

Al-Qalam

T H E A Z H A R A C A D E M Y G I R L S S C H O O L N E W S L E T T E R

Editor's Welcome

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Get an inside view of "A Year at AAGS"
- Read all about the highs and lows of AAGS SATs 2007
- Find out details about AAGS New Sixth Form.
- See how Year 10 got on in the world of work.

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Alhamdulillah, *Al-Qalam* is back and full of interesting features and fascinating facts, written by students from AAGS. The last year at AAGS has been an extremely hectic and fast-paced one as the school has continued to grow to meet the changing needs of the Muslim community.

The school is now running to almost full capacity with over nine classes including our first year A level class. The Aalimah course has continued to prove popular and further boost our student

numbers as it has remained open to not just AAGS pupils but many external students ranging from 16 to over 60 years old.



Staff from our Islamic Studies Department also delivered a very well-attended Hajj course to help prepare pilgrims of all ages (including some AAGS

students) for their journey to Makkah al-Mukarramah.

As you will be able to read, much has been achieved this academic year due to the hard work and dedication of all AAGS staff, students, volunteers and many parents. The school would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you. Insh'Allah, we pray with your continued efforts and support that AAGS will continue to grow and be of even greater service to our local community both young and old.

A Year at Azhar

This year at Azhar Academy has been a rollercoaster full of ups and downs! We've had our happy moments and our sad times. However, overall this year has been a worthwhile journey filled with new arrivals, fantastic events, brilliant achievements and lots of progress.

A new start

September began with unfamiliar faces, innocent, little Year 7s and new teachers who brought excellent skills and a dramatic change in our education throughout the year.

Early in the year, the school also introduced new educa-

tional facilities to help pupils in their studies and to provide a better learning environment. This included a new Science Laboratory which helped us experiment with the world of science around us, as well as test various theories. In addition to this, there were huge improvements in the I.C.T. suite with the instalment of new software and equipment which also greatly benefited students in their education.

The student washroom was beautifully refurbished to provide a hygienic and appealing area to perform wudhu. Lockers were supplied for safety, to store our belongings and to prevent

loss and damage to items.

Ramadan Festivities

To celebrate the end of the month of Ramadhan, the school organised an Eid party for everyone to enjoy and have fun! The day was jam-packed with activities, delicious food and everyone beautifully dressed in traditional outfits, which showed us the multicultural nature of our school community. Students also took part in an Eid quiz in which everyone was divided into their House teams. The game was very competitive ending with Daarul-Taqwah (Red Team) as the winners.

As part of their coursework for GCSE Citizenship, our talented Year 10s organised various projects based on healthy eating. They promoted their project through several presentations and created a tuck shop, in which they sold healthy but appetizing food. Their 'Fruity Friday' project was an outstanding success which raised a considerable amount of money for the school.

Open Evening

Back in February, the school held an Open Evening for Year 6 pupils who are interested in attending the school from Year 7 onwards. This day gave them an opportunity to explore the school and meet its staff. A

few weeks later, the youngsters returned to take an entrance exam which 56 of them girls successfully passed! We look forward in welcoming them in September.

Exams, Exams, Exams

In May, the girls in the higher years experienced weeks of countless revision, hard work and focused on their goals in preparation for their SATs, GCSE's and A Levels. If Allah wills, the results will show that we all have achieved to the best of our capabilities.

Like other schools, Year 10s also completed their work experience. A lot of them took part in work at a range of places from the Crown

Prosecution Service, Newham General Hospital, shops to schools and pharmacies.

In the same month, sadly our Year 11s left us, all grown up and ready to lead their own lives. It was an emotional day for everyone because they have played a huge part in the life of Azhar Academy. We will miss them dearly and wish them all the best for the future.

End of Year Excitement

However, the fun didn't end. There was Sports Day and our End of Year trip to Chessington World of Adventures.

Taken as a whole, this year has run smoothly with only a

*"Fruity Friday
was an
outstanding
success."*

few bumps and bruises. We have achieved in our national curriculum studies as well as our Islamic and Aalimah courses. Insh'Allah, we hope to maintain our growing success and seek help from Allah to strive in his path. We've had a superb and spectacular time and wish for this to continue in the upcoming years!

*Khadeza Begum and
Habeeba Khan, 9A*

The Early Years of the Prophet (SAW)

Seerah Part Two

In the previous issue we came to know how the tribes of Makkah were amazed by the astounding events that took place around the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (saw). But little did the world know what a heroic figure Muhammad (saw) would grow up to be. Allah truly saved the

best of all the Prophets till last.

Muhammad (saw) was shy in childhood, youth and old age. He was born in a noble family but by the tender age of eight his mother, father and grandfather all passed away.

A Bedouin Wet-Nurse

In Arabia it was a well known custom that the families sent their children to grow up with Bedouin wet nurses from the desert land. This was so that they grew up well mannered, pure and strong unlike those brought up in the city. Sadly, at that time many women refused to accept the Prophet (saw) as he was orphaned (meaning he was without a father). There was one lady called Halima who had no choice but to take the Prophet (saw) as all other families had found women to suckle their children. But Allah had placed a lot of

blessings from this day on in Halima's life. Before she had not been so well off and her camel was weak and lean. Upon taking Muhammad (saw) her camel became strong and fast and she had a lot more good fortune.

After two years the custom was that the children be returned to their families, but Halima kindly requested the Prophet (saw)'s mother to keep him longer due to the blessings he had brought her and her family. Until he reached the age of four the Prophet stayed with her, it was only due to an incident where Halima feared the safety of the other children did she return him to his mother. This was when the Angel Jibreel (AS) came down and ripped open the chest and took out the heart of our beloved Prophet (saw). Jibreel removed a little clot of blood on his heart which he called the small part of shaytaan in the



Prophet (saw) and then washed it with Zamzam and put it back into his chest. For this reason he was returned to his mother Aminah who sadly passed away when he reached the age of six.

Loving Grandfather

Our Prophet (saw) therefore never had the shade of his parents' guidance in his life. Initially he had lived with his grandfather Abdul Muttalib who was more loving to his grandson than with his own children and never allowed him to become a victim of loneliness and neglect.

Ad-Duha (The Morning Hours) (verses 6-10)

**Did He not find thee
(O Muhammed (saw)) an orphan
and give thee refuge?**

**And He found thee wandering
and gave thee guidance.**

**And He found thee in need and
made thee independent.**

**Therefore treat not the orphans
with harshness.**

And repulse not the beggar.

**But the bounty of the Lord—
rehearse and proclaim!**



After Abdul-Mutallib also passed away the Prophet (saw) went to live with his Uncle Abu Talib. Abu Talib cared for him and thought his children would be good company for Muhammad. He would not allow anyone to harm Rasullullah (saw) and treated him with great respect and esteem due to the many qualities he saw in

him. In fact Abu Talib grew to love the Prophet so much that he ended up being his guardian for over forty years right until his death. During this time, he always defended the Prophet (saw) even when others, including his own brothers, turned against him.

When he was twelve years old they went on a business trip to Syria to a place called Basra. Upon reaching there a Monk called Buhairah, whom they had never met before, recognised Muhammad (saw) as the awaited Prophet. Bahira warned Abu Talib that if he proceeded to Syria, then Rasullullah

would be harmed by those who wished to deny his prophethood. On hearing this, they quickly sold the goods and returned to Makkah.

Noble character

Muhammad's (saw) noble character was respected by all the people in Makkah and he had no enemies. Muhammad (saw) refrained from all sinful acts. He developed a sense of helpfulness and sympathy. In addition he helped revive an institution which was called half-ul-fudhul (pledge of virtues), where members pledged themselves to:

keep peace amongst various tribes, to protect travellers from attacks on journeys and to help the poor, needy and weak from oppressors.

His piety, good manners, honesty and trustworthiness influenced and impressed both old and young and made him so famous that he was given the titles of "As-Saadiq" and "Al-Ameen". Hence, even as a youth he is an excellent role model for adults and children till this very day.

*Safiyya Dhorat,
Rashida Ullah &*

Work Experience 2007

It was that time of the year again when the Year Tens learnt how to spread their wings and to discover the difficulties and benefits of working life. All the year 10 students from Azhar Academy Girls School spent seven days in May at a variety of work placements which reflected their chosen careers for the future. Students asked for a range of occupations; however it was very difficult to find work places agreeing to all our guidelines. Regardless of this set back, most year 10 students enjoyed this "unforgettable experience" and have a firm knowledge of their future career. Work Experience enabled students to discover what it is like to work in different

places and has also given them an insight on whether they have chosen the right career.

"Work experience was interesting and surprising as the atmosphere in the office I worked at was relaxed and

cept even more clearly and work to the best of our ability.

There was a mixture of occupations chosen by this year 10; some students went to primary schools, nurseries, The Muslim Weekly, Hospitals and General Practitioners,

Asda, Matalan and even the Crown Prosecution Service. InshaAllah, all of us will succeed in our future careers

and will do our best to become professionals in all aspects. All of our students received great compliments from their mentors who really enjoyed having the students at their business. InshaAllah, with this great achievement, the next set of year tens anticipating to do work experience will

AAGS Work Experience Provider: It could be you!

As AAGS continues to expand, the school is constantly looking for other work experience placement providers to offer our pupils a chance to experience working life in a wider range of different professions. If you feel that you are able to provide a placement for one of our students, please contact the School Office on 020 8555 5959.

also have a great time and receive compliments, and mentors will be willing to accept even more students in the following year into their organisations.

As working is a new experience for all of us, we found it scary, yet exciting. Overall, these seven days are something we will always treasure. We want to thank all the mentors from the work placements and the teachers from Azhar Acad-

Personal Accounts

"Work experience has made me realise that education is very important" and that it is almost impossible to get a good job without the right qualifications – Rajmina Begum, Koala Bear Day Care Nursery.

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I have enjoyed myself to the max." Habiba Adam, Headstart Primary School.

"I really enjoyed working with little kids and learnt how to communicate better with both, adults and children. I also learnt how cope with horrible situations and how to llaise with other students" Salma Sirkhot, Elmhurst Primary School.

"I went to Asda. It was nice there and the staff were friendly and I learnt quite a lot. I enjoyed the experience and had fun." Sidra Ilyas, Asda (Leyton).

"Seeing something I wrote actually get printed was another exciting experience. During my work placement, I realised how stressful working in the media even though the journalists seemed to be very laidback." Armara Rowlands, The Muslim Weekly

very friendly" – Amima Arshad, Newham General University Hospital. With working parents and family members, we all had an understanding of how hard working life is, but actually participating in it allowed us to grasp the con-

emy Girls School for giving us this opportunity to increase our knowledge and understanding of the working world, and also for helping us out when we found it all over-bearing and nerve-wrecking. "I am extremely grateful to all the mentors and teachers at Elmhurst Primary School for giving me this unforgettable and most cherished experience. I really benefited from working with the 7-8 year olds and learnt a lot. Working with children had not crossed my mind as a future plan, but now, I am willing to do the right studies and have teaching as a future plan." Sabiya Mahfooz, Elmhurst Primary School.

Fazela Patel,
Year 10

Azhar Academy Girls School will like to thank all the different organisations and their mentors from offering our Year 10 students opportunity to experience the world of work in a range of different work placements and roles, namely:

Ad-Deen Foundation School, Asda (Leyton), the Crown Prosecution Service, Elmhurst Primary School, Headstart Primary School, Koala Bear Day Care Nursery, Lenwood Day Care, Matalan (Leytonstone), Medina Pharmacy Ltd., The Muslim Weekly, Newham University Hospital, Newport Infant School, Noor-ul-Islam Primary School, Sandringham Primary School, Tower Hamlets Social Services



**AAGS Sixth Form
2007/2008**

AAGS is now accepting applicants from prospective Year 12 students. Interested parties should contact the School Office or download an application form from our website.

235a Romford Road, Forest Gate, London E7, 9HL.
Tel: 020 8555 5959 Fax: 020 8534 5960
E-mail: girls.school@azharacademy.org
Website: www.azharacademy.org

Umrah: A Personal Journey

My trip to Umrah was an amazing journey. Indescribable events happened during the process; I did things I never dreamed of doing, and saw things that I never imagined seeing. It was an unforgettable journey, truly a journey of a life time. It all began with "Labbaik Allah humma labbaik, I am present O Allah I am present" This was a supplication we had to recite throughout our journey until we saw the ka'bah.

The Ka'bah...

Not just any ordinary house covered with a black cloth. A house shrouded in black that touches the heart of every Muslim when seen. A house that seemed to make everyone cry when they circulated it and brought them closer to Allah. It made me feel exhilarated and when I first saw it, a tingling feeling ran down my spine. Making tawaf (going round the ka-bah seven times) was difficult and tiring. Walking on the hard marble tiled floor

hurt my ankles but I didn't want to stop. I wanted to carry on. During tawaf I did something spectacular, rather out of the ordinary...

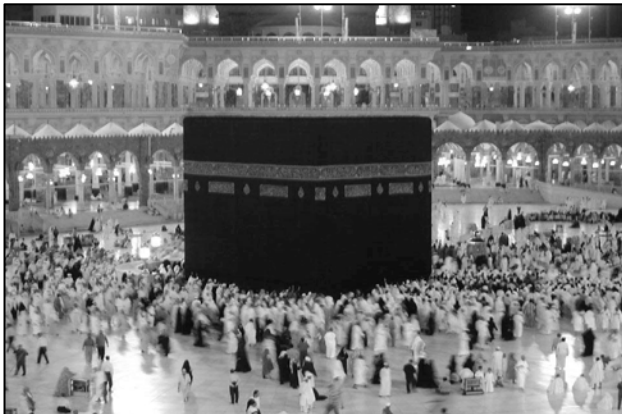
My uncle came out from the crowd that was surrounding the black stone. He came out telling us what he had also done. He along with his 5 year old daughter kissed hajr aswad (the black stone). I felt inspired and I wanted to do it too. But I felt scared in case I pushed someone and my umrah would be nullified. However I thought this was a one in a million chance. When will I ever come again? Will I ever get this opportunity? So I plucked the courage and just dived into the crowd.

After this woman it's my turn. I am going to kiss the stone.

So I did. After the women in front of me kissed it, it was my turn. I wanted to take my time. I didn't feel rushed at

all. After kissing the stone I opened my eyes and the hajr aswad was at the tip of my nose, and I got afraid for no apparent reason. The stone looked rough but strangely felt smooth. It was pitch black but there were hints of dark red. I didn't want to get my head out but I felt that it would be selfish not to.

After I got out of the crowd, tears started to pour down my face. My heart was full of fear, fear of the consequences I would have to face, because of my past sins. Yet at the same time, I felt so elated so pure. I felt like a true believer. I was shaking from head to toe out of shock. I had never encountered such type of emotion in my life. Knowing that you're heart is clean and pure and to touch the hajr aswad was an extra bonus.



Riddle: A container without hinges, key or a lid. Yet golden treasure inside is hid. What is it?

I continued with my tawaf reciting *"Rabbana aatinaa fid dunyaa hasanatan wa fil aakhirati hasanatan wa qina athaaban naar"*

Our Lord, grant us the good things in this world and the good things in the next life and save us from the punishment of the fire. The more I recited this the more tears ran down my face.

Following the completion of the tawaf we prayed two raka'ah of salah. In my prayer I thanked Allah for giving me the opportunity to kiss the hajr aswad, I asked Allah to guide me throughout my life, to forgive me for the sins that I committed in the past, present and future, to bless my life, to protect

me from the hellfire, and to shower his mercy upon my parents.

Safa and Marwa

Next we had to do the sa'ee. The sa'ee is when the pilgrim walks from one mountain Safa to the opposite mountain Marwa. These mountains are not in their original form. Once we arrived at the part of the haram where these two mountains lay, we read a du'a whilst standing on Safa. We then walked across the tiled floor to get to Marwa. There we read another du'a and this was one round. We had to repeat this course seven times. During the process of sa'ee

my legs, feet and ankles started to throb with pain. Whilst climbing up Safa my feet would hurt because of the rockiness of the mountain. While walking between the mountains my ankles would hurt because of the hardness of the tiles. Whilst ascending up Marwa my thigh would hurt because it was dreadfully steep. I felt exhausted and physically worn out. However the fresh, spectacular Zamzam water kept me going.

At the end of my umrah I realised how blessed and fortunate I am to be a Muslim. I felt like a new born baby going out into the world once again. I hope that every Muslim receives a

chance to go on umrah and to feel what I felt, to see what I saw and to encounter everything that I experienced. My umrah was extraordinary. I did things that I never imagined doing in my wildest dreams.

After my umrah I was afraid. Afraid of all the sins I was going to commit especially those that I will perform without knowing. But at the end of the day I had to understand that this life is a test and I need to get out into the world to complete it.

*Anjuman Haque,
Year 9A*

Favourite Ahadeeth

"Save yourself from backbiting!" (Kanz-ul-Ummaal) I like this because it teaches you about ghibah which means backbiting. Lots of people backbite and they get lots of sin. If you backbite you will not enter jannah, so you should always think before you say something!

Hafsa Mohammed, 7B



"The best of deeds in the eyes of Allah are those which are done regularly, even if they may be a few (in quantity)." (Bukhari) This is the best Hadeeth I have learnt because many people want to earn reward by doing good deeds but they don't realise how often they need to do them. They do good deeds rarely and then they think it is enough enter Jannah.

Nasreen Ahmed, 7B

"Visit the sick, feed the hungry and free the cap-

tives." (Bukhari) because it tells me to be kind and generous to people who are not as fortunate as me. This Hadeeth influences me to give sadaqah and be kind to others even if they are not family.

Saleem Abdin 8A

"Save yourself from backbiting." I like this Hadeeth because as Muslim girls I think we should not talk about other people, because it would hurt their feelings. Also we should treat other people how we would like to be treated, and I'm sure they would not like to be talked about behind their backs! That is why I like this Hadeeth and try to act upon it.

Nazahah Jannah, 7B



"Salaah is a pillar of the deen". (Baihaqi) Whenever I read this, it reminds me that

we are the slaves of Allah. We are only sent down to this world to worship Allah and not to commit sins, to control our tongues, to do good, to never backbite but just to pray salah and earn Allah's pleasure.

Kanwal Khalil, 8A



"Give gifts to one another for a gift removes malice from the heart." (Tirmidhi) We like this Hadeeth because giving gifts increases love between enemies. An example of this is when a person has hatred inside them, receiving a gift will decrease their hatred and will increase the love inside them.

*Tabassum Mushtaq &
Mubashshira Firdaws, 8A*

If you read Surah Ikhlas, three times it is like reading "a third of the Qur'an". (Tirmidhi) as it gives you a

simple way to collect lots of good rewards from Allah (SWT)".

Suad Mohammed, 7A



"All actions are but by intentions" (Bukhari) because whatever you do is always based on your intention. If you think of something good, you will always be rewarded for the thought of doing a good deed even if it is not committed.

Aqsa Kassam, 8A

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We are open Monday to Saturday between 9 am to 5 pm..

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Do keep in mind that all profits go to the various projects run by the Azhar Academy Charity.

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Azhar Academy is a registered charity engaged in furthering religious, educational and communal awareness within the Muslim and wider non-Muslim community.

Apart from running the AAGS (and the Sixth Form from Sept. 07, Inshallah), we have also acquired a 29-acre site in Thurrock, where we plan to construct a sport and leisure complex. We will shortly be re-submitting planning application for this project.

We urge you to continue your generous contributions towards these projects. May Allah SWT reward all abundantly.

You may now donate online via PayPal by visiting the 'Donations' page on our website or directly into our following Natwest bank account:

Sort Code: 01-07-26 | Account No: 67055028

www.azharacademy.org

Islam & Literacy

Did you know...?

The very first words that were revealed to the Prophet Mohammed (SAW) were about reading and writing.

"Read in the name of thy Lord & Cherisher, who created, Created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood: Read! And thy Lord is most Bountiful – He who taught (the use of) the Pen-Taught man that which he knew not." (96 1-5)



Islam is the only religion in the world which rewards its followers for reading.

"Read the Qur'aan, for indeed it will come on the Day of Judgement as an intercessor for its companions." [Sahih Muslim]



The Arabic word "*Qur'an*", literally means "book, reading, recitation" and comes from the verb "*qara*" "to read."



Literacy was so valued by the Holy Prophet (SAW) that he even ordered prisoners of war who taught other Muslims to read to be released from captivity!



The theme of *writing* also runs through the Qur'aan, e.g.:

Chapter 68, is known as Surat al-Qalam ('The Pen') or Surat al-Nun ('The Letter Nun'), opens with the words, 'Nun, by the Pen and what they write...'

In verses 17-18 of Chapter 50, Surat al-Qaf..., *two nobles scrib-*

ing angels (kiram kitabin) sit on man's shoulders to record his actions and thoughts, the one on the right noting his good deeds and the one on his left his evil ones. On Judgement Day, man's every deed will be totalled up in a Book of Reckoning for the final accounting."



By the 10th century the Muslim city of Cordoba had

- 700 mosques,
- 60,000 palaces
- 70 libraries – one reportedly housing 500,000 manuscripts and employing a staff of researchers, illuminators and book binders.

In comparison, the library of the monastery of St. Gall which was the largest in Europe at the time only boasted 36 volumes! Even into the 14th century, the library at the University of

Paris only had about 2,000 books.



The Arabic word for a large mosque is "*Jami*" and the Arabic for university is "*Jami'ah*".

The world's first universities emerged from mosques where religion and science sat comfortably side by side over a thousand years ago. In fact, The Guinness Book of World Records recognizes the University of Al-Qarawiyn in Fez, Morocco as the oldest university in the world with its founding in 859 AD.



AAGS Sports Day

We all know that it is the end of the year when Sports Day arrives. When Sports Day comes round we all get to know each other a little better, and we feel more united.

This year on Thursday 28th June 2007, the school gathered at Blake Hall Sports ground in our house colours, with creative banners and signs. Alhamdulillah, even though the weather had been playing up the past few days, it didn't rain, and occasionally the sun peeked out and shone above us.

Strong Performances

This year's activities were the egg and spoon race, relays, obstacle course, three legged race, netball and rounders. The effort and planning of the Sports Day was even better than last year. All the houses this year stepped up their game in a bid to gain as many points as possible. Daar At-Taqwa (the red team), winners from last year, performed very well. The greens (Haque), blues (Hikmah) and yellows (Ilm) all put up a very good fight.

Moving onto the actual day, it went quite smoothly excusing a few slight hiccups due to some teams protesting about 'unclear results'. The three-legged race and egg and spoon race, which were the first activities to take place, were hilarious. As expected many of the girls were rolling and stumbling about but amongst the silliness, there were good performances from all the years and it was a great start to the competition. Next, the relay races began. The girls who took part in the relay races were very fast and all the teams did amazing, with lots of the wins very close.

After the games we all had lunch and took a break and lots of the girls played football and relaxed but then, it was time for netball.

Netball Shoot-Out

Everyone loves netball, and there were some really exciting games to watch. The first game between the yellows and greens was really nail-biting. The green team seemed less strong in their performance than the yellows, however, at the end of the match it was a tie, and we had to go into penalty shoot-outs. In the end the greens won on the last shot! That left it down to the reds to play the blues. This too was a close game but the reds conquered. Leaving the greens and reds to fight it out. This match was very nerve-racking as everyone had their own opinions about who should win, but the winners were the reds.

The last game was rounders. This was a big change for many, as everyone was relying on football this year. The final winners here were Hikmah (blue).

The day went really well, alhamdulillah, thanks to some brilliant planning. The overall winners are yet to be revealed as points have still to be tallied but we won't have to wait too long insh'Allah as all will be revealed at our End of Year assembly. So till next year's Sports Day, assalam alaikum and have a lovely summer holiday.

Tayabbah Iqbal
Year 8A

"The day went really well alhamdulillah, thanks to some brilliant planning."

Poetry

All about Azhar

We come to school every morning and can't wait for our lessons to begin. Our teachers take us places from A-Z because we work hard and strive. Our maths teacher Ms Kajee is clever and kind That's how we remember that 81 squared is 9. Ms Radia is a wonderful Arabic teacher masha'Allah. We all pray she enters Jannah insh'Allah Ms Mohammed and Ms Yasin teach us science and brighten up our day, They are knowledgeable and kind, that's all we can say. Ms Begum our English teacher makes us read Holes. It's about Stanley Yelnats who is very poor, She also taught us Shakespeare was born in 1504. There's also, Ms Rehman, who is the headteacher. She's lovely and kind and has a wonderful mind. And last but not least there's Ms Raja, the deputy head-teacher who is nice and kind. She is the Head of English because of that she has a memorable and thoughtful mind We both love Azhar Academy so, so much, so let's hope everyone loves it too. Ameen.

Salma Gangat & Umber Janjua 7B

Chessington

We all love to have a good time at the end of the year, after all the hard. This year's school trip was to Chessington World of Adventures. gree turns and water fountains which shot up straight into your face and gave you a blast of water leaving you dripping!

On the coach journey we entertained ourselves by singing nasheeds. The weather was not ideal, so where we treated ourselves with funny toys and souvenirs. The day was fantastic with fast, exciting, thrilling water rides which wet us to the bone! Nonetheless, we all definitely had a good time and would recommend it to anyone who wants to have lots of fun.

Some of our favourite rides were 'The Vampire', a two-seater ride which swung around the whole theme park hanging from a metal track above us in about a minute. 'Dragon's Fury' which was an exciting rollercoaster, and Bubbleworks which had 360 de-

"With fast, exciting water rides which wet us to the bone!"

Lina Hauari
Year 8A

SATs, Stress and Success!

A brand new year, a brand new start. It was time to become focused; keep a grip of your goals. Show what can be done, chin up high, thinking positive. It wasn't as easy as you may think, as deep inside all of Year 9 were in fear. The year was so significant, as the SATs were finally here!

Our teachers always motivated us to reach our potential. Some students would get tired of the lectures given "You must start being sensible and working hard for your SATs..." but in the end we all realised that they were for our own good.

The older years helped magnificently; by giving their practice papers and old revision guides. They taught us how we can help the

coming year nines.

Different students were sitting different level papers. We were introduced to Shakespeare in English and learnt just how wicked Richard III was. We discovered new topics from circumference to inheritance.

Our aim was to keep 100% focused, always be concentrating in class, revise topics regularly and most of all try our best. It sounded easy but some of us struggled to do this.

Time went by so quickly that I would still think that I was in year 8. Both Year 9 classes seemed to panic, as it drew close to examination

day. Each tense pupil asking questions 'Have I worked hard enough?' 'Is this the best I could have done?'

In the weeks leading up to the SATs, we were given extra revision lessons for our coming exams; this immensely

helped as everyone got to learn what they still didn't

know. This was also time for our teachers to go over our weakest topics. At home, the majority of the class would revise as much as possible.

No one gave up; we all persevered, standing side by side, waiting to lend a hand to one another.

Hand in hand we received our results, screaming, laughing and shouting to sobbing, weeping and crying. Some were gutted but still did well. In the end we all worked as hard as we could and made our parents proud.

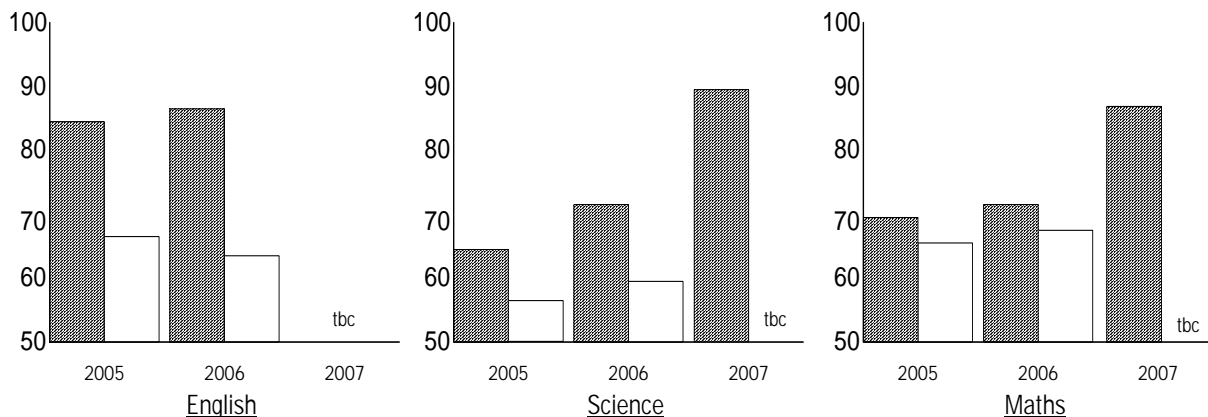
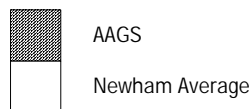
We even broke the AAGS record for SATs results and came much higher than the borough average. We thank Allah (SWT) for the teachers who helped us. Insh'Allah the upcoming year nines will do just as well and achieve their best.

Sanaa Noman
Year 9A

"We even broke the AAGS record for SATs results!"

AAGS SATs Results

KS3 SATs results (% with Level 5+)



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Solved all the riddles? The first student to hand in all the correct solutions gets merits for her House!