

Faith school leaps to an Ofsted good

A LOCAL faith school that just two years ago was deemed to be inadequate by Ofsted has now been graded as a good school. Cambridge Street School in Batley received the good news following an Ofsted inspection in November, which praised the appointment of Suleman Collector as the school's headteacher.

Ofsted inspectors said, "Since his appointment in September 2017, the headteacher has acted promptly, thoughtfully and proactively to improve the quality of teaching, learning and pupils' outcomes and to ensure that all the independent school standards are met. As a result, key areas of the school have improved with sufficient rapidity and leaders are in a strong place to further improve the performance of the school."

Commenting on the inspection, Mr Collector said, "We are delighted with Ofsted's findings, which recognise the high standard of work being achieved at the school.



I am pleased that the dedication of our staff and the support of our parents have been recognised. However, we don't see this as the end

to be an outstanding school and continue to nurture our students to be upright citizens who will give back to the community."

of our improvement journey, but a step towards our aim

The school was started in 2015 to cater for the needs of the Muslim boys in the local community who want a good quality secular education

alongside an Islamic education. It now has 35 students and is going from strength to strength.

In the report, inspectors commented on the Pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural skills development as 'excellent' and acknowledged pupils display high levels of respect and tolerance.

Ofsted praised the way the school is bringing a balance between the Islamic Studies as well as the national curriculum, paving the way to bring about the school ethos of equipping the students with a balanced school experience.

The report said that the school "have implemented a curriculum that is broad and provides pupils with a balance between national curriculum subjects and Islamic studies. As a result, pupils are developing a wide range of knowledge, skills and experiences."

Mr Collector added, "We continue to safeguard the Imaan of our youngsters during this time and hope to continue giving the very best education to our students and aspire them to become pioneers of our community."

School event celebrates 'faith in our community'

AN ANNUAL school event that began when Eid and Christmas fell in December is now celebrating its thirteenth year and proving to be as popular as ever. Batley Girls High School held the annual East Meets West event last month at the school with the theme this year being 'Faith in our Community'.

The school and wider community joined together to celebrate their commitment to one another and to reflect on their shared values of peace, love, hope and charity.

The school said it has a deep respect for people of all faiths and beliefs who hold these values

at their core. "As we approach the Christmas break, Batley Girls' always like to take this opportunity to share the importance of these values, which are central to all the major faiths," said the school.

BGHS said over the past term, Year 7 students have been exploring the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the theme 'Faith in Our Community'. They were creative in how they had chosen to communicate their ideas and understanding of faith in our community, all of which culminated in a display.

Visitors were wowed by the creativity and compassion of

the students and the school said they couldn't be prouder of their students' efforts.

BGHS said, "Ahead of the event, there were a number of stalls

Moonlight Trust, and Rev Mark Umpleby and Molana Irfan Soni, who spoke about the importance of interfaith communities."

Afterwards, guests feasted on onion bhajis, curry and biryani and finished off the evening with mince pies and yule log.

A spokesperson for the school said, "Batley Girls' High School are always so humbled by the response to East Meets West and want to thank everyone for such a thought-provoking and enriching evening."

in the lower dining hall which demonstrated the charitable nature—and talent! - of the students and staff.

"East Meets West saw some truly inspiring guest speakers in Noushin Raja, from The

