

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM THE HEAD

Ramadhan Mubarak from the Trustees, Governors and all the Staff at Al Aqsa School

It gives me great pleasure in extending a warm Ramadhan Mubarak to you all. There is a great buzz in the classroom with pupils and teachers doing amazing activities. Some of the activities will be uploaded on the website. This term has been a very busy one for the school and the school newsletter, and the website summarise some of the many exciting activities our students have been involved in. All members of the school and local communities should be very proud of our young people.

ATTENDANCE

Every moment of your child's education is important! Please help us to improve our attendance by sending your children to school every day and making sure that they arrive on time! The government expects a percentage of 96% each week and at present we are not meeting this target. We thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Best attendance Primary:

Year 6: 96.65%

Best attendance Secondary:

Year 10: 95.54%

Lowest attendance:

FS1: 86.56%

Whole school attendance:

94.9%

IN THIS ISSUE

Key dates & announcement

What's been going on at Primary.

What's been going on at Secondary.

Trips!

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY:

Thur 14th- Fri 15th June:
School closed for Eid

Monday 18th of July:
Eid Party (Primary)

Tuesday 19th of June:
Eid Party (Secondary)

Wed 20th-Fri 23rd June
Primary assessments

Sun 1st July Yr 11
Graduation Event

Monday 2nd of July
Year 11 leavers assembly

Mon 2nd July- Fri 6th July
Sports Week

Tuesday 10th July:
KS2 &KS4 parents evening

Thursday 12th July:
KS1 &KS3 parents evening

Tuesday 17th July: PM
Yr 6 Graduation/party

Mon 16th July PM:
End of Year Party

Wed 18th July AM
School Production

PASTORAL UPDATE

We have a new Pastoral Lead at the school, Ablah Sophia has a background in Counselling and works with the children, providing one to one or group pastoral sessions, to improve their social and emotional well-being. As a member of staff with pastoral responsibilities, she has the skills and knowledge to provide effective pastoral care and that covers both academic attainment and developing pupils' ability to become good citizens. She also works with children regarding issues of attendance, punctuality and behavioural concerns.

POLICY UPDATE

We are implementing a new attendance and punctuality policy which can be found on the school website. The aim of the policy is to ensure each student maximizes his/her achievement by having good attendance and punctuality. We now have sanctions in place for pupils that are late more than three times in a 6 week period. Similarly we will be monitoring attendance, if attendance levels fall below 95% we will be working closely with you.

ASSESSMENTS

The pupils have been busy preparing for their assessments, the primary tests will be taking place from the 20th June. I would like to thank the parents especially for encouraging their children to grow in their determination to succeed as well as supporting the school by attending meetings and overseeing additional homework. On behalf of the staff of the school, may I take this opportunity to pass on our best wishes for the success they have worked so hard for. Our Secondary pupils have completed their end of year assessment, and the year 11 girls have started their main GCSEs on the 14th May. On behalf of all the staff, we would like to wish our students all the success in the coming weeks.

We are also implementing a new behavioural policy to ensure we provide a consistent approach to behaviour management. This can also be found on the school website. The policy clearly outlines behaviour pathways used by the school. We hope to work together with parents to obtain maximum benefit from the opportunities offered by the school, in line with our vision.

Please visit the school website for more details on the policy update

- <http://www.alaqsaschool.co.uk/>

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Highest conduct points!

Sara : FS1	Tahreem: Year 6
Rasheeda : FS2	Fathima : Year 6
Ayah: Year 1	Shireen : Year 7
Maryam: Year 2	Sumayyah: Year 8
Ayoub: Year 3	Asra: Year 9
Saara: Year 4	Rayyana: Year 10
Syed: Year 5	Sofia :Year 10
	Amber : Year 11

100% attendance!

Saara: Year 1	Haniya: Year 6
Ayoub: Year 1	Imane: Year 8
Sally: Year 1	Tehreem: FS1
Hamza: Year 2	Aisha: FS1
Aminah: Year 3	Muadh: FS1
Haytham: Year 3	Muawwadh: FS1
Abu Ubaidah: Year 4	Anasl: FS1
Hana: Year 6	Ismaeel: FS1
Salma: Year 6	

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

IBRAHIM HEWITT

Some concerns have been voiced about the presence of male teachers in the secondary school. We would like to assure you that the school always seeks to ensure that the staffing is in line with the ethos upon which it is founded, insha'Allah. This has not always been possible due to reasons beyond our control. Nevertheless, we are looking constantly at ways to ensure compliance with the ethos, insha'Allah, and your patience and understanding in this respect is appreciated greatly. If you wish to discuss this further in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the head teacher.

MAKE HUNGER HISTORY

There are 5.8 million people in the UK who live in 'deep poverty' whilst 3.9 million tonnes of food is wasted every year by the food and drink industry. We are working in partnership with local charities and food banks to tackle this and provide aid.

Ramadhan is a very special time of the year, where we reflect more on charitable good deeds. We would like to conduct a food drive and are aiming to collect as much food as possible. **We would be grateful if you can send non-perishable ambient food items to the school between Friday 8th June and Wednesday 13th June.** Examples include biscuits, tea, coffee, juice, cereal, rice, pasta, tins, sugar, milk powder, pudding, beans, soup packets and similar items. All the food we collect will be used to feed hungry children and families locally in Leicester.

Over the course of the week, the school will be raising awareness of the challenges of food poverty around the World and food waste. Your child will also participate in educational activities. We will be having Guest Speakers from Local food banks. We take this opportunity to thank you for your kind support.

CHILDREN FASTING IN SCHOOL

Masha 'Allah, it is so encouraging to see the students energized by Ramadhan—from the younger ones making an effort to do half-fasts to the older ones embarking on their first year of fasting, as well as the more mature ones nearing adulthood. We all understand the merits of training from a young age, however we need to keep such matters in perspective and maintain a balance for the well-being of our children, especially the primary pupils

END OF YEAR TESTS: PRIMARY

Primary end of year tests will be taking place w/c 18th June. Teachers will share revision resources with pupils and will also upload resources for online access. Further information to follow.



"The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months."

Qur'an 97:3

AN UPDATE ON THE YEAR 3'S

ABLAH FATIMA

Y3 have had a very exciting and fun-filled half-term. A real highlight was their visit to the New Walk Museum where the children especially enjoyed dressing up as Ancient Egyptians and taking part in the mummification workshop.

Growing their own plants has really helped to bring their science topic to life and helped them understand the role of the different parts of the plant.

In Literacy, we introduced chapter books and focused on the "The Hedgehog" by Dick King Smith. Through reading about the adventures of Max the Hedgehog the children were able to include a lot of grammar rules such as speech marks and compound words into their own writing.

We've had a busy end to the half term with assessments and welcoming Ramadan. It has been encouraging to see the children persevere and try to do their best even though some of them have been fasting. May Allah reward their efforts.



FS1'S PICNIC IN THE PLAYGROUND

ABLAH JENNY/ ABLAH NAZIA/ ABLAH HAWA



The children enjoyed a picnic in the playground with their favourite teddy bears. We shared a variety of food; rice, pastries, crisps, popcorn biscuits and cakes.

SCIENCE FAIR

ABLAH TAYEEBA AWAN

We are pleased to say that the science fair this year was a success where students showcased their projects to parents, teachers and peers. The projects covered areas in all aspects of science ranging from live demonstrations of volcanoes, sugar rainbow, heart and hydraulics to sharing research on fireworks, chocolate, UV light, our senses and many more.

Students used this day to develop and enhance their communication, social and organisational skills.



Student and teacher feedback

"It was very fun, exciting and informative. I really enjoyed talking to people and getting them to participate in our demonstration."

"We had a lot of information and people were interested in what we said and we were very interactive with our audience."

"Students worked well in teams and managed the situations well."

"I was really impressed by the students and the effort that many of them put into it. Ablah Tayeebah has done an amazing job of organising this event for the whole school and inspiring the children in such a way."

Winners:

The judges' scores and the votes from all visitors were added up to obtain the top three projects. The participants of these were rewarded with trophies while all other students were rewarded for their efforts by receiving medals for excellent effort and participation certificates.

1st place

Hydraulic Machines (Asra Bibi and Unaysa Gazi (Year 9))

2nd place

Forensic Science (Tasnim Berkani, Jameelah Dulloo, Maleeha Katib and Nida Qasami (Year 9))

3rd place Tie

Chocolate (Hanun Abdullah, Aishah Alsafran, Adeela Eman, Amara Jamil and Roaa Al Yahya (Year 8))
Fireworks (Yamina Gazi, Umaymah Patel and Khadijah Tahir (Year 10))

We hope to make the next science fair even more exciting and informative, insha'Allah.

RAMADAN WORKSHOPS

BY ABLAH ASIYA AND MAIMOONA

This year each Quran group has been tasked with running a workshop to teach the rest the pupils about a different aspects of Ramadan. Two workshops have already taken place with two more to come.

The purpose of the first workshop was to prepare the students for the month of Ramadhān, which included setting goals and targets for themselves and creating a good deeds board as a whole school.

The second workshop, focussed on the spiritual nature of Ramadan and was present through a variety of activities including a Ramadhān quiz, Listening to Quran recitations, roleplays and much more.

The workshops are student-led encouraging pupils to take the initiative and to be creative.



LEICESTER BOTANICAL GARDENS

ABLAH SHAYMA



The Year 4 students had a fabulous trip to the Botanical Gardens in Oadby. We explored different habitats including: the desert, woodland and the tropical habitat. As well as looking at the amazing variety of plant life in the different climate zones within the gardens.

There were some interesting plants like Venus fly trap, Poison Ivy, Prickle Pear Cactus, Redwood and Cherry trees; did you know a banana tree is a herb? A red wood tree is one of the tallest trees on earth and prickly pear trees are used to feed cows but they have to burn off the prickly pear fruit first.

This has linked in very well with our work on the rainforest and has supported our learning in our Science topic of living things and their habitats.

YR 5'S TRIP TO COMPTON GARDENS

ABLAH HOODA

"What a fantastic day!... Best trip ever!" was the feedback from the children as we returned back to school. The children (and staff) had lots of opportunities to take part in new experiences, such as working together to build wooden shelters, making Stone Age bread dough and creating cave paintings using 'traditional' paints. The weather was brilliant and our tour of the grounds with the enthusiastic workshop leaders was awe-inspiring. The children behaved phenomenally and showed their interest in the workshop through their curious questions and their courage in handling the 'fresh' horse manure for the wattle and daub activity. It was truly a great experience for us all.



KING RICHARD III VISITOR CENTRE

ABLAH TAYEEBA AWAN

As part of science week the Year 10 and 11 students took part in a talk with Dr Angela Lamb, a Research Scientist who uses stable isotope techniques to investigate a wide range of materials from ancient bones and teeth to water, plants and sediments. Dr Lamb's talk explored how isotopes helped to investigate Richard III's life, from the food and drink he consumed to where he travelled.

Students then walked through the exhibition where they discovered how science and technology was used to confirm that the remains found were of King Richard III which included DNA analysis, 3D imaging of his face which resembled his pictures from that century and many other techniques.