

OUR VOICES

The Latest News and Updates from the Students of Darul Uloom Leicester



OUR ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDAY

by Maaz Khalid, Student Council Chairman

In the spirit of charity and learning to care for a world in need, Darul Uloom participated in a charity week from Monday 7th of November till Sunday 13th of November. A 'Fun Day' devoted to the cause, took place on Saturday 12th November. Students, with their own contributions, ran fun stalls, with prizes for the winners, as well as various competitions and food stalls.

Thanks to all the help, we raised a total of £755, all of which was dedicated to charities such as Children in Need and Ummah Welfare Trust, helping children nearby and across the world. Students and staff members had an enjoyable day, while also being fortunate enough to help those in need!

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OFSTED REPORT UPDATE

Thanks to the grace of the Almighty and the efforts of the students, parents and the public, the overall outcome of the November 2016 Ofsted Report was that 'the school meets all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection'. It was also decided that 'the school meets all of the national minimum standards that were checked during this inspection' for the boarding provisions

VISITING A MANDIR

by Hammad Ibrahim Patel, Year 7

The local Swaminarayan Mandir had two huge towers with flags and three smaller ones inside. We entered after taking off our shoes and came across a sculpture of the local guru who had recently passed away. The guide then took us around the temple and showed us the Indian architecture. He then lead us into a small shrine in which there was a story chain and statue about Swaminarayan's

spiritual journey through the Himalayas. Leaving the largest shrine till last, we saw people praying to statues of different Hindu gods and goddesses. After that our day came to an end as our time had run out.



VISITING A SYNAGOGUE

by Ali Ahmed Jalal, Year 8

Recently, we Year 8's went on a trip to the local synagogue in Leicester. It was interesting to learn about the differences and similarities between Islam and Judaism. Much of the information the guide told us was surprising, such as that there are only 16 million Jews in the entire world. I definitely learnt many new things on the trip and it has also made me more aware about other religions.



NEC SKILLS SHOW

by Uzair Kharodia, Over 16

On the 17th of November, the Year 10, 11 and 16+ classes went to the NEC (The National Exhibition Centre) Skills Show. We set off at approximately 9.30 am and arrived within an hour and a half of departure. The event was extremely large, and was split into four sections: Hospitality & Care, Media & Creativity, Engineering & Construction and IT & Infrastructure. I was most impressed by the Engineering & Construction section, as it had demonstrations in the automotive sector involving cars such as the BMW i8 and a Range Rover. There were also practical, hands on activities such as an abundance of driving simulators and even remote controlled droids.

However, other parts of the Engineering & Construction department were disappointing, with the sector being mainly comprised of the final stages of some professional competitions. Nevertheless, the skills shown were impressive and many students were drawn to the expert skills of those participating in the landscaping and painting competitions.

Media & Creativity also shone through; BBC Radio 1 displayed a variety of performances, such as game shows and live performers, there was also a chance to try out weather forecasting in a miniature bus studio. We also had the chance to create things, as my group and I made our own stop frame animation using a green screen and a pair of miniature figurines. You could also find out how the industry worked as demonstrations of CGI layering were shown.

Hospitality & Care stood out for many people, especially those that visited the Cosmetics department to get freshly cut wounds painted on to them, however there were also other eye opening things such as finding out how Dementia affects people and the unappealing tasks done in the field of surgery.

Overall the Skills Show was an interesting experience and provided an insight into the many different career paths available to us. It was an excellent opportunity to learn an hopefully we have all taken something beneficial from it.



MEETING THE HOMELESS

by Abul Hayath Shumon Azad, Over 16

On Saturday 10th December, around 11 am, two Ustaadhs and four students, including myself, made our way to a shelter to feed the homeless. We took a whole pot of chicken biryani, little tubs of coleslaw and plenty of drinking cans. Being eager to feed them our cultural food, we quickly made our way to the shelter. On the journey there, I wondered what kind of people would be at the shelter, how they would react to see six men in jubbahs and hats coming to feed them and if they would like the food.

When we got to the shelter and made our way inside, we found that there was already a team serving tea, coffee and cakes. They allocated us a spot and our two Ustaadhs took charge of serving the food. By 11.30 am, more and more people started to arrive. I was told to go around the hall and ask the guests to 'sign in'. This involved writing their name, D.O.B, nationality, if they received any benefits and where they lived. While doing this it came to my astonishment how many found it difficult to write, how many had to think to remember their birthdays and the many different nationalities such as British, Lithuanian, Ethiopian, Somalian, Indian and Polish. There were probably 20-30 homeless in the hall, all eager to eat brunch.

Most of the guests were heavily dressed and it was clear how cold they felt. While going around the room, offering more savories and drinks, I picked up various conversations. I was shocked to hear one gentlemen say that, "It's been three days since I've eaten!" and so it was a joy to see that he relished his meal. By 12 pm everyone had pretty much finished eating so we packed the remaining food and were given permission to hand them out. Many of the guests came to give their thanks, wish us well and say goodbye. We then helped clean up the hall and then made our way back to the car with the pot and headed back to DUL.

I thought about the people I'd met and how we were going home but where were all those people going to go? Do they have families? My classmate asked one of the individuals where would they go after they've eaten and the individual replied, "You know I'll just go down there, up the street, nowhere special." Alhamdulillah is all I can say really, Alhamdulillah for the situation you and I are in. To the home that we have, the roof over our heads. Alhamdulillah to the clothes we have, new and old, the food we get without even asking, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Alhamdulillah for the education we have, to be able to read and write. And most importantly Alhamdulillah for being born into a Muslim household and for having this Imaan we take for granted. Going through this experience made me appreciate everything that I have. Seeing these people and the way they live made me realise how fortunate I am and how grateful I should be. We have all been blessed with so much in our lives and we should keep on trying to help the homeless as much as we can.

QUR'AN COMPLETION INTERVIEW

with Mohammed Faheem Zaheer, Year 11

How long did it take you to do Hifz?

3 years and 363 days

How hard was Hifz from a scale of 1 – 10 (Low – High)?

5, but it mainly depends on your capability.



Why did you want to become a Hafiz?

There are quite a few reasons actually. Firstly, my mosque teacher suggested to become a Hafiz and even told me to enrol at Darul Uloom Leicester. Secondly being a Hafiz is a big achievement in my eyes and so is what I wanted to be. Also, being a hafiz is something that can help you and others in the hereafter, as you can take ten people with you to Jannah. And of course, most importantly, it's a very rewarding act in the sight of Allah SWT.

Which para/juz is the hardest for you?

None, because my ustaadh, Molana Yusuf Boodi Saheb, sets a very high standard and due to that my dhor meets that standard. Also my ustaadh and my parents have put a lot of effort behind me and I'm happy that I've done my Hifz with Molana Yusuf Boodi Saheb. Firstly, I am grateful to Allah SWT for making me a Hafiz and then to my ustaadh and my parents for helping me achieve my dream.

Do you have any tips for students who are doing Hifz?

Make sure you learn your sabak properly! If you learn your sabak, then you'll know your sabak para and then you'll know your dhor. Never, ever, ever be lazy! If you have the capability of learning more than a side, then learn more than a side, instead of taking the easy way and only learning one side. Because for some people it can take an hour to learn a side, so people who can learn sabak quickly should take value of their capability. And finally, many people don't put their full effort into hifz. When doing hifz you must give it your all.

What are you looking forward to do in the future?

Firstly Alim class. Some people prefer to go to college after Year 11, but I think it's better to do alim class. After alim class, InshaAllah I want to go back to my home town and serve the community, because, like Darul Uloom Leicester says: Learn, Practise, Serve.