



Autumn Term

NEWSLETTER

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Events this term

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Our thoughts on individuality

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Recipe of the term: Caramel cheesecakes taste tested by Year 11 pupils

“Welcome to our first ever student produced newsletter, bought to you by the Journalism Club, in collaboration with the English Department.”

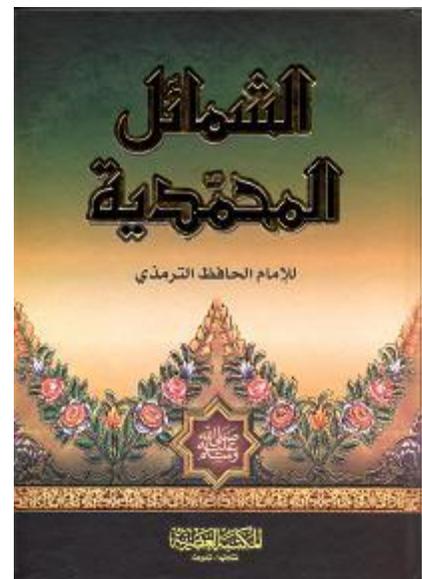


Darul Uloom Trips!

Our pupils were treated to two trips to our beloved Darul Uloom this term. The first involved lots of food and fun as we came together with the Darul Uloom students in an atmosphere of generosity and love and in a peaceful atmosphere. During the second trip, our pupils had the honour of sitting in final year classes for a flavour of the study of Islamic Sciences. We received overwhelming positive feedback from many inspired pupils who had the opportunity to meet with and ask questions of the Darul Uloom students. A wonderful experience!

Odd Socks Day

Every year, our pupils wear odd socks during Anti-bullying Week, to symbolise how we are all different but ultimately the same.



Annual Winter Fundraiser!

Students, staff and parents worked tirelessly to ensure this term's fundraiser was a huge success. This year, we decided to go big. Instead of a one-day fundraiser, we went all out with a week-long fundraiser! Primary students teamed up with secondary pupils to plan, prepare and execute unique dining experiences. Each year group took on the challenge of running a day of the fundraiser. Each day, we eagerly anticipated the sights, sounds, smells that would greet us as we got a taste of different cultures from every corner of the globe – all right here in our school!

Monday brought China and Mexico to our school. We were treated to the exotic flavours of the East and West, feasting on every food imaginable from sweet and sour chicken to quesadillas. It was a truly enjoyable day. On Tuesday, we were treated to European cuisine, including pizza, pasta and Portuguese tarts. On Wednesday, we went international. The mains featured a flavour-some Arab-inspired dish of kebabs and rice. A favourite day for many! On the final day of our fundraiser, we were regaled with the smells and tastes of India, from street food to platters of biryani. It was truly a banquet!

After a week packed full of food and fun, with the grace of Allah we raised an amazing grand total of £4,309.

Primary Competition!

This term we asked primary to get creative and create a piece which showed what winter means to them. They created a variety of different pieces of work each with their own unique meanings. The winning piece was done by a Year 5 student who made an eye-catching model which showcased her creativity. Here is the work she created:



Congratulations to this term's winner. We loved your creativity and we can see the amount of effort you put into it. It was original, authentic and one of a kind. Thank you for participating!

SPECIAL MENTIONS:

Last year's Year 11s, as a group, achieved some excellent GCSE results, with some students achieving grades 7, 8 and 9 across the board. One pupil achieved grade 9 in every subject. What an amazing achievement!

A huge congratulations to one of our Year 11 leavers, who entered the Young Muslim Writers Competition and won first prize for her creative writing piece. Previous winners were awarded a trip abroad, so we look forward to hearing about her adventures. We wish her the best of luck in her future writing endeavours.

AGONY AUNT

A very common struggle faced by primary and secondary alike is that of navigating the world of friendship. We will be addressing the concerns of one pupil who said:

'I used to feel very happy and secure in my friendship group. But recently, I no longer feel like I belong with them. I don't think that we are on the same wavelength anymore. Sometimes, they laugh at me and make comments which are very hurtful, but they don't realize that. How should I handle this situation?'

This pupil's concerns are very valid and commonly felt by many people of all ages and circumstances. We thank this pupil for reaching out to us and we hope that our advice helps.

Firstly, we would urge you to recognize that you are not alone. Many people feel this way, and it is completely okay. Speak up. Share the way you are feeling with someone. You never know – they could be feeling the same way!

Secondly, if your friends do not realize that they are hurting your feelings, then just tell them respectfully how you feel. They may just be unaware and apologize as soon as you tell them and rectify their behaviour. Things could go back to how they were before.

Thirdly, remember that everyone changes as they grow, and no one ever stops growing. You may have been close to some people at one point because you shared common interest and thought alike. However, as you grow and your interest change then it is natural to change your friends too. We would encourage you branch out and find new friends who are on a similar wavelength to you. One way to do this might be to consider your broader interests and try something new. You could join an extra-curricular club, perhaps outside of school, to find new friendship groups with shared interests.

Lastly, remember that some people come into your life for a season, and when that season comes to a close, you may have grown and be ready for new experiences with new people. We wish you the best of luck!



INDIVIDUALITY

Have you ever noticed that each and every snowflake that falls is perfectly unique and completely different to another? Inspired by this, below, we have gathered a few thoughts on individuality.

Definition:

-Noun-

The quality of a character, a person or a particular thing that distinguishes them from others of the same kind.

Synonyms: *uniqueness, originality, singularity*

Individuality is **not** about pretending to be someone you're not or about changing your personality to fit people's standards.

NO!

It's about being the person you want to be, and about loving yourself for who you are and what you were made to do.

Because on those wintry days, no two snowflakes are going to be the same.

Each possesses unique, intricate patterns, detailed designs and astounding beauty.

Because on those defeated days, when all you want to do is sit and cry, no two tears are going to be the same.

Each are composed from different memories, different emotions, and felt with different intensities.

Because it's amazing how we can be so many different colours and so many different things all at once.

You can get annoyed and cry, but you somehow find the happiness and make your own rainbow.

You can make people happy with the beauty of your originality, with your elegance, with your passion.

You make people amazed with your character, your nature and your good will. It changes people, you change people.

Be a unique individual and be original. Don't let the sky be your limit. You can reach the galaxies and beyond.

So, live your life the way **you** want to live it. Make the change **you** want to make. Be the person **you** want to be!





OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE

Imagine this – you wake up on a regular Saturday morning to the smell of burning. You dismiss it as burnt toast and roll over in bed. But the smell persists. You close your bedroom door to stop the smell coming into your room. You doze back to sleep while the fire gains fuel and grows bigger and bigger. Someone comes to your room and warns you that a fire has broken out in the kitchen, but you dismiss their cries as a figment of your dreams. The fire that you caused when you left the gas on yesterday grows bigger still, while you fall deeper and deeper into your slumber.

Now imagine this. What if I told you that that was an accurate depiction of you and I, deep in our ignorant and heedless slumber while we burn our own house down? What if I told you that you still have a few minutes to wake up and put out the fire? Would you stay in bed? Or would you spring up in urgency to save your home? The choice would be yours.

Let's say you are flippant enough to stay in bed. What's the worst that could happen? The entire house would burn down, and at best you may be saved and escape with your life. And then? You would find a new home, of course. But what if I told you that we only have one home? Planet Earth, the only home we'll ever have. What if I told you that there is no escaping the fire that you caused? That you either put it out or you burn in it? Then tell me, what would you do?

The grim reality is that the above scenario is far from hypothetical. At this very moment, as you read this, our house is on fire. And the fire is fuelled more and





more each day by us; you and I. We all know the facts: the glaciers are melting, the forests are drying up, our planet is becoming a greenhouse, and our future generations will live in a scarred world – if they live long enough. But we've been told this too many times. We incline our heads for a moment and then carry on with our daily lives. We have more pressing matters to attend to. We close our doors to the smell of our burning home and doze back into our slumber.

Dear readers, I implore you to wake up! This could become the sixth mass extinction. We may be long gone by the time the effects of our actions come manifest, but it will be our children and grandchildren who will have to face the fire that we fuelled – and never tried to put out. There is no more time to lament. We have only a few minutes to spring out of bed and save the burning home of our future.

The time for diplomacy and politeness is long gone. Every single day, 200 species are going extinct. We study the fossils of dinosaurs and piece together the story of their mass extinction. Have you ever thought that one day, our fossils may be looked at in a museum? That we would be judged as the people who set the world of their generations on fire, and made their own species extinct?

The time to act is now. We have one final chance to save the only home we'll ever have. We know exactly what to do – listen for once to the broken track of activists and climate change protestors. Ask yourself this: if not us, then who? If not now, then when? Don't read this only to carry on with your daily life. Don't buy the stories of far-fetched hope. Panic. Act like you would if your house was on fire - because it is.

Caramel Cheesecake

Ingredients:

- 1 pack Lotus Biscoff
- 7 spoons melted butter
- 1 tub cream cheese
- 1 tub double cream
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 1 can nestle carnation caramel
- 10 bars Twix
- 1 bar white chocolate

Here is a sweet treat to end this issue: an easy-to-make, tried and tested favourite! Send us your pictures at journalism@jgacademy.co.uk if you'd like to be featured in the next issue!



METHOD:

- Melt the white chocolate and put into the moulds
- Put the moulds into the fridge to cool
- Crush the lotus biscoff and mix it with butter.
- Spoon a bit of it into each of the shot glasses and tap it down. Ensure you do an even layer.
- Whisk the cream until stiff peaks form.
- Whisk together the cream cheese and sugar
- Add the cream and combine
- Chop half the Twix bars into little pieces
- Fold in the chopped Twix into the cream cheese mixture
- Pipe into the shot glasses ensuring there is a nice thick layer.
- Top with a spoon of slightly melted caramel
- Take out the chocolate from the fridge and place it on the caramel
- Cut the remaining Twix into quarters
- Place one piece of Twix on each shot glass
- Dust with gold glitter
- Place in the fridge to set