

OUR VOICES

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



PEACE BE WITH YOU

by Husain Ahmed Patel, 3rd Year Alim Class

Human interaction is an important facet of any society. In Islam, proper relationships are stressed at all phases of interaction and the common greeting holds a special place in Islamic manners. Too often, we take greetings for granted and attach minimal importance to them.

In the verse "And when you are greeted with a greeting, greet in return with what is better than it, or (at least) return it equally." (Qur'an, An-Nisa 4:86), Allah reminds the Muslims that offering greetings and the manner of the greeting are of utmost importance. Similarly, in a Hadith of Sahih Muslim, the Prophet stressed the importance of greetings: Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "By Him in Whose Hand is my life! You will not enter Jannah until you believe, and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I inform you of something which, if you do, you will love one another? Promote greetings amongst yourselves." [Muslim].

As we meet each other on the road, while waiting in lines, in classrooms, in the workplace or in social gatherings, warmly greeting each other goes a long way in creating compassion and awareness among one another.

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Ignorance leads to hatred; and greeting one another opens the door to learn about one another. It diffuses tension and fosters dialogue. A greeting of peace like "I wish you peace" or "May Allah's peace and mercy be with you" goes even a step further. In Islam, one of Allah's names is Peace. A greeting of peace is a prayer for Allah to send His peace upon each one of us.

So let us be those who revive a sunnah, by meeting everyone, whether we know them or not, with the beautiful greetings of Jannah.

OUR ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDAY

by Tamjid Ali, Year 11

Poverty hits 1 in every 10 households in the UK. Moreover knife crime, theft and drug dealing are all from the same root cause, poverty. More people die from starvation (as a result of poverty) than they die from cancer.

Although this is a global survey, it portrays the increasing rate and danger of poverty, as it affects more people than cancer, a terrifying disease. Data and common sense shows that we must act and try to end poverty, as poverty is impartial and is a threat to anyone.



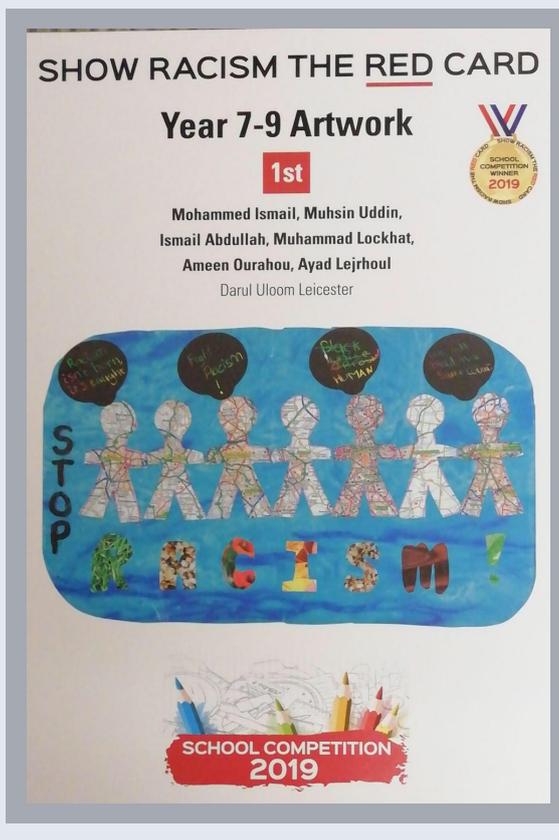
We at Darul Uloom Leicester, organised a charity fun day on Saturday the 12th of April 2019, to show our part in the fight against poverty. The charity fun day began at 10:30am and ended at 2:00pm. There were over a dozen stalls and many of which activity stalls so students both had fun and gave in charity. Amongst these were activities such as; basketball challenges, a crossbar challenge and kicky uppies, darts, table tennis, snooker and gym challenges. Alongside the activity stalls, there were a variety of delicious food stalls, such as a chocolate fountain, savouries, an ice cream van, desserts and sweet stalls and a BBQ.

All in all it was a splendid day for the students and there were many great prizes given out for the challenges. Alhamdulillah the funday surpassed our expected total and we raised £1,217. We aim to better our total in future student fun days and hope for a large total for the future public fun day, All to do our part in ending poverty.

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Allah does not look at your appearance or wealth but looks at your actions

Prophet Muhammad
صلى الله عليه وسلم



WINNING THE 'SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD' ART COMPETITION 2019

by Molana Zaheer Sidat, Head Teacher

Islam teaches that all people are equal and the only difference between people is their level of piety and god consciousness. In the Qur'an, it clearly states:

"Oh Mankind, We created you from a single pair of a male and a female, and made you into tribes and nations so that you may know one another (not so that you despise each other). Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is he who is most righteous of you."
[49:13]

Our differing colours and diversity is not there to cause division but as a method of recognising one another. Such traits do not elevate a person's status but rather our status is dependant on our actions.

We at the Darul Uloom wish to be advocates of these core Islamic values to the rest of our community and we intend to engage in these important conversations. Alhamdulillah, our students took part in a school art competition organised by the Show Racism the Red Card charity. On the 25th of April our Year 7 students: Mohammed Ismail, Muhsin Uddin, Ismail Abdullah, Muhammad Lockhat, Ameen Ourahou and Ayad Lerjhoul along with members of staff travelled to the Etihad Stadium in Manchester for the award ceremony.

Thanks to Allah's grace, the Darul Uloom students won the art competition with their poster on stamping out racism. The students received certificates and prizes in reward for their artistic success, and we at the Darul Uloom would like to congratulate and commend the students for their work and being true advocates of Islam's stance on racism.





VISITING KING RICHARD III

by Ilyas Ahmed, Year 9

On Monday 8th April, Darul Uloom Leicester gave an amazing opportunity to the Year 9 class to visit Leicester Cathedral to help them understand their religious studies even further.

The trip, starting at 9:30 AM, lasted for a whole 2 1/2 hours explaining the Christian beliefs, stories and memorable role-models within history. They were given a very informative tour around the whole building, and given information about it also; specifying why exactly that certain area/object is significant to them. One being the stained glass, which is significant to their faith because the glass enhances the beauty of their church and informs the public of the religion through narratives and symbols.

The main attraction at the cathedral is the tomb of King Richard III. He was killed in the Battle of Bosworth, in 1485 and his bones were lost. Until, in 2012, the bones were found underneath a car park in Leicester. The body was lifted and put into a tomb adorned by distinctive stones from around the world in 2015 and the King was laid to rest in Leicester Cathedral after much dispute with the city of York.

And at the end of the trip, the Year 9's were given a chance to ask any questions that they had and that concluded our trip to the Leicester Cathedral.



TRIP TO BAPS SHREE SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR

by Usaid Bhayat,
Year 7

On Tuesday 9th April 2019 the Year 7 pupils along with Molana Ismail Khan, Ustaadh Sa'dullah and Molana Qasim went on an educational trip to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir.

We went with the intention to learn about the Hindu faith and place of worship. Upon arrival we were met by a man who gave us an introduction to the temple and informed us of the heritage of the theme/background of the most delicate aspects within. We entered the small shrine where there were a couple of people praying towards a golden image.

The Year 7 pupils were deeply intrigued and asked many questions regarding their beliefs. We were told about what happened in the shrine and taken through a story of pictures along the wall. We were then taken to a large conference/prayer hall. We were taught that many people come here for education and parties more than 12 times a year. We viewed the many gurus on the stage and then went to the main shrine. When we entered, there were many people worshipping the statues of Hindu gods in the main hall.

We were then explained the daily routine of the mandir and then were quickly taken through the images and viewed the statues of Hindu gods before thanking our guide and leaving.

We learnt much about the Hindu faith and how to respect other religions..

SERVING THE LESS FORTUNATE

by Masum Islam, 5th Year Alim Class

My visit to the homeless shelter in Leicester town centre was an eye opening experience. This term the Darul Uloom planned a visit to a homeless shelter in Leicester with the students. The students who attended this trip were 16+ students. We went to the shelter with food and provisions for the day. The Darul Uloom prepared food at the school and then we went out with a teacher to distribute it.

When we arrived I was completely shocked when I saw the number of people living at the shelter. There were people of all races and ages. They were wearing old ragged clothes which were barely keeping them warm. At this moment I realised what a great blessing of Allah is that he has given us shelter and warm meals every day. People from all over the city turn up every day to donate different items. There was a clothing bank where the homeless could come and take some clothes to keep them warm, there was also a tinned food bank so the food could last them for a few days and there was also a fresh food bank where people were serving warm cooked meals.



I too had the opportunity to serve the food. As I was serving I noticed that every individual was so grateful and gave many thanks upon receiving the food because they knew the value of it. We take it for granted that we have a home and warm food. The visit was an amazing experience and I plan to go again sometime soon In Sha Allah.

A BEAUTIFUL EXPOSITION ON SELFLESSNESS

by Abdul Hamid, 6th Year Alim Class

If hatred is a darkness which lurks and lingers within the depths of the heart, then love is that light which eliminates it. Not only is love encouraged in Islam, but it also plays a pivotal role in a Muslim's faith.

However, care must be taken that it is not nurtured in the wrong way, leading to vice such as jealousy and enmity, rather that it is in accordance to the teachings of our beloved Prophet (ﷺ). From an Islamic perspective, the essence of love is to become selfless, a vessel which should be tipped over allowing the contents inside to spread far and wide.

This is expressed in the hadith of our beloved Prophet (ﷺ) in which he mentions, "No one can be a perfect believer until he loves for others that which he loves for himself" [Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim].





THE SCIENCE OF QIRA'AH

by Amaan Muhammad, 7th Year Alim Class

It is narrated by Abdullah ibn Abbas that Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "Jibreel recited the Qur'an to me in one way. Then I requested him (to read it in another way), and continued asking him to recite it in other ways, and he recited it in several ways till he ultimately recited it in seven different ways." [Sahih al-Bukhari]

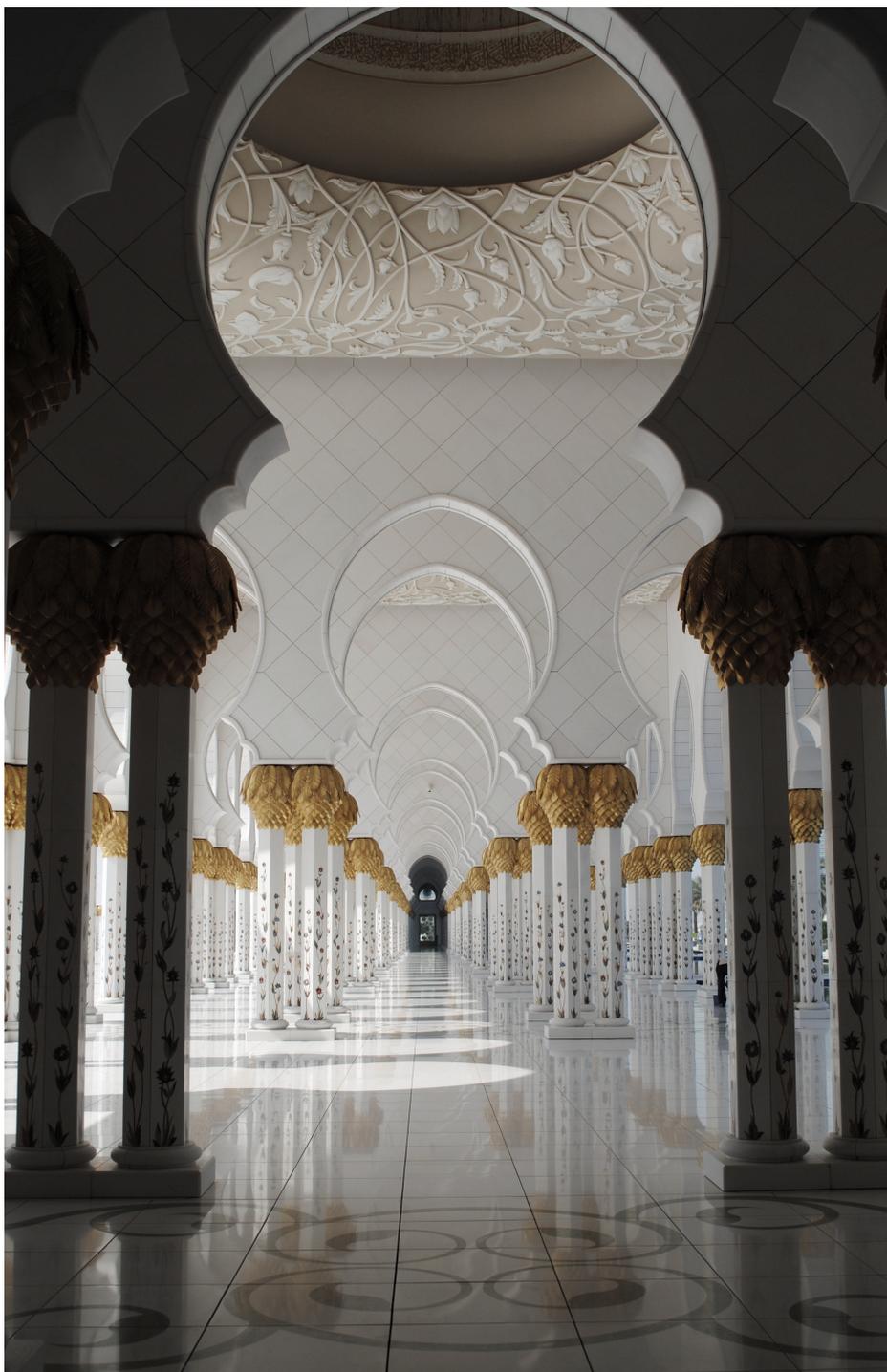
The Qur'an was revealed as a guide to mankind and with it Allah allowed leniency in certain aspects of its recitation. The hadith uses the word "harf" which I translated as "way", however the most authentic and agreed upon view is that harf refers to an area of leniency within the recitation of the Qur'an. This licence to recite differently may seem odd, but upon comparison with the English language it can be seen as great favour upon the believers from Allah. To draw a parable, let us assume that all English speakers had to adopt one single distinct accent e.g scouse, and were forced to read only in that accent, it would be extremely difficult for such a large group of such diverse accents to switch entirely to a single accent. Similarly amongst the arabs there were notable differences amongst tribal accents across the middle east and beyond when it came to reading arabic. And so, Allah allowed leniency in certain areas of recitation to accommodate the diverse range of muslims. However, only those areas were accommodated for where the meaning of the Qur'an did not change. These areas of leniency were adopted by the tribes and people for whom the leniency was revealed, as not one tribe required leniency in all areas, rather it was geographically spread across the middle east. These concessions and the method behind them was preserved by the companions of the Prophet and those after them and were then formulated into set methods of recitation known as riwaayaat. From these riwaayaat, seven (of no relation to the seven mentioned in the hadith) rose to prominence and were preserved by great scholars of the field of the recitation of the Qur'an (Qira'ah). These scholars passed down this knowledge through their students, from whom the chain of preservation continues until our generation today.

Alhamdulillah on March the 23rd the Darul Uloom had the honour of welcoming Qari Muhammad Siddiq, an internationally recognised and leading figure in the field of Qira'ah, as a guest speaker for the graduation ceremony of the students of the Qira'ah course. Qari Siddiq is also the esteemed teacher of the Darul Uloom's own teacher of Qira'ah, Qari Khalil Aswat. Alhamdulillah the students, including myself, completed the recitation of the last and beginning portions of the Qur'an, in the presence of both Qari Khalil and his teacher Qari Siddiq, to complete the four year course. However, as for all sciences, the study of this science is far from over due to the completion of the course, rather it has only just begun. I pray that Allah enables all the graduating students to use their knowledge for the servitude of his faith. Ameen.

STUDYING THE TRANSLATION OF THE QURAN

by Shoaib Ghorri, 5th Year Alim Class

During the 5th year in our Islamic Theology course, we have studied a various number of subjects. One of these subjects is the Quran translation, taught to us by our respected and honourable teacher, Molana Anwar Narma sahib. Throughout this year, we have learnt many things and benefited greatly from Molana Anwar, may Allah



increase him in his knowledge and teaching.

One of the things we have learnt which struck us all deeply was a point that was mentioned under the first two verses of Surah Al-Mu'minun (The Believers), in which Allah begins listing the qualities of the believers. The translation of these two verses are: "Successful indeed are the believers, who are humble in their prayers." [23:1-2]

The point which Molana Anwar mentioned under this verse was that according to some great scholars, such as Imam Qurtubi and Imam Ghazali, having concentration and devotion in salah is a condition for our salah to even be valid and correct in the court of Allah. If this is truly the case, then it is very possible that many of our salah which we have prayed over the past many years were invalid, and only a few were correct. May Allah forgive us.

However, Molana Ashraf Ali Thanwi (RA) has adopted a moderate opinion and has said that concentration and devotion is not a condition for the validity of salah, but it is a condition for the salah to be accepted in the court of Allah. So, if someone prays salah without concentration, then his salah will be fulfilled but he will be deprived of the full reward. So as Muslims, we should try our utmost best to reach perfection in our worship, especially in our salah. May Allah give us the ability to offer our prayers with concentration and devotion. Ameen.

UPDATES ON THE CURRICULUM

HISTORY

by Hammad Patel, Year 9

As part of year 9 history we have been studying a book called Early Elizabethan England. This book is part of our GCSE content. Last term we learnt about the religious settlement and how Queen Elizabeth I faced the problems caused by this. This term we have been learning about how she faced and coped with problems, home and abroad.

At the start of this term, we learnt how Elizabeth I coped with religious and political problems during her reign. We also learnt about various plots against the Queen which came about due to Mary, Queen of Scots, coming to England, after being dethroned in Scotland. This was significant because it gave foreign and domestic powers a reason to fight for the English throne. We also learnt how this caused four plots against Elizabeth: The Northern Rebellion, 1569, The Ridolfi Plot, 1571, The Throckmorton Plot, 1583 and The Babington Plot, 1586. We also learnt how the decisions Elizabeth made in the Netherlands affected King Philip II of Spain's decisions regarding England.

During the past week, we learnt about the political and religious rivalry between Spain and England. By the 1580s, the relationship between the two countries had deteriorated to the brink of war. There were many reasons for this, such as that Philip II, backed by the Pope, saw Protestantism as a threat to the Catholic Church. Moreover, Elizabeth also recruited Francis Drake to be a privateer and to raid Spanish settlements and ships. This damaged the Spanish economy and left Philip II bankrupt which led to the Spanish Fury and the Pacification of Ghent. All of these events later led to the attack of the Spanish Armada in 1588.



**"Study the past if you would define the future."
- Confucius**

In the future lessons, we will be learning about how the Spanish Armada influenced the way England was viewed by other countries. We will learn how Elizabeth's relationship affected the feuds between the two countries, what the result was and how it affected Elizabeth going forward.

Spanish Armada



SCIENCE

by Samiul Hasan, Year 7a

This term we have been doing chemistry in science. We have learned about Atoms, Elements and Compounds. We have started off with Atoms. Our teacher has explained to us that Atoms make up all matter, and that there are about a hundred naturally occurring types of atoms. He explained to us that atoms are far too small to be seen but he said we can use a model to help us explain how they behave. Models are simplified versions of reality to help us understand the world around us better and to make accurate predictions.

Atoms are very small- 0.000000001 to 0.000000005m in diameter.

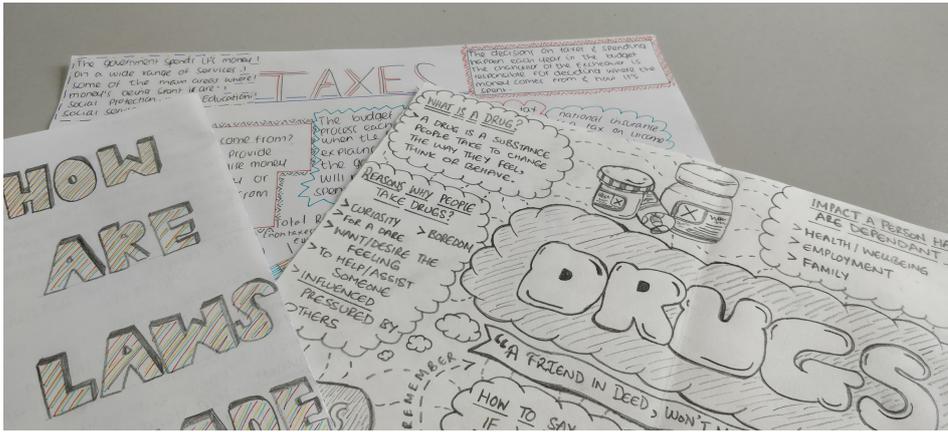
An Aluminium can ring pull, has more aluminium atoms than there are grains of sand on all the beaches in the UK.

Furthermore, our teacher explained what an element is, 'Elements are substances that contain only one type of atom. e.g. copper only contains copper atoms.' He told us that properties of each element are different. We then discussed the elements that are listed in the Periodic table. They are mostly solids, some gasses and two liquids. And every element is given a symbol.

We have also discussed metals, non-metals and the properties they have. We have learnt that not all metals have the same properties; mercury and sodium are exceptions. We also found out what metalloids were. Our teacher also told us that a compound was 'a substance made up of atoms of different elements chemically bonded together.' We later studied what water (H₂O) contains.

Our teacher draws diagrams and pictures and explains very nicely which has helped us throughout the term to understand this topic. I think I quite like science and it is getting better everyday.





TAXES & LAW

by Abdul Majid,
Year 10

This term we (Year 10) have been learning about how laws are made and taxation. As a class we learnt that a tax is a mandatory financial charge or some other type of levy imposed upon a taxpayer by a governmental organisation in order to fund various public expenditures and that most countries have a tax system in place to pay for public. We also learnt many different forms of taxes and reasons why tax should be given. Some of the types of taxes were: income tax, sales tax, property tax, and estate tax.

After we finished learning about taxes we learnt about how laws are made and the several steps of making a law. There are several steps before a law is made and displayed to the public. These are the steps in the lawmaking process: A bill may begin in either the House or the Senate except for money bills, which must be introduced in the House. 1. Bill is Drafted: Members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and even outside groups can draft (write or draw up) bills. Then if it has passed the first few stages then it will be printed on something called the 'Green papers' Green Papers are consultation documents produced by the Government. The aim of this document is to allow people both inside and outside Parliament to give the department feedback on its policy or legislative proposals.

These lessons have helped us understand the tax and law system of our country better.

PSHCEE

by Zaid Sajid Mehta, Year 7a

In PSHCEE we have been learning about drugs. We've learnt that the international definition of drugs is: "A substance people take to change the way people feel think or behave." Drugs can come in different forms, such as powder or liquid. Some of the effects that drugs can have on a person include: acting crazy, not feeling tired and becoming violent. I have understood that in the definition above (the international definition) it mentions that it changes the way a person feels or behaves, so this does include medicine. Some medicines are also a type of drug, and although they heal you they can also harm you if you take to much of them.

We have also studied the three different classes of drugs: class A, B and C, as well as which drugs are legal. We have also been taught the different punishments depending on how dangerous the drug is. Class A is the most harmful so the punishment is more severe for buying or selling class A drugs.

We looked at the different areas where certain drugs are legal but others are not e.g. cannabis is illegal in the UK but in some states in America cannabis is legal. Despite being legal, we learnt the harms of certain legal drugs e.g. nicotine is an addictive drug which is used in cigarettes, so people can't stop smoking. Legal drugs are used as medicine or as ingredients in medicine which can be prescribed by a doctor when ill. Some legal drugs are also sold over the counter such as paracetamol etc. The lessons showed us the importance of dosage and that all drugs can harm you, depending on how much you take.



ESSENCE OF RAMADAN

by Huzaifa Bodhaniya, 3rd Year Alim Class

The holy month of Ramadan has once again, Alhamdulillah, come upon us. We thank Allah SWT for giving us the opportunity to reach this blessed month and gain the vast rewards that are bestowed within it.

Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam and due to this, it's obligatory on every Muslim. The reward of a fast in Ramadan is immense, so much so that it has been narrated that if a person without a legitimate reason were to omit a fast, he would not be able to compensate for that single fast if he were to fast for the rest of his life. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is reported to have said:

"(Allah said), 'Every good deed of Adam's son is for him except fasting; it is for Me. and I shall reward (the fasting person) for it.' Verily, the smell of the mouth of a fasting person is better to Allah than the smell of musk."

[Sahih al-Bukhari]

However, Ramadhan isn't just solely about fasting, this is the month in which the Qur'an was first revealed to our Prophet (ﷺ), Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

"The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Quran, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and between right and wrong" [2:185]

For this reason, it is only befitting that we should aim to read as much Qur'an as we possibly can in this month and encourage others to do the same, Insha'Allah.

Ramadhan is very special indeed, but even more distinctively remarkable is one of the nights that resides in its last ten days, Laylatul Qadr, otherwise known as The Night of Power. It is recommended that we do extra worship on this night for it's reward is unparalleled. Allah SWT in His Glorious Book says:

"The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn."

[97:2-5]

It is reported that Allah has divided Ramadhan into 3 segments, from which the first ten days are the 'Days of Mercy' in which Allah's mercy showers in abundance. The second ten are the 'Days of Forgiveness', it is in these days that Allah's forgiveness is at its peak. And thirdly, the last ten days are the 'Days of Seeking Refuge', in these days we should beg Allah SWT for safety from the Fire of Jahannam.

So we ask Allah SWT that he allows us to make the most out of this month and to utilise our time correctly and efficiently in His worship. Ameen.

