

The BIGS

Bulletin

December 2018

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NELSON MANDELA

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Tomorrow a Leader

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Alhamdulillah, this term has been one of much progress with Year 7 settling in very well, Year 11 doing their mock exams in preparation for their GCSE, and pupils' personal development being carried out successfully through several strategies employed at the school. You can read about some of the engaging activities undertaken this term which complement our curriculum.

Moreover, we are very pleased to inform you that our school is performing well above national average in English, Maths, Science, Religious Studies and Arabic. This applies for the pass rates of grades 5-9 which is what the government would like schools to achieve as a strong pass at GCSE. Alhamdulillah, our GCSE pass rate for all subjects is 99.5%.

In addition, we are working with pupils' differing abilities to provide stretch and challenge in all subjects so that all pupils can make consistent progress, and this is closely monitored. The Alimiyyah studies has also been taken up well by our new Year 7 pupils and much progress is evident, Alhamdulillah.

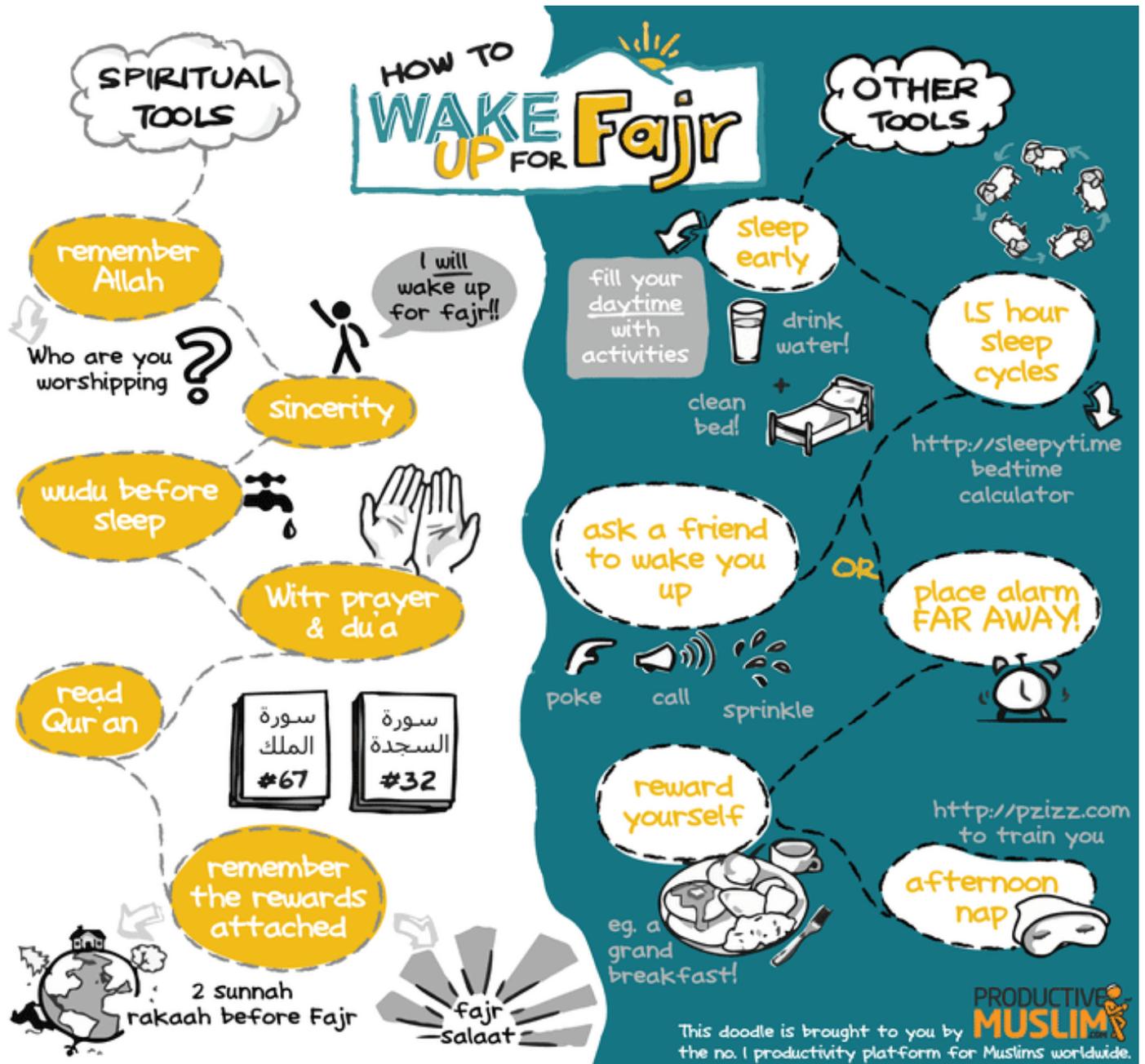
Last but not least, the 'Friends of BIGS' parents group has taken off well, and I would like to sincerely thank the parents who attended the first meeting and also those that have attended the fundraising days. May Allah SWT reward you well. Collectively, we can work to raise funds for improving the school's resources and thus keeping the fees to a minimum. I wish and pray for you all a wonderful and restful break with family and friends, and I trust that you continue to reflect on developing your spirituality and character, and seize the opportunity to attend talks and presentations in the community from which you can benefit.

If you have any concerns or compliments please get in touch with us.

R Mogra (Head teacher)

WHEN ADAM عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ WAS BANISHED FROM HEAVEN,
A FEW ITEMS CAME WITH HIM TO THE WORLD:

1. Every tree in heaven cried when they heard the news except one, the 'Oud tree - so the 'Oud tree was banished as well. Its punishment was that it will be burned by fire and that will be its only use. This is apparent as we only use 'Oud to burn it and acquire the nice scent from it. ~ Ever wondered why 'Oud smells amazing? It's from Jannah!
2. Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ ate from the fruits of the tree which was forbidden for him, thus some of the fruit got stuck between his teeth. He broke a **branch** off and used it to clean his teeth. This branch also came to the Earth with him and later became the staff of Musa عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. 3000 miracles occurred with this branch!
3. All the jewellery that Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ had on came off his body, but he kept one **ring** which he placed in his mouth. This ring later became the ring of Sulayman عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. It is a very powerful ring which has the greatest name of Allah inscribed on it. This is
4. Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was leaning on a white **stone** at the time. This blessed stone also came with him, and is now known as the Hajr Aswad. However far the stone's brightness reached, that whole area became the area of the Haram (The Sanctuary). The stone later turned black due to the sins of the people that touched it.
5. When Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and his wife Hawa عَلَيْهَا السَّلَامُ ate from the forbidden fruit, things suddenly became apparent to them. One of the things was their private parts. When they noticed this, they pulled **leaves** off the fig tree to cover themselves. When they descended to the Earth, the leaves fell off. A deer ate Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ's leaves and a silkworm ate Hawa عَلَيْهَا السَّلَامُ's leaves, which is why musk is produced in deers and silk from silkworms! This is also why Islam permits men to wear perfume outside and women are permitted to wear silk.



Islamic Stories for Muslims & Non-Muslims

(ImranQureshi.com)

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Fun Fajr Facts

- A group of evil jinns (Shayaateen) are assigned to ensure you miss the Fajr prayer... And when you wake up, they say:

نَمْ نَمْ، مَلَيْكَ لَيْلٌ طَوِيلٌ

[“Sleep. Sleep. You have a long night!”].

- The Prophet ﷺ advised us to fully clean our nostrils during Wudhu especially for Fajr prayer, because Shaytaan actually sits in your nose under your nostrils at night!

He ﷺ said: “فَإِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَبِيدُ فِي خَيْشُومِهِ”

- The Prophet ﷺ also indicated that Shaytaan urinates in your ear if you miss Fajr on purpose!

He ﷺ said: “بِأَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فِي أُذُنِهِ”

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They were ridiculed, mocked at, made to feel unwelcome by people all around them.

Treated as though they weren't human, their every step watched, people waiting for them to step out of line.

Human dignity didn't exist for them. It was as if people thought they had no emotions.

Prejudice in every sense of the word...

Why? Why were they discriminated against?

Astonishing that people hated them simply for their skin colour - just because they had dark skin.

They couldn't fight for their rights. If they did try to protest, they would be jailed, imprisoned, or even worse, 'lynched' and killed.

Yet, despite all this, there was one man whose self-respect and thirst for justice didn't allow him to stay hidden in the shadows.

He ignored all the threats, didn't think twice

about the risks, and was courageous enough to speak his mind and soul against the world that was split apart by this futile, heartless prejudice.

It was only due to his brave, determined character that he finally got what he had always wanted - a world wherein no-one is judged by the colour of their skin.

Nelson Mandela left behind a great legacy. He left behind many devoted admirers who all think of him as their role-model. His name is printed in scores of History text books and will always be included in the list of inspirational people of the world.

He definitely deserves this high status because he taught the world an extremely beneficial lesson, which is especially important for us Muslims in this day and age. He taught us, without being a Muslim himself, that when the whole world seems to be against you for the wrong reasons, stay strong, stand firm, and remember to keep your head up and your back straight...

Open Days 2019

- Wednesday 6th February
- Thursday 4th April

Parents' Notice

A contact details update form was sent out in December. Please could all parents return the completed form to the school promptly if you haven't done so. Overall the *attendance* of the pupils has vastly improved this year. Those individuals whose attendance is below 96% must attempt to work towards improving their attendance. Jazakumullah for your cooperation.

WALL OF EXCELLENCE
Star Students of the Month

September
KS3 - Saabireen
KS4 - Umme Habeebah

October
KS3 - Saffah
KS4 - Sarah

November
KS3 - Safwanah
KS4 - Zainab

Best Class Attendance

September - Years 7 & 9 ~ 97.7%
October - Year 11 ~ 97.6%
November - Year 8 ~ 98.6%

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you're a 5-Star Young Writers school!
Thank you for your hard work and dedication
nurturing your students as literacy lovers!

Awarded for Services to Literacy

BIG News

03/10/18 - World Space Week

The largest Space event on Earth, UN-declared 'World Space Week', is celebrated annually. It is an international celebration of the contribution of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition. An organisation came to give pupils an opportunity to learn about Space using virtual reality gear and other resources. They explored the galaxy and different planets. Students and staff really enjoyed the experience.



Rice Krispies and Cornflakes buns made by our Year 7 students ▼



18/10/18 - Coffee Morning 'Friends of BIGS', an association made up of teachers and parents to help the school, including fundraising for school outings, etc. organised a coffee morning for parents to attend.



25/09/18 - School Council Elections
Our pupils had an election to vote for their councillors. They were shown how the voting system works, how elections and campaigning is carried out, and how to become a role model for their fellow peers. A great campaign this year. Well Done!

**Fly like A Butterfly
Sting Like A Bee
Dont Vote For Them
Just Vote For Me**

**Vote Sajidah For
Deputy Head Girl**



18/10/18 - 'Charity Week' - Islamic Relief
'Charity Week' is a volunteer-led campaign set up by students and volunteers, and is built upon its vision to inspire young Muslims to become active, socially engaged and united. Through unity, the aim is to raise money to support Orphans & Needy Children across the world. Islamic Relief have supported this project and use the funds raised by Charity Week to deliver fantastic sustainable projects to children worldwide. A representative from Charity Week, Fatima Iqbal, came to visit the school and delivered an assembly on their next project.



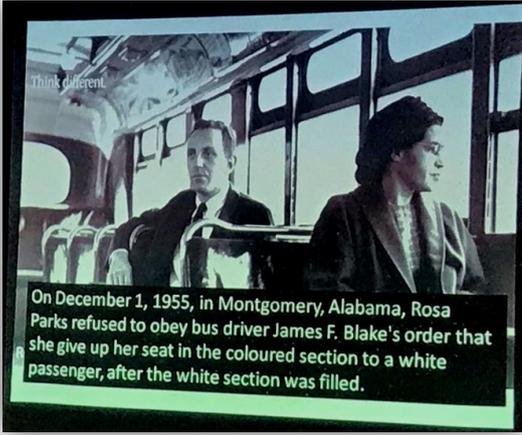
22/10/18 - Charity Week at BIGS
The school organised a charity week, as part of Islamic Relief's 'Charity Week' campaign, in which students raised funds in different ways, such as organising a bake sale, having a non-uniform day, etc. By the end of the week, the total amount raised was a whopping **£651.79**. Māshā Allāh! Well done to House of Marwa for raising the most!

1st - Marwa: £323.35... **2nd** - Safa: £140.75...
3rd - Arafah: £63.74... **4th** - Mina: £60.42
Furthermore, we raised £63.53 from the charity box placed at school. A big thank you to Fizzah and Aneela from Year 11, who went to Stratford road in their own time to raise money.

AFRICAN CULTURE DAY

23/10/18

Our students celebrated the African culture as part of Black History Month. They came up with creative ways to teach each other about the different countries in the African continent. They were amazed to find so many differences and learn countless new things about these cultures. A competition was launched between each class in



which they had to present knowledge on specific cultures, famous people who originated from there, signature dishes, and decorate and dress according to their country. The following countries were represented by each class: *Morocco ~ Year 7, Kenya ~ Year 8, Ethiopia ~ Year 9, South Africa ~ Year 10, Nigeria ~ Year 11.*



Staff members voted on the best portrayals:-
Best activities ~ Year 10... Best presentation ~ Year 11. Overall results: **1st ~ Year 11: 277 pts... 2nd ~ Year 10: 270 pts... 3rd ~ Year 7: 261 pts... 4th ~ Year 9: 244 pts... 5th ~ Year 8: 194 pts.** Well done to everyone who tried hard and participated in this event!



08/11/18 - Sixth form prep Mr Lee Billingham from Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy visited the school to deliver an assembly regarding sixth form for our Year 11 students.



09/11/18 - Scrumptious Science Our Year 8 students learnt about plant cells in Science in the most delicious way possible. They used a jelly base, and sweets and marshmallows for the different parts of the cells.

12/11/18 - Maths Fun Day Our Year 9 pupils prepared posters, board game activities, word searches, cross words, etc. as part of a Maths workshop for the rest of the school to take part in.





▲ Apple crumble, apple tarts and cupcakes made by our Year 8 students

20/11/18 - Cadbury World

Our Year 7 students took a trip to Cadbury World where they learnt about the food industry, where produce is grown and harvested, and how it is transported to be used in products. Not only did they learn exciting new facts about chocolate; they were also able to temper their own chocolate and write out their names with it! Everyone had an excellent time.



◀ Swiss roll made by a Year 9 student

15/11/18 - Charity for 'Children In Need'
Our school councillors prepared a week of activities to raise funds for 'Children In Need'. They organised a non-uniform day in which the theme was to wear something with spots or stripes, and sold Pudsey merchandise. They also had a bake sale to raise the funds. The grand total raised was £214.



21/11/18 - Interfaith Trip

Our Year 8 students visited Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School to take part in interfaith workshops, learning about people from other religions, and also teaching others about Islam. They discovered similarities and differences in their identities through group work. They also wrote poems, and visited the Church to observe how Christians pray.



30/11/18 - Thinktank Science Museum

Our Year 8 students visited Thinktank Museum and learnt about various topics such as human and animal cells, Space and medicine. They also took part in a workshop and explored the planetarium.



Candid Moments

Ms Marya H



How have your views on young Muslims changed since you joined the school?

They haven't. Like any other faith group, our students have many strengths and weaknesses, different hobbies and pastimes which they enjoy. Each student is different in their own way, so I don't have a "view" of young Muslims as each individual is different. I would say I've seen all the opportunities they have around them which I didn't grow up with. It's a blessing for them and they should make the most of it. This will help them a lot with whatever they go on to do in life.

Do you feel safe outside of school as a modestly dressed Muslim woman?

Totally. I have grown up in an area which has few people of minorities and especially Muslims, so I've always felt comfortable around non-Muslims. I didn't have any religious friends when I was a student as there were very few Muslims at my school. Even now when travelling and visiting small villages or going to the countryside, where you find very few Muslims, I feel totally confident wearing hijab and abaya. Once you're comfortable within yourself, it doesn't matter what anyone thinks of you. If your intention is correct - 'doing it to please Allah' - then you have nothing to worry about and you will find a lot of non-Muslims are very respectful.

Any advice for students with non-Islamic background in this school?

I would say there's always opportunity to learn and change. I didn't grow up in an Islamic environment, nor was I religious or have religious friends, and hijab and abaya had nothing to do with me. When I went for Hajj at the age of 19, I came back as a different person. I started praying five times a day - during my University days. I began wearing hijab and abaya, learning more about Islam and trying to practise more.

My circle of friends became only female, I stopped doing my eyebrows and

listening to music. Everything changed - but I put that effort in and I would not change it back. Once you start learning what is correct and incorrect, then you can start making changes in your life. Changing yourself from within, working on your character and mannerisms, and also making sure you fulfil your obligations. So for our students who are trying to pray and dress modestly, you have a huge blessing being in the environment that you are in. Everyday you are around good friends and religious teachers. Make the most of these opportunities. If you intend to improve and better yourself then over time you will make that effort and you will see how your life will change.

Best memory of your student days?

I really enjoyed school and college, and I always sat at the front of the class as I did my best, and wanted to learn and do well. Going camping was a good school event, where we had to stay at the woodlands over night and take part in different activities.

What improvements would you like to see in your students?

I would like to see them with good character and good manners, and we have many students with these qualities at BIGS. I want them to improve in all aspects of their learning journey, put more effort into their work and really have that passion to want to learn and improve themselves. Also, I notice at Salah time some girls are eager to finish quickly - I want them to work on this and improve and really take their time to focus and pray properly, to understand the value of their prayers and to perform them in the best way. Improve inside and outside of school, and become well rounded individuals.

Dates for your Diary

December	February	12 Mathematics Day
22 - 6 Winter Break	6 Open Day	15 Red Nose Day
January	8 Qur'an Competition	April
7 Term 2 begins	16 - 24 Term Break	4 Open Day
14 CA3: assessments begin	March	13-28 Spring Break
17 Breakfast Morning	4 CA4: assessments begin	
22 Parents Afternoon for Yr 11	7 World Book Day	

time out

Answers to last issue's Time Out

Say What You See: more often than not, stay away from me, final answer | Riddle Me This: a candle, your breath, a reflection, the wind | Spiral: Bridget

ha
ha
ha

An elderly lady was well-known for her Iman and for her confidence in talking about it. She would stand in front of her house and say Alhamdulillah [Allah be praised] to all those who passed by.

Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There ain't no Lord!"

Hard times came upon the elderly lady, and she prayed for Allah to send her some assistance. She would pray out loud in her night prayer, "Oh Allah, I need food! I am having a hard time, please Lord, please Lord, send me

some groceries!"

The atheist happened to hear her as she was praying, and decided to play a prank on her. The next morning, the lady went out on her porch and noted a large bag of groceries and shouted, "Alhamdulillah! [Allah be praised]"

The neighbour jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't." The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and said, "Alhamdulillah wash-shukrulillah! He not only sent me groceries, but He made the devil pay for them!"

SAY WHAT YOU SEE

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s s

Back



RIDDLE ME THIS

- ◆ I am the first on Earth, the second in Heaven, I appear two times in a week, you can only see me once in a year although I am in the middle of the sea. What am I?
- ◆ A locomotive train is travelling north and the wind is travelling south. Which way does the smoke travel?
- ◆ The man who invented it doesn't want it. The man who bought it doesn't need it. The man who needs it doesn't know it. What is it?

E	V	D	O	H	W	S	E
N	T	N	O	I	N	H	D
R	E	E	R	A	W	E	T
A	C	A	W				



	H	
	I	

BRAIN DRAINER

Use all the coded letter cards to fill the grids so that every row and column will spell out a word. The HI card has already been placed to start you off. When completed, the top rows spell out an instruction.