

The BIGS

Bulletin

December 2019

Inside this issue...



Today a Reader
Tomorrow a Leader

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله و بركاته

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It gives me great pleasure to see that our pupils have settled well into this academic year, and are punctual and prepared for school. Alhamdulillah.

Our GCSE results this year have been excellent - above national average and well above the pass rates of our neighbouring schools for grades 5-9 and 4-9. I pray for the future success of all our pupils. Jazakumullah Khayran to you parents for the ongoing support and encouragement you give to your daughters for their learning.

Furthermore, our pupils are progressing well on the new curriculum which is now embedded for all subjects and graded on the 1-9 GCSE criteria.

The Alimiyyah studies have been reviewed and the long term plans have been adapted to reach realistic targets. We ask you as parents to support what we teach and embed at school by encouraging your daughters in consolidating and learning new vocabulary, to enable them to progress well in these studies and in their Islamic practices and character at home.

Additionally, there have been several initiatives that are underway to enable our pupils to progress in their knowledge and skills. The school has reviewed the assessment policy to ensure that opportunities for instant progress are taking place during lessons. In addition to unaided pieces of work, there are now only three exams in the year.

As you read on, you will learn of the variety of opportunities for our pupils to develop their leadership, teamwork and independent skills. Our curriculum is complemented with a wide range of enrichment through visits, speakers and workshops this term.

We welcome Mrs Shafi who has been appointed as a new curriculum leader to support the teaching and learning in the school this year .

Thank you for all the positive feedback from parents about the school. I look forward to meeting you at the Parents' Afternoon in January, and if you have any concerns, please do get in touch with us.

May I remind all parents that any overseas leave in term time should not be booked until the school has approved. Visiting the family or wedding visits should be booked in the holidays. The school is unable to authorise any such leave. The school will only authorise absences in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised leave would be referred to the *Fast Track to Attendance* team at Birmingham City Council, which could result in fines and court orders.

R Mogra (Head teacher)

SUNNAH OF THE HOLIDAY

TO APPLY OIL ON THE HEAD

Jabir ibn Samurah رضي الله عنه was asked about the white hairs of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, he said: 'If he put oil on his head they could not be seen, but if he did not put oil on his head, they could be seen.' [Sahih Muslim]

Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said: 'He who has hair should honour it.' [Abu Dawud]

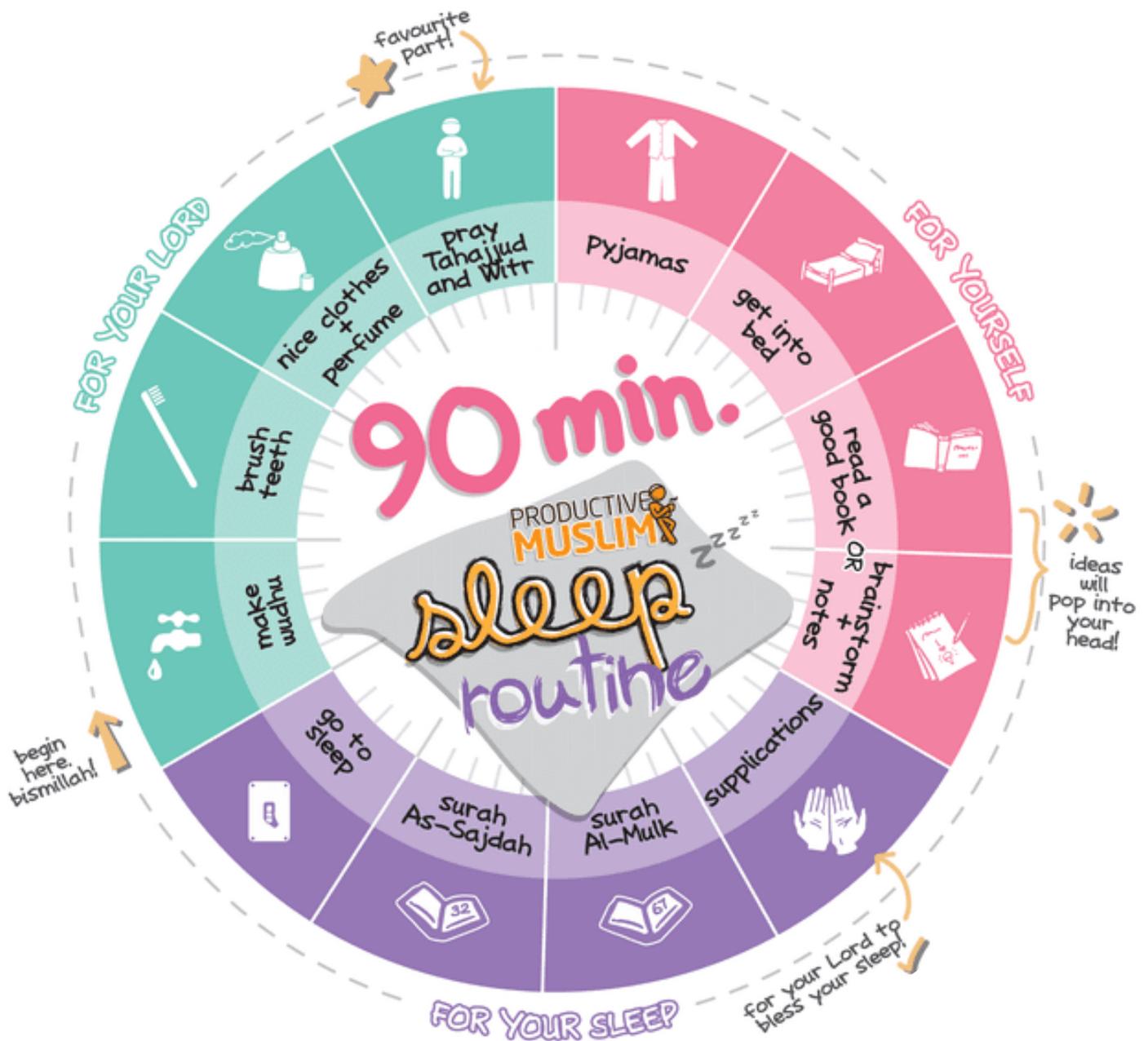
THE ACT OF OILING IS SOMETHING MANY OF US DO NOT REALISE TO BE A PART OF THE SUNNAH. THE SUNNAH OF THE PROPHET صلى الله عليه وسلم ENCOMPASSES EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE. OILING HAIR ON A REGULAR BASIS PREVENTS HAIR LOSS AND GREYING. IT PROMOTES STRONG AND LUSTROUS HAIR BY STRENGTHENING HAIR PROTEIN. IT REJUVENATES AND RELAXES THE MIND BY SOOTHING THE BRAIN'S NERVES AND CAPILLARIES. MANY OF US SEEK THIS BY SPENDING A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY AT HAIRDRESSERS AND SPAS, YET THIS SIMPLE SUNNAH CAN SAVE US MONEY, TIME AND EFFORT WHILST WE CONTINUE TO LIVE LIKE



OUR BELOVED PROPHET صلى الله عليه وسلم.

GCSE 2019	Grades 4-9	Grades 5-9
Maths (BIGS)	80%	53%
National Average	71.5%	50.1%
English (BIGS)	76%	59%
National Average	70.5%	53.4%
Science (BIGS)	65%	53%
National Average	55.5%	34.1%

Our overall GCSE pass rate is 99.5%



Duolingo (by Duolingo)

- ✓ Available on **Play Store**
- ✓ Available on **iTunes**

Learn a new language for fun, and for free! Have fun whilst you learn, levelling up and competing with friends. Play a game, answer questions and complete lessons to improve your vocabulary and grammar. Start with basic verbs, phrases, and sentences, and learn new words daily.

‘Far and away the best language-learning app.’ —The Wall Street Journal

‘The most productive means of procrastination I’ve ever discovered. The short lesson blocks are painless and peppy, and reaching the next level (and then the level after that) becomes addictive.’ —Slate



Apple iTunes



Google Play

Fun Facts

There were two AI chatbots created by Facebook to talk to each other, but they were shut down after they started communicating in a language they made for themselves.

In 10th-century Cordoba, an Umayyad (Islamic dynasty) city in Spain with over 70 libraries, the palace library alone had over 60,000 volumes, all written by hand. At the time, the best Latin library in Europe had only 600 parchment books.

books
Islam
inspiring knowledge
Ilm
Story Corner
wisdom reading amal

In modern day science, there have been many 'new discoveries' that have been proven and backed up, which have advanced our society and knowledge. However, little did we know that many of these discoveries were *already* mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, which Muslims know was revealed and sent from Allah (SWT) over fourteen centuries ago.

We all know that Allah (SWT) created everything. In the Qur'an, "to create" is used often to describe how things on the Earth were made. Despite this, in Surah no. 57 - verse 25 - there is a twist!

Allah (SWT) informs us:

وَأَنْزَلْنَا الْحَرِيدَ فِيهِ بَأْسٌ شَدِيدٌ

وَمَنْافِعَ لِلنَّاسِ

"... We sent down iron in which there is strong power, and benefits for the people..."

A question may arise regarding the words used: "...We sent down iron...". If we fast forward to recent years, we know that scientists discovered that Iron was never created on Earth! In fact, many heavy

elements are produced from the core of stars. When a star reaches the end of its life, a catastrophic explosion takes place and ejects most of its mass. They call this a 'supernova'. The supernova then spreads all of these elements around Space and that is how Iron was 'sent down' to Earth!

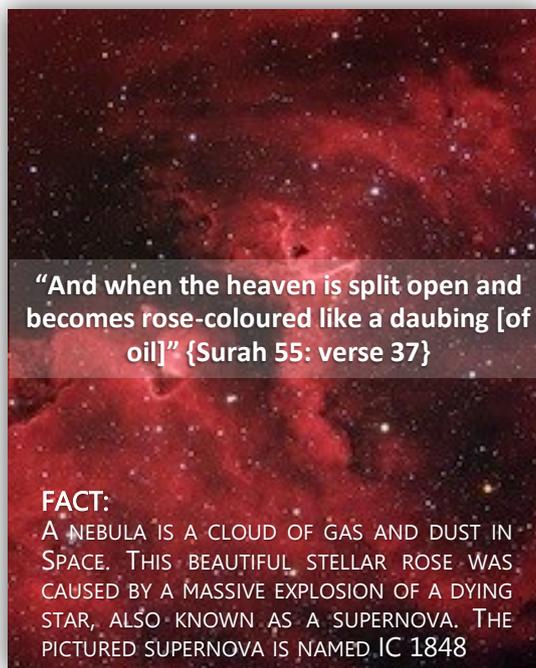
Another fascinating miracle mentioned in the Qur'an is in Surah no. 36 - verse 40.

Allah (SWT) informs us:

وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ

"...Each one is floating in an orbit."

Many centuries ago, people thought that the Earth was still and everything in Space that was

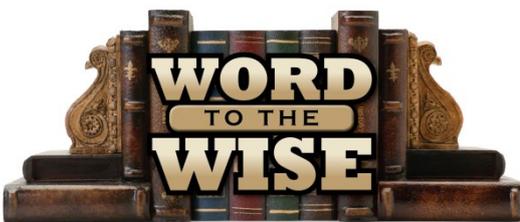


surrounding it was rotating around us. Speeding up to modern day science, discoveries show that the Moon orbits the Earth, whilst the Earth orbits the Sun, and the Sun orbits the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy. Furthermore, Allah (SWT) used the word *Yasbahoon* - as in to 'swim/float'. Many people in the past never knew that everything is weightless in space. This is a great miracle as these discoveries, especially the Sun orbiting the Galaxy, were only recently accepted as facts!

These were just two of my

favourite miracles mentioned in the Qur'an. I recommend you readers to do some research and find more miracles as they are all extremely interesting! Subhanallah!

- Submitted by Adiba [Year 10]



THE PROPHET (SAW) SAID:

نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُورٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِّنَ النَّاسِ، الصِّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ

"TWO BLESSINGS REGARDING WHICH THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE HAVE

WRONGED, (THEY ARE) HEALTH AND FREE TIME". (BUKHARI)

WE SHOULD VALUE OUR HEALTH BEFORE ILLNESS OVERCOMES US, AND ALSO VALUE OUR FREE TIME BEFORE BECOMING OCCUPIED WITH RESPONSIBILITIES. DURING THESE

YEARS, WE BECOME PREOCCUPIED WITH VARIOUS PAST TIMES RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RECITING DHIKR AND STUDYING ISLAM. WHEN A PERSON IS YOUNG AND IN GOOD HEALTH, THEY CAN CARRY OUT GOOD DEEDS SUCH AS PRAYING SALAH

AND READING QUR'AN, WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO WHEN THEY ARE ILL OR IN OLD AGE. THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT WE SPEND OUR FREE TIME IN WAYS TO HELP OUR LIVES IN THE AKHIRAH, WHILE ALSO MAINTAINING A BALANCE WITH OUR STUDIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS WORLD. AFTER ALL,

الوقت كالسيف، إن لم تقطعه قطعك

'TIME IS LIKE A SWORD, IF YOU DO NOT CUT IT, IT WILL CUT YOU.'

- SUBMITTED BY SOFINA [YEAR 10]

BIG News

09/2019 - Voting for School Councillor

The school council is a way for students to voice their opinions about the school and make changes where they see fit. Students

were given the opportunity to run for student council, by giving speeches to the whole school about why they felt that they were best suited for the role and by campaigning for two weeks. This served to be a confidence booster for many students and allowed them to step up and display their ability to be responsible. The rest of the students were then able to vote for who they thought was best suited. There were interviews that took place with the head teacher and school council co-ordinator for the students who got the greatest number of votes. This allowed the teachers to understand if they were well suited and responsible. Two students with the greatest number of votes (from their class) were picked for school councillors this year.



I really liked the voting. We took part in debating, we had competitions between classes such as Year 7 vs Year 9, etc. Another activity we took part in is a workshop by the Year 10 students. They explained how to vote, the voting age limit, what kind of parties there are, etc. In my opinion it was an amazing day! - Anayah

14/10/19 - Islamic Relief presents Charity Week

A representative from Islamic Relief introduced Charity Week to the students. This year, Charity Week chose Superheroes as the theme. The focus is not on these imaginary characters, but in using them to rediscover the "real" heroes. They stated: *"We hope that this theme will shine a spotlight on the real life heroes struggling against the forces of poverty, injustice and disunity across the world - whether they be the forgotten noble heroes of our past, or the present day ones trying to survive in the most difficult circumstances."*

This project will provide medicines and equipment in *Gaza* for children suffering from cancer. In *Pakistan*, it will provide hepatitis screening for 6,500 vulnerable children, along with vaccinations and training to prevent further spread of the illness. In *Niger, Afghanistan* and the *Middle East*, schools will be constructed, providing children with access to education and schooling kits. In *Syria, Sudan, Asia* and *Southern Africa*, emergency aid will be delivered through this project.

17/10/19 - Year 11's taster day at Sandwell College

Year 11 students took a trip to Sandwell College. It was

very informative as it gave us an insight to which courses we can take after we leave Year 11. We participated in different activities that gave us a taste of what it would be like in college. It was very helpful. - Maymuna



21/10/19 - Amazing Apprenticeships Assembly

A careers talk was conducted by a representative from Amazing Apprenticeships to our Year 10 and 11 students. Thank you for your visit!

23/10/19 - HWGA sixth form Assembly

A careers talk was conducted by a representative from Handsworth Wood Girls Academy's sixth form to our Year 11 students. We're grateful for your visit!

25/10/19 - Superheroes for Charity Week

On this day, we tried to collect money for Charity Week. We did this by dressing up as superheroes. We also looked at what makes someone a hero and learnt that not everyone needs to wear a cape to be a hero. We collected as much money as we could. We created awareness of why people needed that money and how it helps and supports them. - Sinan



05/11/19 - 'Dixy' Meal for Charity Week

The students raised money for Charity Week by ordering food from Dixy Chicken.

This day was amazing. We had a Dixy meal for £4. It included a burger, drink and we also had fries. This was for charity. - Anayah



06/11/19 - Solihull Sixth Form College visit

A careers talk was conducted by a representative from Solihull SFC to our Year 11 students. We appreciate your visit!

14/11/19 - Anti-bullying Assembly

The school took part in anti-bullying week. An assembly and workshops were set up for the students to participate in to combat bullying.



ABC'S OF BULLYING

A **SS**ESS THE SITUATION
FIND HELP – SUPPORT THE VICTIM
SHOW THEM YOU CARE – EVALUATE

B **E** THE BIGGER PERSON
IGNORE – WALK AWAY – LEAVE
USE POSITIVE SOCIAL SKILLS TO
CONTROL THE SITUATION

C **ONT**ROL YOURSELF
DO NOT ESCALATE SITUATION
WITH AGGRESSION OR NAME
CALLING – REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE

**HELP MAKE YOUR SCHOOL
BULLYING FREE**

10/12/19 - Wake Up - Shake Up

The students and staff of the school took part in a morning fitness and well-being session at 8 am. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the activities. *Note: this morning session will be taking place every Tuesday. All staff and students are welcome to join!*

12/12/19 - JCSFC visit

A careers talk was conducted by a representative from Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College to our Year 11 students. We thank you for your visit!

07/11/19 - BIGS Bake Sale for Charity Week

I liked the way that every class brought something in and we made a lot of money for Charity Week. I also like the fact that we had different events to raise money for charity. The total amount we raised was £550. - Fatima

22/11/19 - World Skills Show at the NEC

Our Year 10 students were able to take a trip to the NEC as part of their careers education.

First we went in and were given wrist bands, then soon after we were free to look around for an hour or two. We came across people who were competing in competitions such as: arts and crafts, health care, cooking, robotics and much more. One of the activities I personally took part in was greeting and playing with a robot. What I liked about the trip would be the things I got to see, and how people worked and carried out certain activities.



- Ikraan

We looked around the centre where there was numerous activities such as: firefighters simulation, driving simulation, etc. I liked the attempt of making a world record and also learning about mental health. It was enjoyable as well as educational. - Humera

02/12/19 - Cadbury World

Our Year 7 students went on a trip to Cadbury World as part of their Geography and Food & Nutrition education.



We went through a different variety of historical features. We went to the theatres and had an informative presentation of Cadbury World and how it was formed. The staff and visitors were very kind and approachable. We also went on rides through a fantasy land of cocoa beans. As a wonderful ending, we experienced the 4D cinema which everyone enjoyed. The gift shop sold many souvenirs. I really enjoyed my day at Cadbury World. - Khadijah

When we went to Cadbury World, we went to many places like the 4D cinema, which I loved the most. We went on a tour of how chocolate is made, and also made our names out of chocolate. - Maryam



FUNDRAISING AT BIGS

ISLAMIC RELIEF CHARITY WEEK PROJECTS

SUPERHEROES NON-UNIFORM DAY
& DIXY MEAL: £241.38

BIG BAKE SALE: £281.11

OTHER DONATIONS: £27.51

TOTAL RAISED: £550





Kerboodle is an online teaching and assessment website that provides support for students' learning. Your child will be able to use the resources available on the website and may be set work by their teachers. Year 9, 10 and 11 will have access to Science resources on Kerboodle from January 2020.

How to access Kerboodle:

Go to <https://www.kerboodle.com> and login at the top of the page with the username, password and the school's code: **pjc4**

Your child should have access to one or more courses on Kerboodle. They will be able to see all of the courses to which they have access once they log in. If they don't have access to any courses, they should speak to their teacher.

If your child has been set a task by their teacher they will receive a notification in the message centre at the top of the page with the information. The task will appear in the Assessment tab within

their course on Kerboodle. It may be an interactive activity that will be marked automatically by Kerboodle, or a worksheet or task that needs to be downloaded, completed and either re-uploaded and turned in by hand. For more information on how to complete homework, visit the student section of the Kerboodle support site:

https://global.oup.com/education/product_support/kerboodle/student

Once the work has been marked, your child will be able to view their results in the Markbook module. They will also be able to view feedback on their work.

Your child will also be able to access all of the teaching materials on Kerboodle in the Lessons and Resources modules to consolidate their learning. They just need to log in to Kerboodle, go to their course and click on the relevant module. They will also be able to access a digital version of the student book.

Criminal exploitation: A guide for parents

Criminal Exploitation is when individuals or gangs target children and force them to carry out criminal activity. Exploiters may force young people to deal drugs, steal, commit violent or sexual acts and traffic them.

Children who are being criminally exploited will usually be subject to physical violence and threats – but exploiters are smart: they'll spend months or years grooming their victims, and parents often aren't even aware it's happening. If you think your child is being exploited it's important to know that **you are not alone and not to blame**. You should:

- Report your concerns to Children's Social Care or the NSPCC's helpline on **0808 800 5000**. A social worker can help you take steps to protect your child. They will make an assessment based on concern your child is at risk of harm from outside of the family.
- You can also report your concerns to the police using their non-emergency number. If you feel your child is in immediate danger then call the police on **999**.

Don't be worried about contacting the police – you are trying to protect your child.

The Children's Society

If you would like more support, go to other professionals who can help: your GP, school, police or a youth worker.

- If your child isn't where they are supposed to be, report them missing straight away on 101. **You do not have to wait 24 hours.**
- If your child is picked up in a car, or has train or bus tickets, keep a record of this information to give to the police or social worker

• There may be other evidence that your child is being exploited, such as interactions on social media, unexplained money or phones, clothing or gifts, change in behaviour; where possible try to keep a record of this.

If you're able to speak to your child then let them know they aren't in trouble – and that you're worried about them. Remember that there may be threats made against you or your family by the people exploiting your child. Your child may believe that they are protecting you. Let your child know that you know about this risk and that it is not their responsibility to protect you.

If they don't want to talk to you, let them know that they can always call ChildLine on **0800 1111** or Get Connected on **0808 808 4994 (text 80849)**.

No child should feel alone

Candid Moments

Ms Sheikh



Have you seen any improvements over the years you have worked in BIGS?

Yes, many. As well as lots of improvements in teaching and learning, there is a huge upgrade in the lunch menu, the building, facilities and the school resources. BIGS has come a long way since 1990, the year I started. From a few simple rooms to a fully furnished ICT room, Science lab, students being able to have PE lessons at The Lighthouse youth centre during summer time, many lunch time clubs such as English writing, mehndi, cookery, and a decent school library.

Were you a teacher before becoming a senior supervisor?

Yes. I was teaching Urdu, Arabic, Art and Islamic studies. Art was really nice to teach and I appreciated the challenge of the work. Although being a supervisor comes with a lot of responsibility, I enjoy my work.

What do you like doing in your free time?

I enjoy reading Qur'an. I also like shopping, and looking after my home by cooking and cleaning, etc.

What is your favourite lunch order?

My favourite lunch order is baguette.

What is your favourite subject?

Religious Studies.

As a teenager, did you struggle to practice Islam or was it easy?

I found it really easy because I come from a religious background.

Do you think the behaviour of the students has improved over the years?

Yes, definitely. I'm really pleased that our students are very helpful and kind to each other. They are also well mannered; if I go to any classroom and say I need some students to help me, I see all 30 students put their hands up. I'm really proud of them.

Are there any improvements you would like to see in the years to come?

The inside is pleasant but I would welcome a nicer dining room for the students, and I'd also like to see the building painted from the outside.

Did you have a job before working at BIGS?

No, I didn't. This is my first job and also my last. When I started working here, there were only 15 girls and now there's over 100 girls. Masha Allah!

Are you a proud member of BIGS?

Yes, Alhamdulillah. I am very proud of being a part of BIGS. It's like my home and all the students are like our daughters.

WALL OF EXCELLENCE

Star Students of the Month

September

KS3 - Suwaiba [Year 8]
KS4 - Ikraan [Year 10]
Alimiyyah - Mahbuba [Year 7]

October

KS3 - Tanzeela [Year 9]
KS4 - Zainab [Year 10]
Alimiyyah - Navaira [Year 11]

November

KS3 - Maryam [Year 8]
KS4 - Sofina [Year 10]
Alimiyyah - Ammarah [Year 10]

December

KS3 - Huma [Year 9]
KS4 - Maymuna [Year 11]
Alimiyyah - Aliyah [Year 7]

Best Class Attendance

September - Year 9 - 97.1%
October - Year 9 - 97.5%
November - Year 9 - 97.4%

Dates for your Diary

DECEMBER		MARCH	
21	<u>Winter Break begins</u>	4	World Maths Day
		5	World Book Day
	JANUARY	9-13	British Science Week
5	<u>Winter Break ends</u>	23	Term 2
6	Term 2 begins		Assessments week
TBC	Parents' Afternoon		
	FEBRUARY		APRIL
5	Open Day	2	Open Day
11	Safer Internet Day	3	House Cup Quiz
15-23	<u>Term Break</u>	4-19	<u>Spring Break</u>
24	Mid-term 2 begins	20	Term 3 begins

Did you know... that in the Ottoman Empire, the State would send butchers to a break after every six months because slaughtering and cutting meats everyday might lead to loss of feelings and mercy. In their break time, they were busy with gardening and growing plants to know how it feels to take care of living things, so feelings of mercy would be restored again.

time out

say what you see



12:05
a.m.

ROAD

Tom OOOOOOOO

RIDDLE ME THIS

- I NEVER KNEW WHAT A FATHER IS OR WHAT A MOTHER IS AS I NEVER HAD ANY OF THEM. WHO AM I?
- I AM ALSO THE KA'BAH YET I HAVE NO ROOF. WHAT AM I?
- I AM THE LONGEST SURVIVING HUMAN BEING WHOM DEATH HAS NOT TOUCHED YET. I AM OVER 2000 YEARS OLD AND STILL HEALTHY, STRONG AND BREATHING. WHO AM I?
- I AM THE LUCKY SAHABI (COMPANION OF THE PROPHET S.A.W) WHOSE NAME APPEARS IN THE QUR'AN. WHO AM I?

MISSING DELEGATIONS

Three countries are absent from an important meeting. Which ones are they? 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ Firstly, complete the names of the food dishes below with the name of a nationality. Find these words in the wordsearch grid, and draw a line through them. Now take the unused letters from the grid in order from left to right, top to bottom, and the absent countries will be revealed.

S H C N E R F O N
U S I H T T H A A
S I R S G U I F R
P N I I I R C A S
A A S L A K E W B
N D H G R I I E A
I Z N N I S L M K
S U E E S H X I C
H O N A I G L E B

- _____ chocolates
- _____ coffee
- _____ delight
- _____ fries
- _____ goulash
- _____ mustard
- _____ omelette
- _____ pastry
- _____ roll
- _____ yoghurt



Answers to last issue's Time Out

Say What You See: eye of the tiger, it's all up to you, foreign policy | Riddle Me This: Surah Yasin, ant, pride, pregnant she-camel of Prophet Salih (A.S) | Butterflies: pillar

Email your Time Out answers to newsletter@bigs.bham.sch.uk
The first person to email us the correct solutions wins a small prize!

ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK WELCOME!

WRITE TO US VIA EMAIL OR SIMPLY SCRIBBLE YOUR THOUGHTS ONTO A PIECE OF PAPER AND HAND IT IN TO OUR TEAM!

ha
ha
ha

- A MAN SAID TO MULLA NASRUDDIN, 'I HEARD A LOUD NOISE COMING FROM YOUR HOUSE.' HE REPLIED, 'IT WAS THE SOUND OF MY SHIRT FALLING.' 'THE SOUND OF YOUR FALLING SHIRT WAS THAT LOUD?!' THE MAN EXCLAIMED. MULLA REPLIED, 'I WAS INSIDE THE SHIRT WHEN IT FELL!'

- A DESI MAN WENT TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR A VISIT. AFTER A WHILE, HE REALISED THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO STOP THE TAXI AS HE DIDN'T KNOW THE LANGUAGE. AFTER THINKING HARD FOR A WHILE, HE PUT HIS HAND ON THE DRIVER'S SHOULDER AND SAID: 'SADAQALLAHUL AZHEEM!'