

teens. Savita Kalhan was nominated for the 2020 Carnegie Medal in the 14-18 age bracket. The girls were prompted to ask a whole plethora of questions ranging from her education to her inspiration for ideas to her favourite writing space.

During break times, the girls tracked down the teachers dressed as fiction characters. The teachers conversed in character ensuring they included plenty of clues in their speech and as part of their costumes.

The English Department would like to thank Mr Panesar, Mr Sandhu and Mrs Bashir for taking part in this craziness. Entry forms were placed in a prize draw.

Our World Book Day events culminated in our annual Book Swap. As usual, this was a fun and popular event and students returned home with lots of new reading material.





Mental Health Awareness

We have all recognised the importance of Mental wellbeing during lockdown and therefore we felt it appropriate to launch a Wellbeing channel on MS Teams. The channel provided pupils with supporting resources and links to many practical activities.

Our Heads of Years, Inclusion Team and teachers provided many check-in calls to help support pupils and parents during the pandemic. We wanted all our pupils to have an open communication link with the school throughout, through this difficult time for all.



Knowing and Remembering More

Thursday 27 February 2020

The Big Teach: Knowing More, Remembering More

On Thursday 27 February, all teaching staff at Eden Girls School participated in a trust wide CPD event led by Rom Sherrington, the author of 'Rosenshine's Principles in Action'.

In this training, staff explored the importance of sequencing concepts, modelling outcomes, providing stages of practice and reviewing material and knowledge regularly.

The session was interactive, engaging and coupled with time for departments to reflect on the pedagogy being explored.

Sherrington's guidance has played a big part in our Term 3 Online CPD provision.



UKMT 2020

This year once again we ran the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Junior Maths Challenge at Eden Girls' School. Year 7 & 8 students from were all selected to participate. The Challenge consists of problem solving questions answered over 60 minutes by students across the country, competing to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. At Eden Girls' School, in order to prepare for the Challenge, students attended a weekly lunchtime club with Mrs. Yaqoob. They practiced past papers and were often rewarded with a treat. This was not their only reason for attending the club; students also loved improving their problem solving skills which encouraged mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Due to the school closure, for the first time ever, the Challenge was moved online and students completed the competition whilst at home on 1st July. The student results have been fantastic, with 23 out of 45 pupils achieving certificates in Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Well done to all pupils that prepared for the challenge and took part.

Character Development

Black Lives Matter Movement

The recent spotlight on the black lives matter movement motivated us to create a platform for our students to gain knowledge on the important issue of racism affecting our society today as well as providing them with a platform to debate, discuss and reflect.

So far we have covered themes such as the history of the black lives matter hashtag, what implicit bias means and how advertisements and the health care system contribute to systemic racism. As well as reflecting and discussing material on live chats, social action steps have also been encouraged. This has ranged from signing petitions to producing a poster to raise awareness.



We have been working in collaboration with other departments to show students cross curricular links and we continue to look forward to contributions from staff.

An art competition with the theme of 'anti -racism' is open to all year groups and encourages students to express their emotions creatively. The winning pieces will be displayed around school and we are excited to see these.

We aim for the BLM channel to continue on into the next academic year and look forward to seeing how we can encourage student voice and social action on other issues as well.



Come ready to share your reflections for this week.

Reminder: This week we have looked at the history of the #BLM hashtag and police brutality. We have also looked at the history of racism in Bristol

We are looking forward to hearing your comments and reflections!

67 replies from you, Saima, Aisha, and 5 others

Reply

Career Guidance Opportunities

Our school aims to provide access and experience to a wide-variety of career information and to achieve the expectations set out in the Gatsby Benchmarks, which focus on national benchmarks for providing pupils with information on careers and the real work place.

Below are highlights to the Spring Term's career programme:

Year 8 Enterprise Challenge: Learning to Work organised trained mentors to lead pupils through activities which aim to develop young peoples enterprise skills in order to increase their confidence and raise aspirations. Our pupils had an opportunity to experience the world of work by playing a business simulation game. In addition, pupils worked with mentors to develop and pitch their own business idea, putting into practice what they learnt about, what it takes to start an enterprise.



Year 9 Slough Aspire Careers Event and Career Workshop: This event raised awareness of career opportunities and promoted the employability skills that employers and the local economy need to achieve growth. Over 70 business and educational exhibitors took part in the event. Prior to the event, Year 9 pupils had a career workshop where pupils gained understanding of their own strengths and skills that are linked to certain career paths. Pupils also had the opportunity to participate in a business Q&A session.



Year 10 Career Interview: Throughout the Spring Term, careers consultant, David Ritchie, held one-to-one interviews with all of the pupils in Year 10. Following a discussion about aspirations for the future and predicted grades, Mr Ritchie drew up action plans for each of the pupils advising them on their options for further and higher education as well as providing them with links to sources of information that will support them on their journeys.

Year 10 O2 visit: Pupils enjoyed another visit to O₂ Telefonica's head office in Slough. During their visit they listened to presentations from different professional teams such as accounting, apprenticeship, Web Analytics and Operations. The pupils also went on a tour around the establishment and observed how the day looks like at Telefonica for different jobs. The day, enjoyed by all, was another reminder of the rich career opportunities available in the information technology sector.

Duke of Edinburgh

Eden Girls' School is delighted to deliver the DofE Award for our pupils. The school offers pupils the opportunity to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award encouraging them to develop a range of skills and build their confidence and resilience. The programme provides our pupils with real adventure, different experiences and a challenge. We are so proud of our pupils who during April 2019 to March 2020 contributed a total of 390 hours of volunteering in the local community making a difference to other people's lives. Thirty-four students were awarded the Bronze Award, amongst the best results in Slough Schools.

Oxford Partnership

In January, Dr Joe Organ from Brasenose College, University of Oxford delivered a talk to Year 9 pupils on Progression to Higher Education. The session has given pupils a clear understanding of the requirements for further study at Oxford and at university in general. During Q&A, pupils were inspired and encouraged by the Oxford student who answered practical questions regarding her own experiences.



Ramadhaan

This years Ramadhan took place during lockdown which for some provided the perfect opportunity to engage in more Spiritual activities. We created a central Microsoft Teams channel focussing solely on Ramadhan activities which included, daily reflections (shared with parent, pupils and staff along with resources), daily challenges and staff contributions.

During the final 10 days of Ramadhan, the Ramadan charity appeal was launched to help support those affected in the UK and Syria.

Staff, parents and pupils raised £772.96 towards this worthy cause. As part of 'Food for All Day', we provided 150 hot food packs to those in need along with our weekly Food bank, supporting needy families in our community.



Sports Relief

Sports relief took place on Friday 13th March and gave pupils the opportunity to engage in many different sports activities, games and purchase healthy snacks. An amazing £1,320.66 was raised on the day through donations and funds raised for wearing sports clothes and other fundraising activities (Games station, Table Tennis, Beat the Goalie and many more). The money raised went towards supporting people facing poverty and discrimination across the UK.



Sports Competitions

Students have continued to participate in a number of sporting fixtures of this past term. We have seen particular improvement within our Netball teams with them becoming more confident and determined to win and they have really impressed us with the wins they have come away with this year. Our Year 7/8 Football team continues to succeed winning the Slough Schools competition and our 'B' team coming 3rd overall which is the best result for any 'B' team entering. Students also competed in SEND events such as Boccia and Kurling and the students who attended had a great time and experience of competition.

Sports Event

Our sports leaders programme has gone from strength to strength with this year being no exception. Students from years 7-10 have lead numerous competitions for local primary schools through our work with the Slough School Sports Network. They have really built a name for themselves as being great leaders and are always sort after for any events being held. Our Young Sports Ambassadors have taken on an additional challenge this year of setting up and running their own club for their peers and successfully ran a number of Dodgeball sessions at lunch time to get students active and enjoying sport.



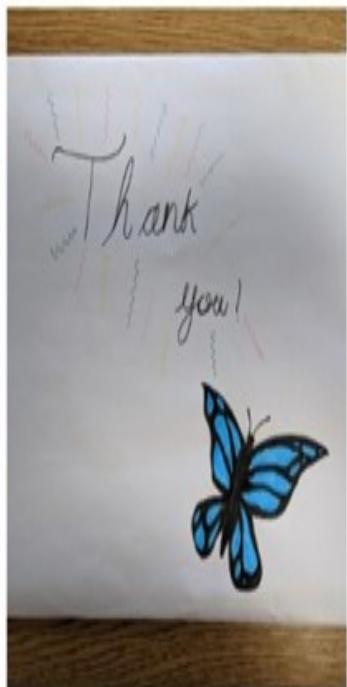
First Give

This year, our Year 7 pupils in PSHE have completed a social action project created by the charity First Give UK. As part of this project they researched a social issue that impacts their community and explored the charities that work in their community to solve it.

From this they participated in their own social action to raise awareness and funds for the charities selected. Some pupils organised splash the teachers, others hosted a film night, and some made bookmarks or created videos to inform on difficult and challenging issues such as knife crime.

The social issues explored varied from knife crime, racism, mental health, loneliness in the elderly and childhood illness. Students decided to raise money for local charities such as Age Concern Slough, Alexander Divine, and throughout the project pupils' practice and develop team based skills and the ability to present ideas.

Normally this project culminates in a large presentation event at the end of the year but this year pupils instead finished this activity with an online First Give @ Home challenge of writing letters of thanks to a local care home.



Farewell Year 11s

Year 11 'class of 2020' had a unique send off. Friday 20th March was the last day of school for our year 11s. We were able to celebrate their wonderful time at Eden Girls School by having a celebration assembly featuring of course some of their old pictures on the big screen.

The highlight of the assembly were the speeches by the Principal, Teachers, Head of Year and Amelia Hussain who praised the year 11s. It was a day of mixed emotions from both sides as no one was prepared to say goodbye. Finally, we invited students for an impromptu 'leavers' lunch', put together by our fantastic staff ending the day with shirt signing leaving us with great memories.

We wish them all the very best and look forward to seeing their success continue in future.



EGS Hub for Vulnerable and Key Worker Pupils

The school welcomed vulnerable and keyworker pupils across all year groups during the partial closure of schools.

In addition to normal school days, our school opened bank holidays and half-term breaks to accommodate both children of key workers and vulnerable pupils.

Staff members are on rota to supervise pupils and offer various

activities throughout the day such as art & design, board games, support with home learning, and sports.

Pupils and staff who are in school are also provided with free snacks and lunch.

Vulnerable pupils who are unable to come in to school receive daily/ weekly calls home from the Pastoral Team to support home learning work and to provide Taryibah Mentoring.



Community Service

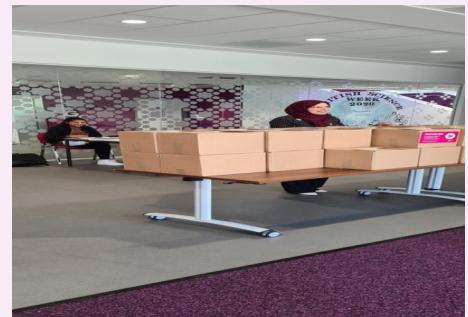
Food Bank and Hygiene Packs



We launched the Food Bank on Friday 24th April and have since provided weekly non-perishable boxes and fruit and vegetables to our needy and vulnerable families during the pandemic.

This work has been done in alliance with SOFEA, a charity organisation helping those in need. We have handed out, to date, just over 500 food packs and will continue this throughout the year.

In addition to this, we have worked in collaboration with The Hygiene Bank, who provided us toiletries such as shower gels, toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary items, shampoo and conditioners to mention a few. These packs have been greatly appreciated by the local community.



Grenfell Anniversary

The tragic events that unfolded on 14th June 2017, at Grenfell Tower will be one we will always remember. The residential tower block in North Kensington came ablaze and killed 72 people. Many were Muslims who were at the time fasting during Ramadhan. We as a school will continue to mark and remember those that tragically lost their lives in the disaster.



LONELINESS AWARENESS WEEK 2020

DEAR DEDICATED CARE WORKER,

Thank you so much
FOR YOUR
unwavering service to the community

Know that
every second of your time dedicated to being selfless
and helping someone else is appreciated.

To the Residents of Windsor Care Home Hospice,

I am writing to you from Eden Girls' School, in Slough. I hope you are keeping well during these strange times. How have you been keeping busy? The weather has been great (well, as great as British weather can be), but it's been sad we cannot spend time with family and friends outdoors. Have you been keeping in touch with family?

This lockdown does have some good aspects, however! We have a lot more time to reflect on our actions and character. We are also able to become more aware of different problems within society (e.g. white privilege). Although it may seem the world has taken a step back, we are making huge advancements in social awareness.

I hope you take care as lockdown progresses and are able to stay in contact with loved ones.

All the best,

Anna Gul

Dear Sir or Madam,

I hope you are well and safe during this time. I know that it might be difficult not being able to see your family and follow different rules put in place but there is not much we can do to change that except pray. To be honest, I am not a person who is really good with words in general except in poems. I am a poet. I am writing this poem to show my support. I hope the message is clear throughout the poem that I wrote and pray you stay safe and well.

Let it bind you.
Let us take these same steps.
Let the world be kinder.
That's been weighing on your bones.

We don't have to speak.
And we'll keep them here with us.
So let your shoulders fall.
The rest will wash and see.

If you want them back.
They're never alone, come or go.
We'll always be of a walk together.
We'll carry them for you.

To a wonderful individual,

Anna Gul

This is a rather odd and strange situation to be in! Suddenly, we are all cooped up inside our homes, and we are communicating through letters which many of us never saw coming!

I understand this may be a difficult time for you, but remember that you are valued and loved even from afar.

My favourite time of year is summer, when the sun shines early every morning, and we go to sleep after endless walks in parks, surrounded by the beauty of nature. I hope you are feeling the wonder of summer.

I know you may not have been people in and out, so this is my way of 'popping in'. Stay strong, we will come out of this together.

A friend x

Thank you

Waking up to a morning ready for work.
Put a brave face on as we will know.
So let's make the world better.
Helping the elderly through kindness.

Brave days ahead.

Go to the supermarket and we'll close.
But we'll still be open here.
The door is open.
Decking the cupboards full of food years of happiness.

You are not alone.

Don't be afraid to feel what you feel. You are not alone, you are very loved, very needed, and very special.

THANK YOU FOR
TAKING TIME OUT
TO TALK TO ME
I'M HERE
REMEMBER I'M
RIGHT HERE

Loneliness Week

As part of the [#Let'sTalkLoneliness campaign](#), which was launched a year ago, pupils wrote a letter to an elderly person in two of our local care homes we have worked with, Windsor Care home Hospice and Slough Care home.

These cards allowed pupils to share kind and reassuring words and to show that the community is here to support them.

In addition to this, gratitude cards were also sent to the Care workers to show the deserved appreciation from the community.

Student Council

A letter from Alisha Shakeel to Mr Khaliq on canteen sustainability has paved way for student council to have an open forum discussion with Mr Croombs (Canteen Manager). The discussion provided clarity on pupils' concern on healthy food, cost, food waste management, eco-friendly and sustainable resources.

Alisha Shakeel's reflection after the interview:

'...I realised that Chartwells and its parent company Compass have a lot of measures in place to ensure minimal impact to the environment. For instance: plastic cutlery has been abolished in favour of wooden ones and they only buy free-

range, organic eggs. A typical pizza sold has fewer calories than a cheese sandwich and their plans for the future 1-5 years include eradicating all plastic packaging. When asked what he thinks is his greatest success during his time at Eden, Mr Croombs believed it was how he and his team dramatically reduced food waste by buying fewer portions and other honourable measures.'

'As Ms Thunberg puts it "Our house is on fire" and I earnestly agree, but I believe we can diminish that fire with enough action. I sincerely hope that this is the start of a long chain of positive changes that in the long-term, secure our - the younger generations' - future on the planet we call home.'



Starline

STAR launched a national parent helpline on the 24th April and saw Eden Girls' Slough staff members volunteer to support those struggling during these unprecedented times.

Eleven members of staff provided their expertise either academically or for wellbeing support.

We'd like to thank our staff members for offering their support to help those in need during this time.

Key Term Dates—Autumn Term 2020

Staff Inset Day

Start of Term for Y7 and Y11 only

Start of Term for Y8, 9 and 10

Mid Term Closure

Christmas Holidays

Staff Inset Day 2

Start of Term for all pupils

Friday 28 August & Tuesday 1st September 2020

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Thursday 3rd September 2020

Monday 26th October—Friday 30th October 2020

Tuesday 22nd December—Friday 1st January 2021

Monday 4th January 2021

Tuesday 5th January 2021