

The BIGS

Bulletin

December 2017

Inside this issue...

**STORY
CORNER**
Ā'ISHAH RA

BIG news
ANTI-BULLYING
WEEK

**Candid
Moments**
MS NASREEN

time out
BATTLESHIPS



Today a Reader
Tomorrow a Leader

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

To begin with, I would like to welcome all new staff and students to the school. We hope you enjoy your stay with us and feel fulfilled whilst at BIGS.

It has been a busy term and we have had several activities taking place alongside the lessons to create awareness and to enrich the learning of our pupils.

Our current Year 7 pupils have settled in very well at the school, Alhamdulillah, and they are keen to do well in their learning. They have also adapted to the learning of the 'Ālimiyyah studies and we hope that with your continued support and encouragement at home, they will thrive.

I would like to thank the parents that attended the Coffee Morning this term. The Home-School Partnership is one of great importance to us as we believe that this is the key to ensuring successful learning for your daughters. If there are any other parents that would like to join the 'Friends of BIGS - Parents and Carers' group to support the school, please contact Ms Feeroza at the school.

I would also like to thank the Year 11 parents for ensuring that their daughters are attending the after school GCSE booster lessons. The sacrifices you make today will ensure the success of your children in the future.

Furthermore, I would like to express my thanks to all those who raised money at our charity fundraising events this term. May Allāh reward you all well for the contributions you have made.

We at BIGS wish you all a restful and peaceful break.

R Mogra (Head teacher)

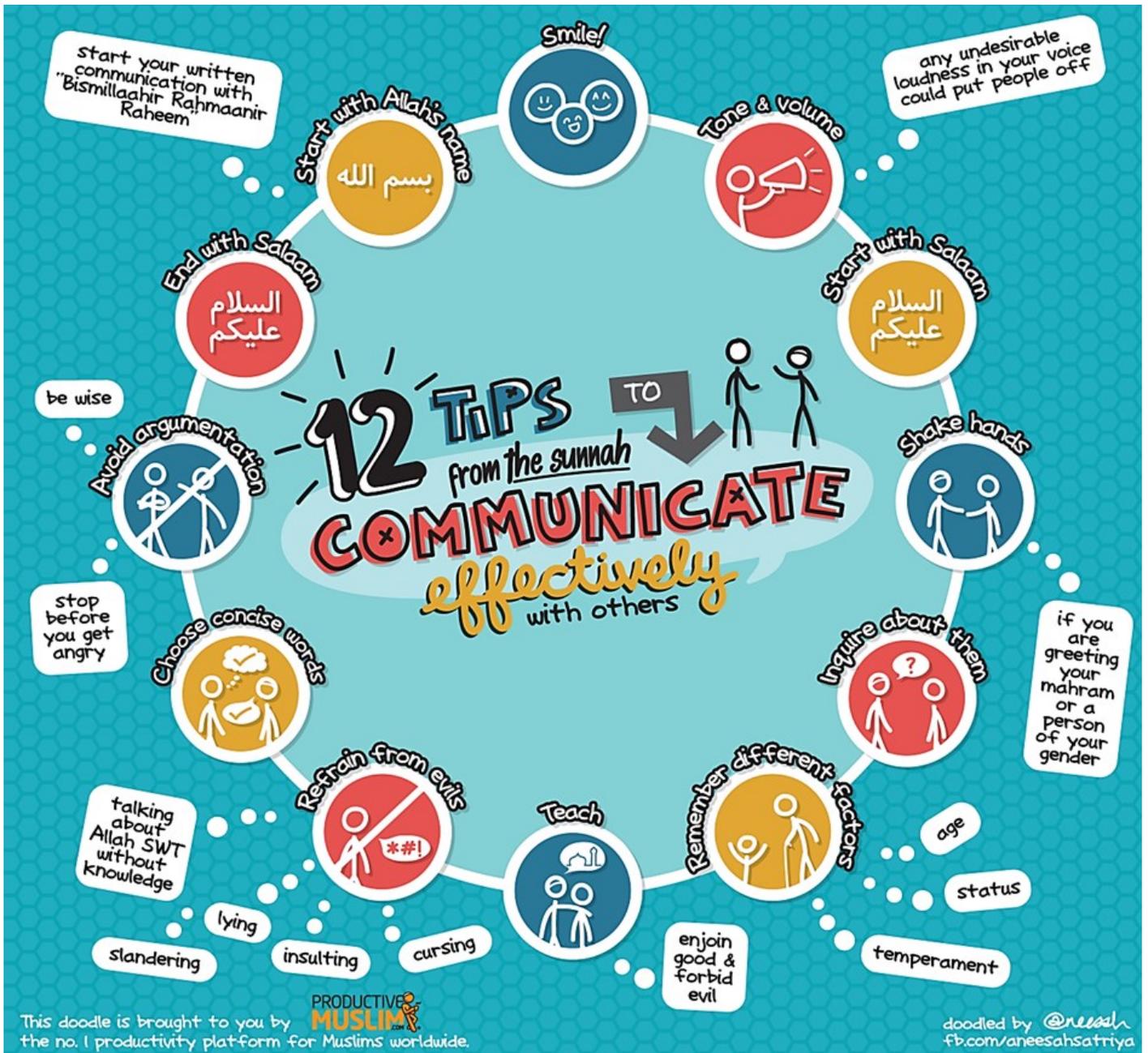
The Leaking Bucket

Beware of the leaking bucket.

- ◆ You wear 'abāyah and hijāb but with perfume and makeup - *a leaking bucket.*
- ◆ You're following the Sunnah and have a beard but you don't lower your gaze - *a leaking bucket.*
- ◆ You pray all of your prayers on time but you have no Khushū' (humility, sincerity, concentration) while praying - *a leaking bucket.*
- ◆ You're very kind to people and speak with them gently but with your family you're always harsh - *a leaking bucket.*
- ◆ You honour and treat your guests well but when they leave, you gossip about them and talk about their flaws - *a leaking bucket.*
- ◆ You give a lot of Sadaqah (charity) to the poor but you humiliate them and hurt them - *a leaking bucket.*

- ◆ You stand up for tahajjud at night, keep fasts and read Qur'ān everyday but you cut your family ties - *a leaking bucket.*
 - ◆ You keep fasts and have sabr (patience) due to the pangs of hunger and thirst but you swear, insult and curse - *a leaking bucket.*
 - ◆ You help others but you're doing it to gain something from them instead of doing those acts of kindness for the sake of Allāh - *a leaking bucket.*
 - ◆ You post Islamic reminders and have thousands of followers on Facebook and Instagram but you're doing it for the fame rather than to please Allāh - *a leaking bucket.*
- Do not gather all your good deeds in a leaking bucket. You struggle to fill it whilst your deeds easily escape through the cracks!*

May Allāh enable us to do all good actions to please Him alone and may He be pleased with us always. Āmīn!



This doodle is brought to you by **PRODUCTIVE MUSLIM** the no. 1 productivity platform for Muslims worldwide.

doodled by @neeshah fb.com/aneesahsatriya



Fisabilillah Books

- (Fisabilillah Digital)
- ✓ Free app
- ✓ Available on Play Store: <http://tinyurl.com/lukchdt>
- ✓ Available on iTunes: <https://tinyurl.com/yb8atlj5>



Google Play



Apple iTunes

This app gives you free access to the entire Fisabilillah book library including all previously unpublished titles. Authentic, well-written books on a wide range of topics from: Iman and the five pillars; lessons on the sunnah and history; and various Du'a and Hadith collections; to more specific advice, on birth, marriage, raising children, death, and more. As well as a whole selection of books aimed at Da'wah and new Muslims.

Our Student Council

| | Main Councillor | Vice Councillor |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Year 7 | Aisha M | Saiha M |
| Year 8 | Kuluma B | Sakena G |
| Year 9 | Hawa A | Henna A |
| Year 10 | Fakhrunnessa Q (Treasurer) | Farhiya M (Secretary) |
| Year 11 | Nasro M (Head Girl) | Habiba M (Deputy) |

The school council works to make improvements to the school and the way things are done at BIGS. They look for things that could be better in the school and discuss how to change them. Councillors are expected to:

- Speak on behalf of the rest of their class
- Make important decisions with regards to the school
- Attend regular meetings and make time to do project work on behalf of the council
- Take everyone's comments seriously
- Report back to their class all of the decisions that the council makes

books
Islam
inspiring knowledge
Ilm
Story Corner
wisdom reading amal

Ā'ishah RA had so much faith in Allāh. One day, she was fasting and a beggar knocked at her door. Her slave girl Barīrah RA opened the door. The beggar asked her for some food and she told him there wasn't any. Ā'ishah RA heard this and said, 'Give him the barley.' Barīrah RA replied, 'That is the only thing we have to eat. What will you break your fast with?' Ā'ishah RA said, 'Allāh will provide for me.'

When Maghrib time came, Ā'ishah RA opened her fast with water and prayed her salāh. Barīrah RA said jokingly, 'Allāh will provide for you.' At that moment, there was a knock on the door. Someone had sent them a goat as a gift. Barīrah RA was very shocked and Ā'ishah RA remarked, 'Didn't I tell you that Allāh will provide for me?!'

She then uttered a sentence which shows how remarkably strong her faith was in Allāh, '**None of you can be a true believer until his trust in Allāh is stronger than that which is in his palms.**'

Without a doubt, she is one of the greatest women of the Muslim Ummah. She was extremely close to the Prophet SAW and out of love, he would call her Humayrā (one with a fair complexion and rosy cheeks).

Her greatest quality was her generosity. She narrated 2210 ahādīth. It is said that if around half of the knowledge of the male scholars and other wives of the Prophet SAW was collectively assessed, Ā'ishah RA's knowledge would be greater. Subhānallāh! May Allāh grant us the characteristics of Hadhrat Ā'ishah RA. Āmīn.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

- 9 Term 2 begins
- 10 Culture Day
- 12 Qur'ān Competition Day
- 17 Parents' Afternoon
- 19 Maths Fun Day

February

- 2 NSPCC Number Day
- 6 Open Day
- 12 3rd Assessment week begins
- 16 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 17-25 Term Break
- 26 Islamic Studies exam week begins

March

- 1 World Book Day
- 9-18 British Science Week
- 14 Football Tournament
- 16 History Workshop
- 27 House Winners' Treat
- 30-15 Spring Break

Attendance Matters!

The school is tracking students' attendance on a daily basis. This includes lates and absences. We are working with Birmingham City Council using the 'Spotlight on Attendance' scheme to improve the attendance of all pupils. We would like to congratulate the many parents who ensure that their children attend school regularly.

It is essential that all students are in school on a daily basis, unless they have exceptional circumstances. It is the parents' duty to ensure that their child is in school.

Pupils who are absent for over ten days will be marked on the system straightaway - and for those whose attendance doesn't improve, they will receive a fine and parents could be taken to court and given a criminal record.

Unfortunately, last year we had to issue a penalty notice to a student for taking off excessive time from school - the family were charged a fine. We hope to avoid that this year and wish to see each and every student enthusiastic about studying, as well as understanding the importance of regularly attending school.



All swans in England belong to the Queen!



BIG News

End of Year Activity Days - July

15/09/17 - Raising for Rohingya

The school had a non-uniform day in which we tried raising as much money as possible for the humanitarian crisis in Burma. Our students raised **£223.51** altogether. The money raised was given through a registered charity. May Allāh ease the suffering and pain of all the people affected by the Burmese/Rohingyan conflict. Āmīn.



29/09/17 - Birmingham Magistrates' Court

Our Year 10 students visited Birmingham Magistrates' Court as part of their Citizenship studies. Here, they learn about the justice system and witness real case hearings, as well as observe the roles of the key legal personnel.

05/10/17 - 'Charity Week' - Islamic Relief

Charity Week, a volunteer-led campaign set up by students and volunteers, 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 came to visit the school and delivered an assembly on their next project. ➤➤➤



06/10/17 - Lord Jordan visits BIGS

Lord Jordan from the House of Lords came to discuss the inner workings of the Parliament with our Year 10 students. *"He explained to us how and when the House of Lords was built. It was very interesting."* - Aliza T (10)

19/10/17 - Breakfast Morning

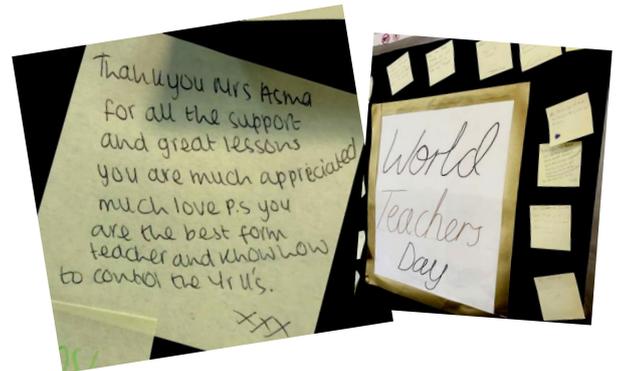
A sincere Jazākumullāh Khayran to our Head Girl and Deputy who organised a breakfast for the whole school.

Students and staff contributed in bringing something in for their big breakfast. It was very enjoyable for all!



05/10/17 - World Teachers' Day

Our students celebrated World Teachers' Day this year by posting the things they appreciate about their teachers on a wall display. The teachers value all the thoughtful comments and give a big Thank You to all who participated!



09-13/10/17 - Charity Week at BIGS

The school organised a charity week, as part of Islamic Relief's 'Charity Week' campaign, in which each year group raised funds on different days of the week. Students sold food, drinks, cakes, snacks and many other items to try to raise the most money. By the end of the week, the total amount raised was a whopping **£ 6 6 9 . 8 6 .**

Māshā Allāh! Well done to the Year 11 students who raised the most and were treated with doughnuts for their efforts!

The money they raised helped get child refugees in Jordan back into education, as well as providing vital aid to children in the besieged Yarmouk camp in Damascus.



02/11/17 - Various Faith Festivals Presentation

Our Year 11 students hosted an assembly in which they showed the rest of the school how people of different faiths celebrate various festivals of their religion. It was a very informative presentation for all.



06/11/17 - Veolia Recycling Centre

Our school councillors visited Veolia, a household waste recycling centre. They explored methods to recycle and reuse materials, and learnt how it helps the community at large. Birmingham's waste strategy reflects the national policy of viewing waste as a resource rather than rubbish. In partnership with Birmingham City Council, Veolia is working towards achieving a 40% recycling rate by 2026.



An emergency appeal was launched on behalf of our forlorn Muslim brothers and sisters. A charity representative spoke to our students about the current crisis in Burma. The charity has been administering relief in Burma for over 10 years, maintaining support to Rohingya families in Arakan since the outbreak of violence in 2012. Field staff are also on the ground in Bangladesh providing aid to desperate families fleeing the oppression.



10/11/17 - Charity Day for Children In Need

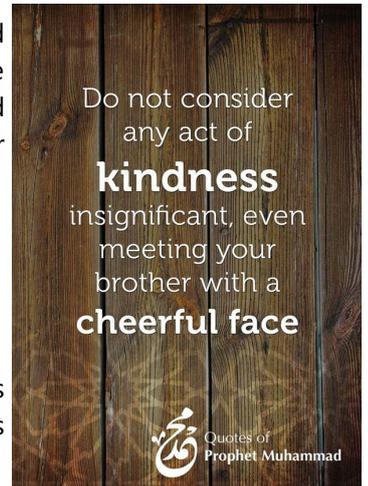
The school organised a non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need. Students who took part were expected to wear something decorated with dots. The total amount raised on the day was **£85**. Bravo to those who contributed!

13/11/17 - World Kindness Day

The school celebrated World Kindness Day to encourage compassion, kind-heartedness and thoughtfulness in our pupils. As our prophet SAW said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ رَفِيقٌ يُحِبُّ الرَّفْقَ وَيُعْطِي عَلَيْهِ مَا لَا يُعْطِي عَلَى الْعُنْفِ

'Allāh is kind, likes kindness, and gives (reward) for kindness what he does not give for harshness.' - Abū Dāwūd



13-17/11/17

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Our students participated in the national Anti-Bullying Week this year. They expressed their thoughts on bullying through poetry.

I'M FINE

AS I STAGGERED DOWN THE STAIRS,
HIDING IN THE SHADOWS FROM THE OPPRESSORS,
ALONE,
DEPRESSED,
UNSEEN,
I STAND AHEAD AS IF THE RUMOURS ARE NOT
BEING TOLD.
BEHIND THE SMILE LIES TEARS OF SADNESS,
MY BODY A MUSEUM OF PURPLE BRUISES AND
SCARS.
NO ONE KNOWS,
NO ONE SEES,
NO ONE CARES,
'I'M FINE' I SAY AS I BREAK APART INSIDE.
**TAIBA K, NIMRAH A, ANISA G, ANISAH B,
HUMERA J, MOMINA K - YEAR 11**

I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

WE DON'T BULLY IN OUR SCHOOL,
EVERYONE IS KIND,
NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE,
WE DON'T REALLY MIND.
EVERYBODY'S DIFFERENT,
AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES US GREAT,
BUT WE ALL AGREE ON ONE THING,
THERE'S NO ROOM HERE FOR HATE.
WE TRY TO HELP EACH OTHER IN
EVERYTHING WE DO,
AND VALUE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS,
NO MATTER WHAT THE VIEW.
THERE'S NO PLACE HERE FOR BULLIES,
JUST FRIENDS BOTH OLD AND NEW,
WITH ONE SHORT, SIMPLE MESSAGE,
'I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU.'
AAISHA M - YEAR 8

THE WORDS YOU SAY

SITTING ALONE AT NIGHT CRYING AND THINKING,
WHY CAN I NOT BE LOVED?
WHY AM I LIKE THIS?
I LOOK AT MYSELF IN HATE BECAUSE OF YOU.
THIS IS YOUR FAULT,
BECAUSE THE WORDS YOU SAY KILL,
THEY TEAR MY SOUL TO PIECES,
THEY SHATTER ME.
YOU'RE JUST A CONSTANT REMINDER THAT I AM
JUST THE GIRL OUTSIDE THE BOX,
PEOPLE SAY TALK TO SOMEONE,
BUT I CAN'T BECAUSE YOU'RE WATCHING ME
CONSTANTLY LIKE A SHADOW.
THIS IS WHAT BULLYING DOES,
IT TAKES OVER YOUR MIND AND SHRIVELS IT UP.
THIS IS BULLYING.
MAYMUNA M - YEAR 9

16/11/17 - Cadbury World

Our Year 7 students visited Cadbury World as part of their Food and Nutrition studies. *"What I found interesting is that you get to see the staff making the chocolate and teaching you how to do it. The fun part is when we went to the 4D cinema because it makes you feel like you're in the movie. We learnt that the cocoa beans were from Africa because the trees are well grown there with regular rains and short dry seasons."* - Safia A (7)

22/11/17 - Masjid al-Falaah

Our Year 7 students visited Masjid al-Falaah as part of their R.E studies. Brother Adil showed the students around the mosque and explained about the religious and social facilities the mosque offers in order to bring the local community together. They also enjoyed a competition on Islamic general knowledge.



and social facilities the mosque offers in order to bring the local community together. They also enjoyed a competition on Islamic general knowledge.

28/11/17 - Coffee Morning

The school hosted a Coffee Morning for parents which was greatly enjoyed by everyone!



06/12/17 - BCU connect with BIGS

Kim from Birmingham City University visited our Year 11 students to discuss further education and advise them on career prospects. Our students learnt a lot and are greatly appreciative of this. Thanks Kim!

08/12/17 - Fire Safety Awareness

Firefighter Ian Sturmeay from West Midlands Fire Service came to talk to our students about fire safety and what steps to take if one is in a dangerous situation. The talk was very helpful and was appreciated very much!

20/12/17 - Army Careers Talk

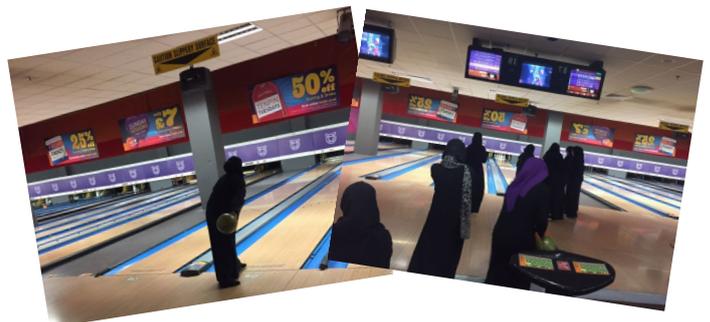
Captain Naveed Muhammad, an Army Reservist from Birmingham who was awarded an MBE in last year's New Year's Honours List in recognition of his work, visited our students to speak to them about careers within the British Army. He also discussed his own work, including what they do, where they've been and the support they gave during the Ebola crisis. We are very obliged to have had such an esteemed guest at our school. Many thanks to the Captain!

17/11/17 - The Skills Show

A group of our KS3 students attended 'The Skills Show' at NEC Birmingham. The Skills Show is packed with careers advice and skills activities across a huge range of sectors. They were able to explore career and education options available after secondary school. They were also able to meet college and university representatives and examine different courses that are available.

28/11/17 - Tenpin Treat

The students of House of Mina enjoyed their bowling trip at Tenpin in Star City. They were treated for collecting the most house points last term.



04/12/17 - Father Stephen visits BIGS

Father Stephen paid a visit to talk about Christmas with our students.



07/12/17 - Breast Cancer Awareness

Siobhan Lydon, a senior radiographer from Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, talked to our students about breast cancer and her experiences working in this field. We would like to thank Siobhan as the discussion was very informative for everyone.



Candid Moments

Ms Nasreen



Why did you choose BIGS to teach in?

To give back to my local community, plus it's close to my house so that was a double bonus.

What was your first impression of BIGS?

Honestly? "What am I doing here?" Erm... it was like a maze; so many doors and long corridors. I got lost a few too many times!

Quotes picked up from students?

"You're my favourite teacher!" said the student to every teacher they ever met!

What is your favourite book?

Stating the obvious, it has to be the Qur'ān. However, I enjoyed reading 'When The Moon Split', but my all time favourite is 'Harry Potter'. Don't make me choose any one title please!

What was your favourite kitāb while becoming an 'ālimah, and why?

I absolutely loved Qasas an-Nabiyyīn (Stories of the Prophets عليهم السلام), and learning all about the messengers of Allāh, their lives and missions.

What was your dream as a child?

To travel the world!

To see all the blessings of Allāh. I've already travelled to seven different countries, Alhamdulillah.

If you could personally witness something, what would you want to see?

To stand in front of Allāh knowing that I have served him well.

Any advice for the students of BIGS?

Always remember your parents in your du'ās and serve them well, whether alive or passed on. It's the easiest way to gain paradise.

Any poetic lines?

The moon stays bright when it doesn't avoid the night
~ Rumi

Any final words?

This is your training ground for the real world. Live your life the way you would like to be remembered.

OPEN DAYS 2018

Tuesday 6th February

Thursday 19th April

Please share with all friends
and family!

WALL OF EXCELLENCE

Star Students of the Month

September

KS3 - Saara Khan [8]

KS4 - Habeebah Ahmed [10]

October

KS3 - Shukri Mohamed [9]

KS4 - Bushra Farooq [11]

November

KS3 - Saliha Mahmood [7]

KS4 - Madina Safwat [11]

Best Class Attendance

September - Year 8 - 98.1%

October - Year 7 - 97.5%

November - Year 11 - 96.9%

Term 1 House Cup Quiz Results

1st - Marwa: 261 points

2nd - Arafah: 250 points

3rd - Safa: 185 points

4th - Mina: 165 points

This term, we have discussed several controversial issues with our staff and students to raise their awareness so that they are better equipped at dealing with these situations. The topics discussed include: cyber bullying, FGM, forced marriage, CSE, e-safety, sexting, radicalisation, etc. They were also made aware of the legal, moral and Islamic perspective with regards to these issues. Similarly, we will be delivering a session for parents on **17th January 2018**. We would like all parents to attend if they can.

