

The B.I.G.S.

Bulletin

October 2021

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السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

The past year has been a busy one, in which there have been so many positive things, even though it has been such a disrupted year in many ways. We can look back and see the many things our pupils have achieved and how our teachers have worked with them to continue to enable brilliant progress. With this, they can be prepared for their next stage of education and look forward to the future with confidence.

It was great to have a chance to be able to celebrate our pupils' achievements on our annual Awards Day. This took place in July with social distancing etiquettes in place, and it reminded us of the pre-Covid times we enjoyed. We were also able to hold a Qur'an competition, Nasheed competition and activity days to end our academic year.

Lastly, many thanks to those who took part in all the different charity events in such tumultuous, and financially difficult times. May Allah grant you all Barakah in your health, wealth and time. We wish you all a restful, safe and peaceful break with family and friends.

R Mogra (Head teacher)

food for thought

Many a time we are faced with a situation, a dilemma, or even some confusion, and then just in passing, the light bulb is lit!

You suddenly find your answers right before you!

This is not a mere coincidence, this did not happen perchance, nor was it just an accident.

Allah SWT - your Rabb, your Creator, your Nourisher, your Sustainer, The Most High... The One who hears even the whispers of your heart that you have not voiced to anyone; He is guiding you, towards the best, to be the best.

So when these signs knock upon your door, do not let them go unheeded, for this is a calling

from Allah SWT, filled with His immense Love and Mercy. And if you don't answer today, who knows if the caller will return?

Indeed we are all sinful, not a single one of us is perfect, but when the winds of Allah SWT's Mercy blow your way, giving you a chance to make right your wrongs, to work on your weaknesses and to better yourself as a person, then at least turn towards the direction of these winds of Mercy, so that they can surround you and bring you the great peace and solace that you are searching for so earnestly. Just close your eyes and jump.

Take a leap of Faith, for He will NEVER let you fall.

There goes a story that a man once fell off a mountain in the

dark night and somehow managed to grasp a branch of a tree on the way down.

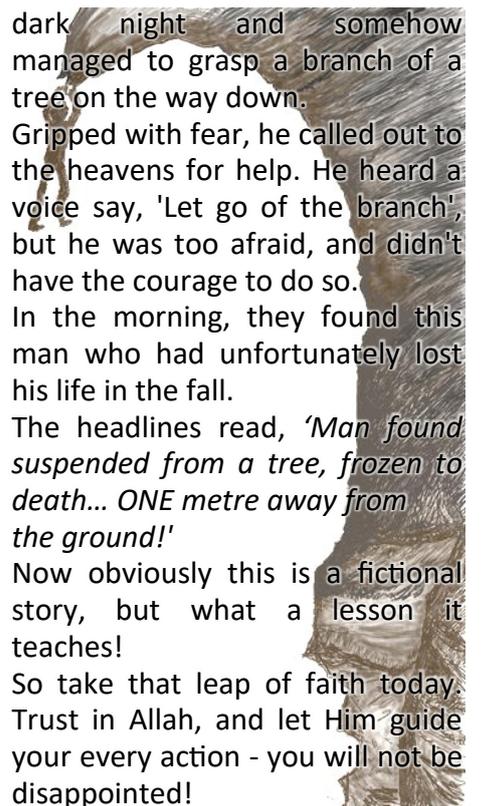
Gripped with fear, he called out to the heavens for help. He heard a voice say, 'Let go of the branch', but he was too afraid, and didn't have the courage to do so.

In the morning, they found this man who had unfortunately lost his life in the fall.

The headlines read, 'Man found suspended from a tree, frozen to death... ONE metre away from the ground!'

Now obviously this is a fictional story, but what a lesson it teaches!

So take that leap of faith today. Trust in Allah, and let Him guide your every action - you will not be disappointed!



10 actions for

SISTERS

BOOST

self confidence!

Be independent

Doing something you haven't ever done on your own before, like learning a new skill or practising a new hobby, gives you a sense of empowerment and self-dignity.

Pursue what you're good at

There's nothing more empowering than discovering you are good at something. Once you know what you are good at, you can gain a sense of self-fulfilment and maximise your confidence.

Read up about confidence

Read up on the female scholars and pious women, and take lessons from their personalities and ways they handled their affairs - they are the best of examples.

Dump your negative thoughts

Try writing down negative feelings and thoughts, then tell yourself the opposite of what you have written.

Have self-belief

Develop a positive mindset and have the belief that you are capable of doing what you set out to accomplish with Allah SWT's Help.

10 Make this special dua

Moses said: "My Lord! Expand for me by breast with assurance. And ease for me my task. And untie the knot from my tongue.. That they may understand my speech."

- Quran, Chapter 20, Verses 25-28

8 Network with new Muslimahs

It can take us out of our comfort zone, but it is also a great way to improve your self-confidence. Think about the interesting things you like or have done to use as talking points.

6 Receive compliments gracefully

Accepting compliments when you've earned them can remind you that you have good qualities & traits to contribute. Respond to these compliments by saying "thank you, that's very kind of you" while acknowledging that you always have more to learn, to keep your humility.

4 Write down your strengths

Exercise: discuss and write your strengths, with examples of when you proved them. Use this list to motivate you in whatever area of work you are focussing on.

2 Use positive language

Avoid self-limiting terms, eg the words "can't", or "don't believe" or "not sure". Instead, try to say "I can do this", "I will inshaAllah achieve", or "I am capable of".

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

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doodled by @neeshr
fb.com/aneesahsattiya

Dates for your Diary

(all dates are provisional)

OCTOBER	
1-31	Black History Month
5	Open Day
25-31	Term Break

NOVEMBER

1	School re-opens
1-7	UK Parliament Week
9	Open Day
15-19	Anti-bullying Week
29	CA1 assessments begin

DECEMBER

3	World Disability Day
12	Open Day
15	Parents Afternoon
18	Winter Break begins

JANUARY

4	School opens for Term 2
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books
Islam
inspiring knowledge
Ilm
Story Corner
wisdom reading amal

Bishr al-Hāfi RH

He is well-known today as a God-fearing saint and a great scholar, but before his reformation, Bishr al-Hāfi (Bishr the Barefoot) RH was a drunkard. He used to spend his nights and days drinking, gambling and making merry with music.

Once, he found a piece of paper on the floor upon which was written the name of Allah or

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

He stopped to pick it up as it was being trampled on by passers by.

He then purchased expensive perfume to apply to the piece of paper, took it home and deposited it in a cavity in the walls of his house to keep it safe from being trampled ever again.

That night, Bishr RH saw a dream in which was said

to him: 'O Bishr! You perfumed the name of Allah, your name will be perfumed in the world and the hereafter!'

When he awoke, he realised the errors of his ways and repented.

The story of his acceptance should give every single one of us hope that no matter what sins we do, no matter how big or small, if we are sincere in our tawbah, Allah will certainly forgive us, inshā Allah!

The story behind his name is that Bishr RH never used to wear shoes or sandals. He once knocked on a door; when the occupants of the house asked, 'Who is it?', he replied, 'Bishr the Barefoot'.

The reason for his walking barefoot was that once he went to a shoemaker and asked for a lace for one of his sandals. The shoemaker replied: 'What a burden you poor are on the people!'

And so Bishr RH threw that sandal away, and took off his other sandal too, and made a vow never to wear sandals again!

(Please note that other versions of his repentance story have also been mentioned, but we have chosen the version mentioned by Ibn Kathīr RH in Al-Bidāyah wan-Nihāyah – however, Ibn Kathīr RH did not mention the dream.)

Fun Fact

THE *BIBLIOTECA PALAFOXIANA* IS A LIBRARY IN PUEBLA CITY'S HISTORIC CENTRE, IN THE MEXICAN STATE OF PUEBLA, IN AMERICA. THIS IS A PICTURE OF A CENTURIES OLD BOOK WHEEL LOCATED AT THIS LIBRARY. THIS INVENTION ENABLED SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS TO READ AND LOOK THROUGH SEVEN DIFFERENT BOOKS AT ONCE!



Haramain Recordings

- Live HQ audio & HQ broadcasts of Masjid al Haram and Masjid an Nabawi (24/7)
- Updated daily salah recordings after every salah in the Haramain
- Qur'ān recordings by Imams of the Haramain, previous taraweeh recordings (20+ years), salah (up to 10 years) and khutbahs

- Favourite & download audios
- Download and recite the 13 line or 15 line Qur'ān
- HD images of Makkah & Madinah
- GPS locations for hotels, medical centres, hospitals, schools, toilets, graves, lost & found, bus stations, masjids, doors and gates (& many more features...)



✓ Google Play



✓ iTunes

BIG News

11/05/21 - India Covid-19 Appeal

Year 11 decided to raise money for India, as they were in need of oxygen pumps and other supplies due to the coronavirus rates being very high.

A lot of activities were planned to raise money. They sold desserts, organised a mehndi stall, a stall for face glittering and also colouring. It was also non-uniform day, so each student gave £1 which was added to the charity funds.

The total amount of money raised was a whopping **£450!** This was given to India via the charity 'Muslim Aid'.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to save the lives of all those that were struggling in India. Jazakumullah Khayran!

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

School council raising money for BIGS

Last year, due to the pandemic, we weren't able to start up the school council on time. Despite the fact that we were in lockdown, we eventually set it up.

Over the course of three months, we were able to achieve so much! Firstly, we had our initial meeting in which we organised a bake sale and samosa sale. We had agreed to do this at lunch and break times.

26/03/21 - Bake sale

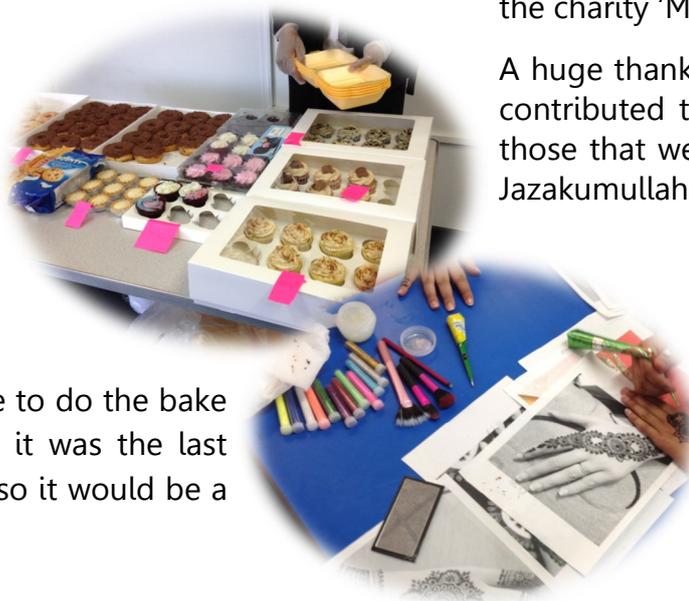
We thought it appropriate to do the bake sale on a Friday because it was the last school day of the week - so it would be a nice treat!

01/04/21 - Samosa sale

Regarding the samosa sale, we set it up on a Tuesday since it was when most classes had PE. The plan was that they would work up an appetite beforehand and then we would manage to sell more food! Each of us then announced this to our classes a few days beforehand and thereafter continuously reminded them.

On the actual day, everything was selling out quickly - we went through a whole box of samosas! At the end when everyone had left, we saw litter everywhere, so we got our hands dirty and cleaned up to make the environment spick and span.

We then had another meeting to review our sales, and agreed to order more samosas for next time. We realised that we had raised more than we were hoping to, so we are very thankful to everyone for coming to buy our food!



Palestine Emergency Aid for Hospital

After the year 11 class carried out a successful fundraiser for India, they decided to raise money for Palestine, this time

with the help of the year 10 class.

They sold cupcakes, normal cakes, Costco cakes, and even milkshakes and mojitos. The milkshakes and cakes were very popular, but the cakes proved to hold the most appeal to the students as they sold out fast!

Overall the cakes, milkshakes and mojitos were amazing, and due to the successful fundraiser, **£250** was raised for Palestine and donated via the charity 'Muslim Aid'.

~ by Zarafsha

08/06/21 - Fundraising for Palestine

A separate fundraiser was also held specially for a children's hospital in Palestine. The total raised was **£461.42**. Masha Allah to everyone for their help and efforts in raising money for charity!

10/09/20 - Minus Violence

An online training and awareness session was conducted for our school by the team at 'Minus Violence'. They discussed gangs and knife crimes.

26/11/20 - Champs

We had an online confidence building workshop for our students. The company we worked with was called 'Champs'.

15/12/20 - Khayaal Theatre

Khayaal Theatre introduced us to four riveting stories from Pakistan, Turkey, Hui Muslims of China and Palestine. It was streamed online via Zoom. Our year 7 and 8 pupils enjoyed these tales of wonder, wisdom and humour.

Khayaal is a theatre and drama education company dedicated to the exploration of Muslim heritage and interfaith literature and the experience of Muslims in the modern world for the stage, screen, radio and publishing.

16/12/20 - Calendar Competition

Sandwell College conducted a competition for their annual calendar. They needed twelve pieces of artwork for the twelve months in the calendar. We are proud to announce that two of our students won! Saalihah (year 8) drew the 'Golden Gate Bridge' and Haadiyah (year 9) drew the 'Taj Mahal'.



29/03/21 - Well-being Week

Due to lockdown this year, people have been affected mentally and physically. In order to take care of our students' mental health and well-being, trips to the park were arranged - as requested by our students. Staff organised activities and picnics for the students, and snacks such as ice cream was also provided by the school.



18/05/21 - Eid Party



For Eid al-Fitr this year, year 10 students decided to take on the task of preparing a party for the rest of the school. We were given short notice but that didn't affect our plans. Our form teacher helped us to get food such as cakes for the party, and Ms Sheikh and a few of our classmates also helped by ordering lunch for us which was a burger meal. Students also gave 50p each for non-uniform day, which went towards the school.

Regarding the arrangements, we split ourselves into groups. Some people were in charge of decorations, others were in charge of food and the rest were in charge of organising the activities. We took the first two lessons to prepare the decorations, through lesson 3 and 4 we set everything up, and at lunchtime we began the Eid party. Both teachers and students were happy with our efforts and complimented our skills and teamwork as a class.

~ By Anayah and Sumayyah (year 10)

25/05/21 - Qur'an Competition

A competition was held for students to recite the Qur'an in the best manner. Congratulations to the winners! The winner for best memorisation was *Fatema (Year 7)* and the winners for best recitation were:

1st - *Tasnia (year 7)*

2nd - *Zahra (year 8)*

3rd - *Asmaa (year 8)*

11/06/21 - Drayton Manor Theme Park

Our year 10 and 11 students went on a trip to Drayton Manor Theme Park as part of a leavers gift to the year 11s. It was their first time at a theme park after a year of lockdown and they really enjoyed it!

13/07/21 - Culture Day

For Culture Day this year, students got in to house groups in their classes. Each group represented a different culture. They dressed according to the culture and presented information about it.



13/07/21 - Nasheed Competition

A competition was held for students to recite a Nasheed in the best manner. Congratulations to the winners!

1st - Haadiyah (year 9)

2nd - Rumaysa (year 8)

15/07/21 - Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Our annual graduation and awards ceremony was held, and we congratulate the students that achieved certificates for their excellent progress, achievements and efforts this year!



WALL OF EXCELLENCE 2020/2021

Star Student of the Year:
Sumayyah (Year 10)

Role Model of the Year:
Saliha (Year 10)

100% Attendance:
Husna (7), Zunaira (7), Sara (8), Hiba (9), Mariam (9), Maryam (10), Habibah (10), Nazish (11)

House Cup Quiz Points 2021

1st - Safa - 433 points
2nd - Marwa - 378 points
3rd - Mina - 368 points
4th - Arafah - 357 points

Overall Winner:
Tasnia - 56 points!

Class Winners:
Year 7 - Tasnia
Year 8 - Zaynab
Year 9 - Tafannum
Year 10 - Huda

Qur'an Competition Winners:

Memorisation:
Fatema (Year 7)

Recitation:
1st - Tasnia (7)
2nd - Zahra (8)
3rd - Asmaa (8)

Nasheed Competition Winners:

1st - Haadiyah (9)
2nd - Rumaysa (8)



School Garden's Plant Progress

We can proudly say that some of our members of staff and students have planted fruits and vegetables at school. They planted tomatoes, and three different types of squash among other things! The plants are growing very well. Masha Allah!



FINAL BEQUEST

A PLEA FROM THE GRAVE OF A DECEASED PARENT

MY DEAR CHILD, You will be reading this after my death. Please read the following as though I am addressing you from my Qâbr. I may now be lying within a space of approximately two meters by one meter. All around me is sand except for the pieces of wood above supporting the load of sand. That too is weakening and the entire load of sand may soon fall directly on me.

Be assured that I loved you. My heart and soul was concentrated on you from the time Allah granted you to me. Your beautiful and innocent smile reminded me of Allah Ta'ala's beauty. Your cry caused me immense pain and I went out of my way to comfort you. As you grew and attended Madrasah to learn the name of Allah, the Qur'an, and how to perform Salaah, you represented an investment to me far greater than any other worldly investment I may have left behind. You would make Duas and seek forgiveness on my behalf when I would be unable to do so.

MY DEAR CHILD, that day has come. You are on the face of the earth and I may be lying paralysed in its belly. How true is the Hadith of Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) that a person in a grave is like a drowning person. He awaits the rewards from his beloved. Dear child, I cannot utter a single 'SubhanAllah'. You are my flesh and blood. I love you, and if you really love me, I implore you to do the following five things:

1. *Be obedient to Allah - that is the greatest reward for you.*

I am informed of whatever you do, your good deeds please me and your bad deeds cause me pain.

2. *I know the pain of my death and my absence will gradually decrease and you will carry on with your life. Don't let engagement of the world make you oblivious of death. Think of me regularly and know that your day will come soon. Do remember death and do prepare for it, send Surah Yaseen every day for me. I will look forward to receiving it.*

3. *If you can, give some Sadaqah and charity to the poor and needy on my behalf. Allah Ta'ala gave you wealth. If you really love me, give Sadaqah on my behalf.*

4. *I am lonely in the Qabr. Come and visit me and make Salaam to me. You may not see me or hear me, but Insha'Allah, I may see you and hear you. Your standing beside me and making Dua at my Qabr will invoke Allah Ta'ala's mercy on both of us.*

5. *Remember, we are from Allah and to Allah Ta'ala is our return. We are merely travellers for a brief moment but our actions here will determine our future for ever.*

MY DEAR CHILD, exercise patience. We will meet in the Âahkîrah Insha'Allah. For that, guard yourself against Shaytaan and his tricks and ensure you live with Imaan and die with Imaan.



Mufti Ebrahim Desai RH passed away on 15th July 2021. He wrote the above piece when he was alive.

His son Maulana Imraan Desai says about him, "My father had three outstanding qualities:

1) **حسن ظن - Good opinions/thoughts about other people.** ~ He used to make excuses for people who had done the worst of things to him and to us children. "Maybe this is what happened..."

He disliked ugliness between himself and anyone, and he disliked it for others too.

2) **Love for Hadith, Fatawa and those in all the different services of Deen.**

~ He taught Bukhari Shareef for 30 years and his love for Bukhari Shareef can't be explained in words. Only if you sat in his class, you would know. I was also lucky enough to be his student.

3) **Generosity.** ~ Many people think of generosity as giving wealth. While he felt pity for every single beggar who asked of him, he was generous with his time to the public and his love for his students. Those who know him will recognise & realise this deep, inner generosity he had.

Once, he wanted to give to a beggar. The beggar gave a long, sad story. He listened and didn't interrupt him. I said, "He's conning you!" (referring to the beggar tricking him).

He told me that: Allah is so merciful and loving, Allah sent the beggar to **him**, so that he could deposit some Sadaqah (charity) into his Aakhirah (afterlife).

'Don't look at **who** you are giving, look at where it is going. (i.e. Your Aakhirah)' If kindness, love and generosity were to be personified, it would be my father's smiling face. May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdaws. Ameen!

time out

say what you see



Back Back
Back
Champions

yyy Men

poFISHnd

Email your Time Out answers to newsletter@bigs.bham.sch.uk The first person to email us the correct solutions wins a small prize!
Congratulations to Ruqayyah M for last issue's Time Out answers. Please email us your address so we can send you your 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!!

RIDDLE ME THIS

- Why is an island like the letter 'I'?
- What has one head, one foot, and four legs?
- Why can't someone living in Manchester be buried in London?
- When you want to use me, you throw me away. When you've finished using me, you bring me in. What am I?
- The man who made 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?

ha
ha
ha

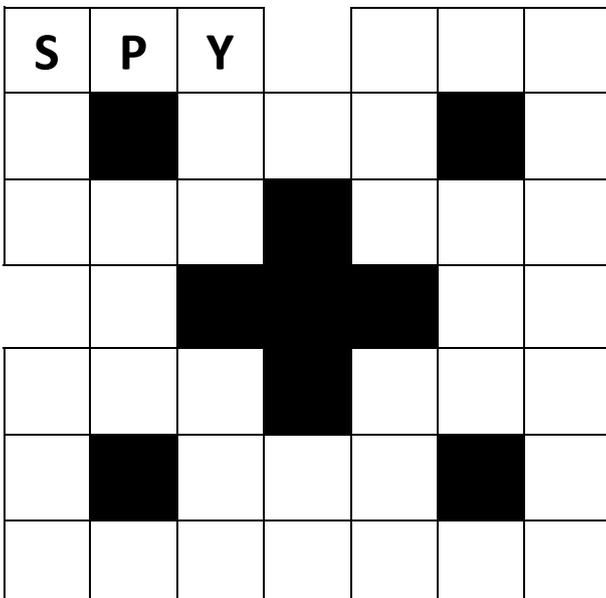
MULLA NASRUDDIN AND HIS WIFE WERE INVITED TO A DINNER. MULLA'S WIFE SAW HIM ORDERING MORE FOOD AGAIN AND AGAIN.

AGITATED, SHE CALLED HIM ASIDE TO SCOLD HIM: 'WHAT WILL PEOPLE THINK OF YOUR BAD MANNERS?!

'DON'T WORRY!' SAID MULLA, 'I HAVE SORTED THE MATTER. EACH TIME I GO TO THE CHEF, I SAY MY WIFE HAS ORDERED IT!'

i-SPY

All the 20 listed words must be fitted back into the grid. Words can go either across or down. There's only one way to solve this challenge!



- EAT TIP
- RUG YET
- SPY ILL
- YEN SEW
- ERR TOW
- SAP YEW
- TAG OAR
- YES SLY
- EYE USE
- SAT WIN



Answers to last issue's Time Out

- Say What You See: up in smoke, bee's wax, final countdown |
Building Blocks: Kremlin | A Figure of Speech: Possible answers:-
1.As bald as a coot 2.Hit the nail on the head 3.In a nutshell
4.As white as a sheet 5.Earworm
6.Be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth 7.Spill the beans
8.Red herring 9.Hard cheese / Big cheese 10.Serve something on a silver platter 11.Play one's cards close to one's chest 12.Joker in the pack 13.Time flies 14.Have an ace up one's sleeve 15.Wear one's heart on one's sleeve
16.Tie the knot 17.Don't put all your eggs in one basket 18.Catch the cat by its tail 19.Cat got your tongue 20.From rags to riches
21.Kick the bucket 22.A piece of cake 23.Cherry on top 24.Fry an egg on the sidewalk 25.The shoe is on the other foot 26.Sock away 27.Live in someone's shadow / A shadow of your former self
28.Have a screw loose 29.A stiff upper lip 30.Get cold feet 31.Not playing with a full deck 32.Have more holes than Swiss cheese
33. Walk on eggshells
34. Put your best foot forward
35. Cast a different shadow