

OUR VOICES

The latest news and updates from the students of Darul Uloom Leicester



THE VIRTUE OF JERUSALEM

by **Huzaifa Bodhaniya,**
1st Year Alim Class

In Islam, Jerusalem is regarded as the third most sacred land. Abu Hurairah RA narrates that he heard the Prophet Muhammad SAW saying: "You should not undertake a special journey to visit any place other than the following three Masaajid, with the expectations of getting greater reward: the Sacred Masjid of Makkah (Ka'bah), this Masjid of mine (the Prophet's Masjid in Madinah), and Masjid Al-Aqsa (of Jerusalem)".

We regularly have the means and opportunities to go to the Haramain, but we fail to recognise the sanctity of the holy masjid that lies in al-Quds. It is advised that if we don't have the means to go and explore the blessed place, for whatever reason, then we should at least send some financial support to those who assist in the running of the masjid. We hear about the history of Jerusalem, but we will only truly understand the land's importance, when we see it for ourselves. As the Prophet SAW said: "Being told about something is not like seeing it". - [Musnad Ahmad]

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VISITING A PLACE OF WORSHIP

by **Atif Muhammad Ibrahim Bashar,**
Year 7

Throughout this school term students have visited different places of worship. The Year 9 class took a trip to the cathedral, the Year 8 class to the synagogue and on Wednesday the 8th of November, our Year 7 class visited the local mandir.

The outside of the building was completely white and extremely large. The building had many domes and towers, which had lots of details. The man-sized columns, which were hand carved, were full of symbols. As we entered the mandir, there was a huge lotus flower, tiled beneath us and a 3D model on top of it. We had to take off our shoes, out of respect. As we entered a huge room there was a man chanting, 'OM' repetitively; this was the main area of worship. We then learnt about different aspects of the religion. Overall, the trip taught our class more about Hinduism and let us see the inside of their place of worship.

CSE PRODUCTION

by **Safwaan Rahman,** Year 11

Not long ago, Darul Uloom students travelled to Madani Schools Federation to witness an eye-opening play regarding child sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation is a very dangerous thing, but also an extremely important topic that all people need to be aware of in order to stay safe. In this play, we learnt what sexual exploitation is, how people are exploited and how we can remain safe from exploitation. Though the play was engaging, it also highlighted and contained a very important message. The play was based on a true story of a young girl named Chelsea, who was a victim of sexual exploitation by a much older man. He abused her and made her reliant on him, drugs and alcohol and went on to force her into further exploitation. This lasted for months until she was able to call the police, who reunited her with her family. Overall, the play gave everyone a better understanding of what sexual exploitation is and how anyone can become a victim, while also teaching us ways in which we can remain safe.





THE NEC SKILLS SHOW

By Abdullahi Ossoble, Year 10

On Thursday the 16th of November, Year 10, 11 and 12 visited the NEC Skills Show, located in Birmingham. The Skills Show is the nation's largest skills and careers event and is helping shape the future of a new generation, by providing information to young people about potential future careers. The Skills Show is divided into five areas, each providing a focus on a particular industry, these were:

- 1) Construction and Logistics
- 2) Engineering and Technology
- 3) Health and Hospitality
- 4) Digital and Business
- 5) Creative and Design

We students experienced the different demands of various jobs and understood that aiming for and achieving good results in our studies will ensure a successful career. We also took part in some activities, such as exploring virtual reality and managed to listen to career lectures and speak to different employers at the event.

Overall, the trip was fun and benefited us students by opening many previously unknown choices for the future. I was particularly interested in the apprenticeships available in Sector 5 and found the Skills Show to be a great experience and would definitely recommend next year's event to others.

**Dreams
don't
work
unless
you do.**

-John C. Maxwell

INTERVIEW WITH A TEACHER

Talking to Sir Tanzeel Mukadam, Darul Uloom's GCSE English and A-Level Sociology Teacher

How long have you been a teacher?

Good question. After a while you forget how many years, but if I were to warrant a guess, I would say around eight years, eight to nine years.

Why did you choose to teach English?

I didn't choose to teach English, English chose me (chuckling). I was in a school, working as a cover supervisor, just covering all other lessons in the event that a teacher was absent. The English teacher unfortunately had to leave due to unforeseen circumstances, during the middle of the year, so I took over his role. Also I studied English at college and I enjoyed it so I thought, why not? Initially it was only meant to be for six months. Eight years on, here I am.

What have you enjoyed most about teaching in Darul Uloom?

I've enjoyed, umm... You know what, it's good to teach a range of kids from different backgrounds, not only Leicester I mean. You know you've got kids from different geographical locations and it's interesting to hear their viewpoints on different things and how their upbringings have shaped and fashioned their lives so far and now how Darul Uloom will do that too.

Of all the lessons that you've taught, which one stands out as the most memorable?

It would probably be with my current year 11s we did a... no actually with my last year 11s, we did a Frankenstein lesson and we were debating about 'Man and God' and 'Man vs. Nature' and how the portrayal of Frankenstein can be compared to that of a Creator. Obviously, it was a topic that was really controversial.

The kids were really engaged, they were bouncing off each other and giving really good answers and they were exploring all possibilities and avenues. So I think that would have to be a stand out lesson for me, the whole 'Man and God' in Frankenstein, being a controversial issue and the way the kids responded to it.

Do you feel that you have had an impact on the students that you have taught? If so in what way?

I'm not sure, I hope, but I think that question is best suited for the students. I'd like to believe that if I have inspired them, then it's to achieve great things academically, while still maintaining their Islamic identity.

What have your students taught you that you could not have learnt anywhere outside the classroom?

What have they taught me? The students of Darul Uloom have taught me to be patient. They've taught me that I can be patient. They've taught me that I can be resilient and they've taught me that if you don't succeed on the first go, then pick yourself up and try again.

Do you have any last word of advice for all the students?

Yeah. Listen to your parents. You may hate what they say at the time, but as you get older you'll remember my words: listen to your parents. You'll wish you had listened to them. That's it. They may not always know what's good for you, but in the long run it kind of balances out in your favour, so that's it. Listen to your parents!