

OUR VOICES

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



VERILY WITH HARDSHIP COMES EASE

by **Amaan Muhammad, Mishkaat Class**

Inspiring stories are things to be shared and coveted. The lives of students across madaris around the world are very different and give rise to some of these incredible stories that deserve to be heard. One such is that of our principal, Shaykh Ismail, who studied at the illustrious Darul Uloom Deoband.

In our school's monthly Tarbiyyah program in February, Shaykh Ismail related to us students some of his memories of his own student years. We were shocked to learn that the food served to Shaykh Ismail during his days as a student, was a curry made from crippled buffalo meat.

Food was extremely sparse and hard to come by, so students of poorer backgrounds, who could not afford the school lunches, would make a separate line for the leftover scraps from the kitchens. The students were met with the same food conditions in the evening too. Their lifestyle was so demanding that if a student was to arrive late to a lesson, their name would be passed to the kitchens and they would be denied food altogether. Extra luxuries such as tea could only be afforded by the affluent, and was only found in the hotels around the Darul Uloom. This was just the difficulties with food out of the many other hardships that many students, including our founder, had to face.

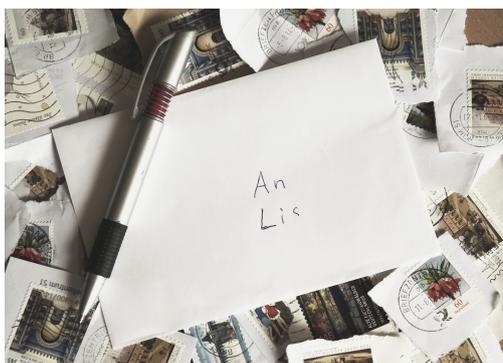
However, these hardships are there to be overcome, and many students around the world tread this difficult path to reap the ultimate reward, the pleasure of Allah. Alhamdulillah, our founder managed to strive through his difficult times and today through the grace of Allah and Shaykh Ismail's hard work and determination, our Darul Uloom Leicester has been serving the deen for the last quarter of a century.

OTHER STORIES INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meeting a Holocaust
Survivor

Going to an 'Eat &
Meet'

Career paths in the
Islamic Sciences



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we draw closer to Ramadan and another eventful madrasah year comes to an end, we thought it would be a great opportunity to reflect on the last term and prepare for the final few weeks.

Alhamdulillah, our students have been engaged in a number of learning opportunities in addition to their daily Hifz/Alimiyah and school studies. In-sha-Allah you can read accounts from the students about the impact of these learning experiences.



EXAMS, EXAMS AND MORE EXAMS

The end of year Madrasah examinations are just a few weeks away. This is a great time for the students to revise all that they have covered during the year in their subjects and to revise over the portion of the Qur'an they have memorised.

As soon as the madrasah exams conclude, the Year 11 students will be sitting their GCSE examinations. We pray to Allah Almighty that He grants all our students success in the exams of this world and the hereafter.



OFSTED

As you all are aware, we had a three day Ofsted visit at the end of January. We shared the report with you through email. It can be found on our website too.

Alhamdulillah we no longer have an Ofsted rating of *Inadequate*. There were many positive points the inspectors made in addition to some recommendations for further improvements. In-sha-Allah we continue to strive to achieve even more with the help and will of Allah Ta'ala and your continued support.



AN ANNOUNCEMENT

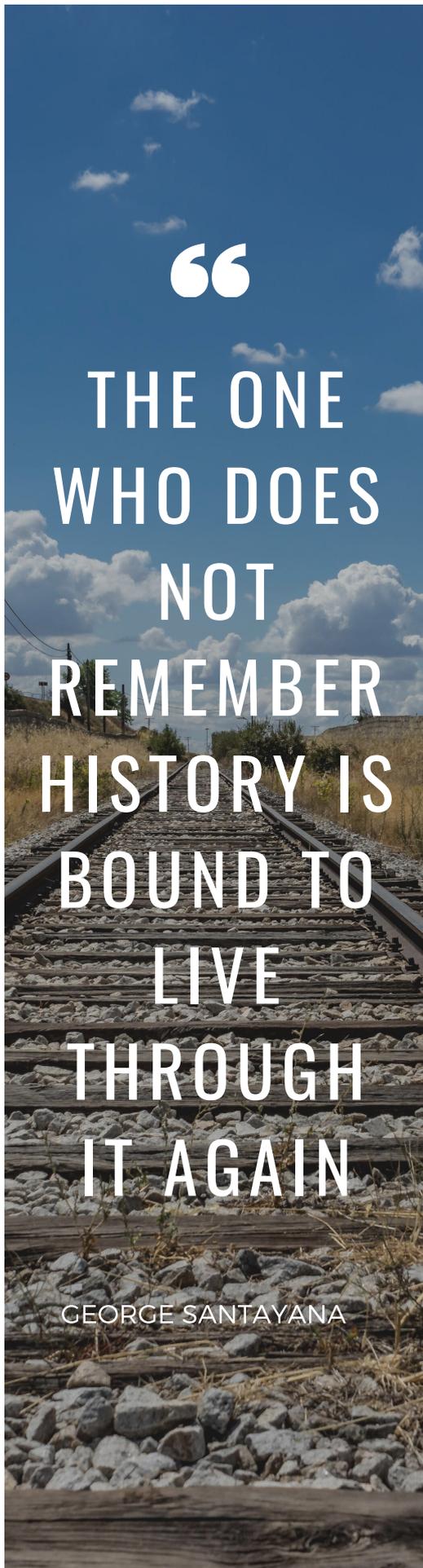
One of our senior teachers, Hazrat Molana Ahmed Sarkar Sahib will be leaving us at the end of this term. Hazrat Molana has been teaching at the Darul Uloom, voluntarily for a number of years. May Allah Ta'ala accept his service to the deen of Allah. Masha Allah, Hazrat Molana was very particular with his timing and taught each student with his heart. He will surely be missed.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Annual Jalsa

- Hifz Completion and Bukhari Khatam: 29th April After Zuhr
- End of Year Examinations: 28th April to 11th May
- Ramadan Holidays: Sunday 13th May to Monday 18th June
- GCSE/A Level Examinations: 14th May to 22nd June



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THE ONE
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GEORGE SANTAYANA

MEETING A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

by Muhammad Salim Bhajji, Year 8

On Friday 19th January, I and a few members of Year 8 and 9 went to Birmingham as part of an educational trip to learn about the Holocaust, which took place from 30th January 1933 to 8th May 1945.

We undertook the journey by van, and travelled for around 45 minutes, before arriving at the gates of a school in Birmingham. During the lecture we sat in a large hall with other students from the school.

The lecture was given by a Jewish gentleman called Dr Ernest Simon, a survivor and victim of the Holocaust. Dr Simon started off his speech by giving a brief introduction to his life before the Holocaust and explained what changes came about after Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933. The doctor used to live with his parents and younger brother in Germany, but was forced to separate with his family, when his town was targeted by the Nazis.

He then described how he was sent to Liverpool Street Station in London at the mere age of eight, alone with only his meagre possessions. During his speech, he gave us a detailed insight into his entire, exhausting 36 hour journey to London. Dr Simon travelled by train and was joined by many other similarly aged children. The train which he boarded was called the '*Kindertransport*', which is German for 'Children's Transport'. The *Kindertransport* was part of an organised rescue effort that took place 9 months before the start of WWII.

Overall, I found the experience both educational and fascinating. The one thing I liked the most about the talk was that it was very interactive, with questions being asked and answered throughout the speech. I learnt lots of new facts about the Holocaust, such as the existence of the *Kindertransport*, which was made specifically to help transport all the evacuating Jewish children.

I look forward to going out on other trips like this to learn about different cultures and meet different people with their inspiring stories.

EAT & MEET

by Muhammad Inaayatul Hoque,
Bukhari Class

Darul Uloom Leicester occasionally assists in caring for individuals that are without shelter or food and on the 10th of March we had the opportunity to do just that.

Two students and two staff members from the school took pots of chicken biryani with drinks to visit 'Action Homeless' for their regular 'Eat & Meet'. The school staff were previous visitors of the shelter but us students were first-timers and were quite overwhelmed by the experience. Talking to the homeless, we learnt that most people there have to sleep rough regularly and that most hadn't had a hot meal in a while.

Having learnt about the tough living conditions of the people at the shelter, we were all given a much needed reminder to pray for those less fortunate than ourselves.

The food was served by us students and the staff from DUL. The people at the shelter ate to their full and were given food in containers to take with them to store for their next meal. After receiving their food and drinks they were extremely thankful to all of us, with many smiles and kind words.



ACTION
HOMELESS
The chance for change

This experience let us truly appreciate our blessings. How can one complain when we have a roof over our head, when we have food prepared for us every day and when we have more clothes than we need in our wardrobe. We should always be grateful to Allah and should try not to complain about our adversities by looking at the blessings in our lives.

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INDEED
ALLAH IS
KIND AND
HE LIKES
KINDNESS
IN ALL
MATTERS

BUKHARI, MUSLIM

CAREER PATHS IN THE ISLAMIC SCIENCES

by Maaz Khalid, Bukhari Class

This term, Darul Uloom has been motivating the students in a new way. Darul Uloom invited guests, who are active in their professional fields, to help students become inspired and gain more direction for what they would like to do after they graduate. Young students typically receive questions such as "What do you want to do when you're older" or "what do you want to do in the future?", and these questions definitely raise an important point for all students to consider. So Darul Uloom had professionals from the fields of computer and technology, social and community and more relevantly the Islamic sciences, to help guide the students in choosing a career path.

One of the speakers was Mufti Abdur-Rahman ibn Yusuf Mangera, a PhD scholar who himself is a Darul Uloom graduate from Bury and the translator of one of the books within 'Darse Nizamee' called 'Provisions for the Seekers'. He visited DUL to share with the students, hifz class and alim class, what they could potentially do in the future with the credentials they attain from DUL.

Mufti Abdur-Rahman's presentation took place on the 3rd of February, where he highlighted that although studying in a secular field allows for worldly progression and the fulfilment of worldly needs, as Muslims and as students of ilm, we shouldn't be swayed from our overall goal of success in the hereafter. Even when choosing our professional fields, we can still seek divine reward and religious progression through the work we do, as long as we have well-grounded intentions and no immediate greed for worldly success alone. We should keep pure intentions, such as to gain a pure halal livelihood and to benefit mankind with the work we do. These and many other approaches to work can render one entitled to divine reward in the hereafter and not just the worldly benefits available.

Among the career options Mufti Abdur-Rahman outlined and explained to the students were:

- **Imamat** - being a leader of congregational prayers and religious provisions for the community.
- **Maktab teacher/ Maktab principal** - organising/ teaching Quran & religious foundations for the younger generation.
- **Chaplaincy/ Pastoral leadership** - being a religious advisor/ imam of prayers for places such as prisons/hospitals.
- **Takhasus** - further studying to become an expert/ master in one field of the many fields in Islamic sciences, i.e. language, jurisprudence, exegesis, hadith, law, etc.
- **Teacher** - to teach books in an Islamic institute just as we were taught ourselves.

These professions were explained to the students in great detail, including information on job descriptions, demands, advantages, disadvantages and salary, among others.

It is evident from the students' interactions with the presenter and the subsequent discussions amongst the students and staff, that the course was a very valuable experience. The course raised awareness of many career options that students had not previously considered. It was very beneficial and something that, if maintained, would continue to help the students of Darul Uloom.

"The science of hadith is the noblest means of attaining closeness to the Lord of the Worlds."

- Imam Nawawi

