

Al Risalah School

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Faith • Respect • Honesty • Community • Equality • Excellence

Dear Parents,

Assalaamu Alaikum!

We hope this newsletter finds you in the best of health and firm Iman!

We are grateful to The Almighty for the opportunity He has given us to have an Islamic school. It has been a very busy Summer term and we have lots of news to share with you!

School resumes on:

Thursday 7th September 2017

Al Risalah Breaks Down Generational Barriers

On Saturday 15th July 2017, at the BATCA, Al Risalah Trust & St Augustine's annual Community Funday, students from Al Risalah School led an interactive workshop celebrating the similarities and differences between the older and younger generations within the Balham and Tooting communities.

The event, which was well-attended by students, staff, members of the public and the Mayor of Wandsworth, brought together people from all faiths, cultures and back-

grounds for a day of fun and enjoyment for all ages.



Noel Blackman & Amin Hashi 10B in conversation

The School's 'Old & Young' event, which ran between 2pm and 4pm, was compèred by Hana Khan 11G and began with a presentation from Abdullah Zahid 10B who showcased the history of the local community from as far back as 1924; the year that the eldest participant Mary Blewitt was born. Everyone was then given half an hour to converse and get to know each other; an opportunity that both the younger and elder participants thoroughly enjoyed, broke the ice and set the scene for the rest of the session.

Upon regrouping Hana Khan conducted a funny and lively interview with Irene Wotherspoon, Noel Blackman and Patrick Blewitt focusing on key moments of each of their lives and the challenges they faced in the UK; namely immigration, racism and growing up during the war. Zakaria Ahmed 10B then shared (cont.)

Al Risalah Breaks Down Age Barriers Cont.

... some interesting findings and wisdoms which were uncovered by students during the preliminary meeting of participants at School a couple weeks prior. Like, for example, that the older participants feel the world is more peaceful now in comparison to how it was during their childhoods amidst WW1, WW2 and the Cold War.

This was followed by Amin Hashi 10B's presentation on the teachings of Islam with regards to the value of elders to the community and the respect owed to them by society.

The event closed on an extremely touching note when Layla Khan 8G, Mohammed Tahmid Chowdhury 10B and Noel Blackman read aloud heartfelt letters that they had penned to their older or younger selves respectively.

Thank you to the volunteers who co-ordinated, facilitate and supported the session which was well-received and, we are told, was the highlight of the Funday! And thank you to everyone involved in the organisation of the entire event which promoted social cohesion and community integration.



Year 10 Work Experience

This term year 10 took some time away from lessons to get a taste of the busy and demanding world of work. Students worked in a variety of organisations (a selection of whose logos can be seen below), developing skills which will be of benefit to them across all aspects of their lives.

Whilst students found the workplace an enjoyable environment the experience was not without its challenges. Students who assumed they were not going to be given 'real work' and were looking forward to enjoying a few days off School were in for a shock when they discovered they were tasked with real activities and were expected to adapt to new environments in a short period of time.

Many of the students who participated in the programme revealed in a School survey that they found the social aspect of work engaging and enjoyable, with one student commenting: "I enjoyed being able to meet different people and experiencing the life of an employee".

Students found, overall, that the experience improved their work ethic, confidence, productivity, communication skills, organisation, time management, and that it gave them a sense of independence and responsibility.

We would like to extend our thanks to the organisations who took on the Year 10s for this skill-building experience!



Fiza's Account

Fiza Iqbal 10G kindly provided us with an account of her work experience placement which she conducted in Pearl Chemist in Tooting.

"Starting work experience I will admit I was a bit nervous because I have never experienced a real working environment before, so I didn't really know what to expect. However, I soon realised that all my nerves were for nothing because the staff were unbelievably friendly. I found the whole experience exciting; it was fascinating to see how medicines are dispensed to people and how well-organised the pharmacy actually was.

I'm really glad that I got the opportunity to work at Pearl Chemist, and I would like to thank the organisation for taking me on."

Sports Day

Alhamdulillah this year saw the turn of another successful sports day, which not only meant no lessons for teachers and students alike, but gave everyone an excuse to stretch their legs and relax in the hot summer sun.

Students took part in a variety of different races, such as the javelin, long jump, 100 meters, 200 meters and the 400 metres race! It goes without saying that the day was a tiring one, however it was also a day full of fun and games (even if they were exhausting).



Students vs Teachers Tug of War

A big well done to all the students for participating, and a thank you to the teachers!

Boys' Results

Javelin	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Gold	Muhammad MUHITH	Adan ALASO	Abdullah BEGG	Mohid KHAN
Silver	Abdullahi HAASHI	Mahir MOHAMED	Zaki OSMAN	Mohammed CHOW-DHURY
Bronze	Abdul Mashod REZAAE	Faisal DAHIR	Musab OMAR	Ghadar OSMAN

Long Jump	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Gold	Amin Abdulkadir	Abdul Aahat HUSSAIN	Ilyas ASHIR	Khalid ELM I
Silver	Mohammad AL-LAMYAR	Yaasir ALI	Rafid AL-ABUDI	Salman NUR
Bronze	Suber MOHAMED	Omar abdulle	Hassan ABDI	Mohammed CHOW-DHURY

100M	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Gold	Mohamed AHMED	Abdul Aahat HUSSAIN	Haidar RAJA	Ibrahim MOHAMED
Silver	Abdullahi HAASHI	Ishaq HOUSEN	Mohamed AB-DULLAHI	Salman NUR
Bronze	Abdullah GAFFAR	Omar ABDULLE	Rafid AL-ABUDI	Mohammed CHOW-DHURY

200M	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Gold	Mohamed AHMED	Abdul Aahat HUSSAIN	Haidar RAJA	Hussein ALI GESEI
Silver	Saabir ABDIKARIM	Hayder ABDALLA	Ilyas ASHIR	Ibrahim MOHAMED
Bronze	Anwar WEHLIYE	Yaasir ALI	Mohamed AB-DULLAHI	Jamal HAMID

Sports Day Cont.

Girls' Results

Year 7	Javelin	Long Jump	100m	200m
Gold	Ilham Ali	Aisha Osman	Aisha Osman	Aisha Osman
Silver	Hafsah Djemaa	Maryam Omar	Yusra Omar	Yusra Omar
Bronze	Azra Mohamed	Ilham Ali	Jamila Egale	Mariyah Khan

Year 8	Javelin	Long Jump	100m	200m
Gold	Zahra Omar	Salma Yusuf	Salma Yusuf	Tasnim Khan
Silver	Fatima Mohammed	Zahra Omar	Fatima Mohammed	Isra
Bronze	Isra Mohamed	Layla Khan	Tasnim Khan	Samina Mikhail

Year 9	Javelin	Long Jump	100m	200m
Gold	Fatuma Zahra Isaq	Maryam Khan	Maryam Khan	Maryam Khan
Silver	Maryam Khan	Fatuma Zahra Isaq	Khadijah Dar-ragi	Aamena
Bronze	Asma Abdulle	Khadijah Dar-ragi	Asma Abdulle	Khadijah Djemaa

Year 10	Javelin	Long Jump	100m	200m
Gold	Hibaq Abi-kar	Imtehal Ali Ammarah Hassan	Imtehal Ali	Imtehal Ali
Silver	Shaima AlGhadie	Shamamah Ansari	Samira Cabdi	Amaaraah Hassan
Bronze	Imtehal Ali	N/A	Salma Yusuf	Samira Cabdi

Bishop's R.S Visit

The Religious Studies' department, organised a visit from representatives of the Christian faith to come and speak to the year 10s about the Christianity.

Students were fortunate to be provided with such an open forum to put questions that they had prepared beforehand to the visiting Bishop Richard Cheetham and Reverend Andrew Davey.

Students posed question pertaining to worship and theology, such as: "how do Christians worship?" and "is crucifixion important to Christians?"

The visit gave the students a comprehensive insight into Christianity; something that will no doubt aid them with their GCSE exams.

Thank you to the R.S Department for organising this interactive visit and to both Revd. Andrew and Bishop Richard for their time.

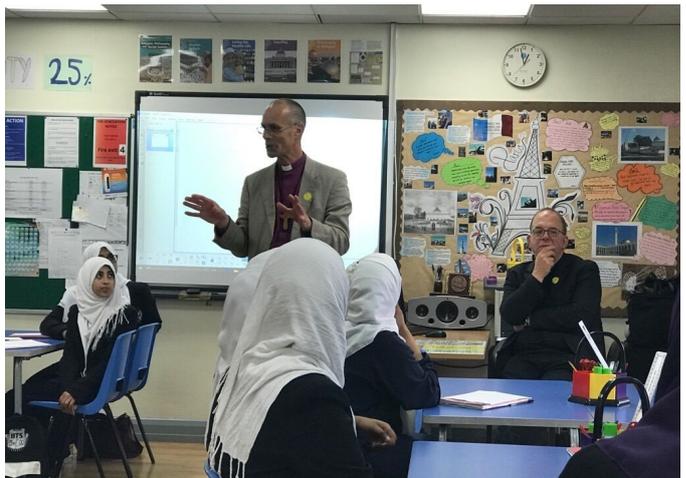
Year 11 Leaver's

After all the tears, stress, drama and endless revision, year 11 students can finally do-away with their revision books and breathe a huge sigh of relief at the end of their hectic exam period which crossed-over with Ramadhan.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff for their support during the exams and especially to Br Khalil for his efforts in ensuring exams ran smoothly despite the strain of summer and Ramadhan.

To celebrate their 5 years at Al Risalah and as a pre-exam de-stress their Form Tutors, Sr Nadia and Br Fouad, organised a trip to a local Lebanese restaurant, followed by a dessert parlor. Yummy!

We hope you will join us in making dua for our year 11s ' exam results and futures.



Bishop Richard Cheetham addressing the masses



Revd. Andrew, Bishop Richard & Br Fouad



Sr Nadia & the fabulous 11G

Staff Leavers

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to:

- ⇒ Br Adam : Head of P.E & Break Time Enrichment Co-Ordinator
- ⇒ Sr Priyani : Head of Science & 10G Form Tutor



Farewell Br Adam

Staff Joiners

We hope you will join us in extending a warm welcome to:

- ⇒ Br Hazmi : Head of P.E & Break Time Enrichment Co-Ordinator
- ⇒ Sr Yasmin : Science Teacher
- ⇒ Br Pradeep : Science Consultant



Year 10s Say Farewell to Sr Priyani

Sr Priyani has been at Al Risalah School since 2012 and in her tenure she has led the Science Department from strength to strength.

At the same time Sr Priyani has also been a Form Tutor and her current year 10s could not let her go without throwing a huge party!



10Gs surprise leavers' party for Sr Priyani

Fundraisers

Family Funday—1st July 2017

The Balham Mosque and Al Risalah Trust Fun Day dawned bright and clear, and the day was full of fun, laughter, roller coasters and ice cream!

Alhamdulillah, we managed to raise **£15,500** proving that the day was not only exciting but also very popular!



Sr Aneta enjoying the calm before the storm

PTFA Coffee Morning / Eva Jannath Fundraiser

The tragic news of the death of a Leicester School girl at a theme park in the Midlands affected Al Risalah School deeply as it was during this time that our students were going on their rewards trip to Thorpe Park.



10B Prefects hard at work

West London Fire Appeal

Immediately after the Grenfell Tower fire, during Ramadhan, students decided they wanted to do their bit for the victims of the tragedy.

A non-uniform

day was held and students raised **£210** for UWT's appeal.



Uniform Update

GIRLS:

- ◆ School abaya - material purchased from school (£8)
- ◆ Plain black long sleeved blazer – must be down to waist length with badge stitched on left side
- ◆ Black trousers (NOT jeans)
- ◆ Plain black socks
- ◆ Plain black school shoes (NOT plimsoles)
- ◆ School badge bought from school office (£6)
- ◆ White headscarf (£2)
- ◆ PE Kit: White t-shirt, black tracksuits bottoms, white hijab, trainers
- ◆ Coat: black or dark navy/grey



BOYS:

- ◆ Black blazer with badge stitched on left side
- ◆ Black trousers
- ◆ White shirt
- ◆ School tie (£6)
- ◆ Plain black school shoes (NOT plimsoles)
- ◆ Plain black socks
- ◆ White topi (£1)
- ◆ School badge bought from school office (£6)
- ◆ Students are allowed to wear a plain black belt with a medium sized buckle (no branding)
- ◆ PE Kit: White t-shirt, black tracksuit bottoms, trainers
- ◆ Coat: black or dark navy/grey
- ◆ Haircuts: short and one-size all over

Saatchi Gallery Installation

Curators from Saatchi Gallery visited Al Risalah to install a piece of art (pictured below) which was made by students in Orchard Primary School who were inspired by a piece of art they saw when they visited the Gallery as part of a School trip.

The piece now sits very pretty in the Study Hall.



Fees Reminder

Jazakum-Allahu khayran to all the parents that have already made payments for next term.

If you have not already done so, please ensure that payments are made on the first day back **Thursday 7th September 2017.**

Yr Group	1 st Term payment by 7th September 2017	2 nd Term payment by Jan 2018	3 rd Term payment By June 2018	Total
Yr 7	£1400 (due)	£1000	£1000	£3400
Yr 8 & 9	£1350 (due)	£1000	£1000	£3350
Yr 10	£1450 (due)	£1000	£1000	£3450
Yr 11	£1500 (due)	£1000	£1000	£3500

Department Competition Winners

Geography Competition

Hamza Farah 9B & Hayder Abdalla 8B



PS4 Rewards Scheme

Students who receive no C-slips for a whole month are rewarded with a lunchtime of FIFA 17 on the School's PS4 games console every Thursday!



Islamic Studies Competition

Mohid Khan 10B & Mobeen Khan 9G



Samina Mikhail 86 & Ammaarah Hassan 10G



UK Maths Challenge

Ayub Mohamud 7B (JNR)



Aisha Shah 8G (JNR)



Samia Ahmed 10G (SNR)

Abdijabar Mursal 11B (SNR)



Reaping Rewards



Excellence Award

Ayub Mohamed 7B, Ridwanah Farah 7G, Bassil Saleh 8B, Layla Khan 8G, Zakariye Bashir 9B, Amira Abdirahman 9G, Mohammed Tahmid Chowdhury 10B, Fatima Ali 10G



Honesty Award

Ilhan Ali 7G, Ayub Salad 7B, Fatima Mohamed 8G, Bassil Saleh 8B, Musab Omar 9B, Nawal Ali 9G, Fatima Ali 10G, Zakaria Ahmed 10B



Courage Award

Mariyah Khan 7G, Muhammad Zahir Muhith 7B, Zaynab Khan 8G, Mohammed Khan 8B, Rafid Al Abudi 9B, Haleemah Ahmadzai 9G, Samiya Ahmed 10G, Faris Aamer 10B, Amin Haashi 10B



Community Award

Layla Khan 8G, Hafsa Golamaully 10G, Fatima Ali 10G, Shaima AlGhadie 10G, Hibaq Abikar 10G, Fatima Mohamed 10G, Abdullah Zahid 10B, Zakaria Ahmed 10B, Amin Haashi 10B, Mohammed Tahmid Chowdhury 10B, Khalid Elmi 10B, Faris Aamer 10B,



Respect & Dignity Award

Mariyah Khan 7G, Yahya Ahmed 7B, Fathima Sabry 8G, Abdul Aahat Hussain 8B, Haidar Raja 9B, Khadijah Djemaa 9G, Shama-mah Ansari 10G, Abdullah Zahid 10B

Tarbiyah (Nurturing Programme)

A journey through space & time

For a slight assembly takeover twist the Head of Maths, Br Salim, decided to take the school on a journey through space in a bid to educate the students about the miracles of Allah.

Br Salim communicated to students through a very interactive presentation the Majesty of Allah's, His creation and how small and insignificant we are in comparison to everything else that exists beyond our imagination.

It was informative in more ways than one, as the students also learnt a bit about Br Salim's personal life, and his beloved country of Mauritius. Shafie Mohammed, 9B said he "really enjoyed the assembly because of the link with Science and the Quran which was sent down many years before these discoveries."



Br Salim—Action Man

Head Teacher's Assemblies

- ⇒ Think win—Win
- ⇒ Developing Friendships
- ⇒ Listening Skills
- ⇒ Synergise
- ⇒ Superperson Syndrome
- ⇒ Better Communication
- ⇒ Comparing & Competing
- ⇒ The dangers of media role models
- ⇒ Practical RBA
- ⇒ Loyalty
- ⇒ Challenging Oneself
- ⇒ It's 'Me time': Toolkit for teens

Student Assemblies

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| * Humility | * Gratefulness |
| * Consistency | * Salaah |
| * Environment | * Behaviour |
| * Important People | |
| * Worship & Reflection | |
| * Ramadhan | |
| * Qur'aan | |
| * Charity | |



Trips

Maths Department

9B to Legoland

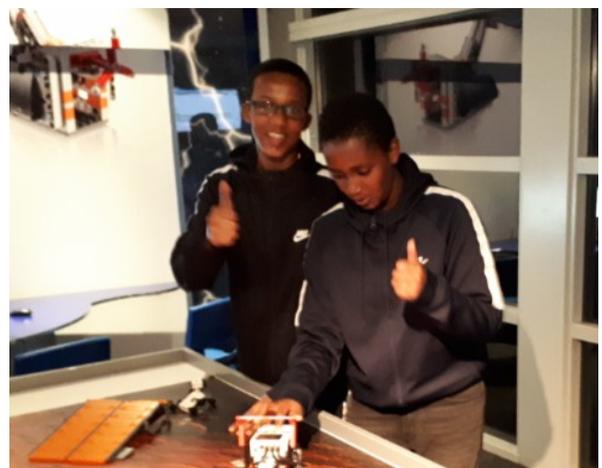
9G & 10G to the Science Museum's Maths Exhibition

English Department

- Boy's Side to the Harry Potter Studios

Science Department

- 10G to the Science Museum
- 9B & 10B Kew Gardens



Suheyb Nur 9B and Shafie Mohamed 9B at Legoland Windsor

Yr 9s Computer Masterclass

Year 9 students Zakariye Bashir and Ilyas Ashir attended a Computer Science masterclass run in conjunction with the Royal Institution at Trinity school in Croydon. The course consisted of a series of six sessions that provide us with an opportunity to discover and come to grips with Computer Sciences. The lectures were delivered by professional practitioners and it broadened their awareness of the scope and application of Computer Sciences beyond our familiar computer games and packages.

Zakariye and Ilyas really enjoyed the hands-on workshops and after the last session their parents were invited to an end-of-course celebratory event at Trinity School where they were awarded a Young Computer Scientist certificate.



Zakariye Bashir 9B & Ilyas Ashir 9B

Sr Basma—Trainee Teacher’s Experience

“Working at Al Risalah Secondary School has truly been a pleasure. I am truly blessed and all praise is to Allah to have received the best mentor ever in Br Salim. I am thankful that he took me on as a trainee and I credit my development to him. He has motivated and inspired me to always do better. His praise knows no bounds, always giving me a boost of confidence and he matched this with regular constructive feedback. His kind and compassionate manner made every day a pleasure to come in. I will forever envy his students for having such a funny and caring teacher.

I am also very thankful to Br Abdullah for always offering words of praise and encouragement throughout my time. I learnt to model his behaviour when it came to the relationship he built with his students making it not just easy to teach year 9B but also very enjoyable.

From the moment you enter the School you are met with Sr Zaynab and Sr Nasreen; two of the most friendliest faces. When having stressful and tiring days, Sr Zaynab always put a smile on my face with her questionably funny jokes.

The School welcomed me with open arms and made me feel included. Staff members and the Head Teacher, Br Suhayl, always acknowledged that the PGCE course is demanding and they helped me in every way possible, never adding to my load but helping me manage it.

To all my students and all other students I had the pleasure of coming across, I wish you all the success in this life and the next. Good luck in your studies and thank you so much for having me as your teacher. Thank you so much for the generous gifts!”



Sr Basma:
A favourite amongst staff
and students alike!

Message from the Headteacher

Asaalaamu alaykum,

Dear Parents

Students such as Hana Khan, our guest editor of this term's newsletter, is a student who leaves Al Risalah espousing the values which we at strive for every student to attain; that of a confident, caring, respectful; critically aware and thoughtful British Muslim. Hana has inspired us all over the years and it is only fitting that I give way to her for this newsletter's end of term message.

Jazak'Allah for your support, I wish you all a pleasant break, Eid Mubarak and to those travelling for pilgrimage we pray you have a Hajj Mabroor!

Wasalaam,
Suhayl Lee

Asalamualikum,

Br Suhayl has decided to entrust this task to me and has also given me the freedom to write about pretty much whatever I want... so this should be interesting.

I decided that as a post-GCSE / Y11 student who is now, after 5 years, moving on from Al Risalah, there really is only one topic I can speak about with confidence, and that is change.

Change is a huge part of our lives. With every new change there is reaction; some impacts being much bigger than others. This year I have learnt the extent to which certain events can impact on our sense of identity; our sense of who we are.

When I think back to myself at the beginning of this year it still surprises me that I have become so different in such a short space of time. My actions, my mind-set and my perspective on life have all been completely remodelled to the person writing this now—and just in case you were wondering, I do feel as though I have changed for the better alhamdulillah.

The reason I have changed is because I don't believe you can enter year 11 and not somehow be effected. So many things have happened this year that have been new and exciting and often quite scary! Things I have had to learn how to deal with for which I am forever grateful to, alhamdulillah, have had such amazing people there for me (you know who you are!) whose advice and support has saved me from being in a permanent state of exam terror!

The point is this: in life we encounter many changes and we are not going to like all of them. In fact, we are going to struggle with the majority that come our way. We must still find the courage to embrace those changes, because with each new change in life comes a new lesson to learn. Something that will no doubt improve you as a person and help prepare you for whatever life wants to throw.

So readers, I implore you, don't run away from change because you cannot outrun the inevitable. Besides, you never know what those changes will bring; be it new experiences, lessons, people or maybe all three and more. One day you will look back on that change and inshallah be proud of what it made you and of who you have become because of it.

So that's me done, and probably the last time anyone will ever see my name in an Al Risalah newsletter, but you know what? That's okay because things change—and besides, who knows what the future will bring!

Wasalaam
Hanna Khan 11G