

## More Than Just a School A speech by Dawud Choudhury (Year 10), delivered at the End of Year school Jalsa

"Assalamualykum w.w, today I will be speaking about spiritual achievements. Now, as the year progressively comes to an end, I stand here with gratitude to Allah (SWT) and with honour in being part of something special.

During the Ramadan holidays, Alhamdulillah, we raised over £30,000. This wasn't only fundraising, but also a reflection of unity and concern for the Ummah, showing that every penny given for the sake of Allah (SWT) contains barakah.

The bond with the Ummah grew stronger as students and staff went for Umrah, and some even had the chance to perform Hajj. These weren't just trips, but life-changing journeys helping us remember our purpose and the path we strive to follow.

We also witnessed five students completing their Hifz. One of our Huffaz went on to recite the entire Qur'an from memory within 24 hours. Another student travelled to Portugal to for a Qur'an competition. These aren't just personal achievements — they show that the Qur'an is alive in the hearts of our students.

We also had Ulama from around the globe visiting and sharing their wisdom and advice. Some of our teachers also went out in the path of Allah (SWT), helping bring others closer to Deen. So what does this mean? It means that CSS is more than just a school confined within walls. It means we are not just pupils, but future Imams and carriers of the Qur'an, leaving a lasting mark for this school.

As I come to the end of my speech, I would like to thank all the teachers for their efforts, the parents for their sacrifices, and Allah (SWT) for choosing us. Jazakallahu khayr for listening. May Allah accept all our efforts and make CSS a beacon of guidance. Ameen."

### In the Light of the Qur'an: A Competition to Remember

Our internal Qur'an Competition was a truly uplifting and memorable event, filled with an atmosphere of excitement, reverence, and healthy competition. Each participating student was asked two questions, and the standard of recitation was truly impressive — clear, melodious, and heartfelt. The event was a celebration of our students' hard work, dedication, and love for the Qur'an.

We are incredibly proud of every student who took part; their courage and effort were commendable. All participants were rewarded with a small prize as a token of appreciation, while the top performers received special awards. Our panel of judges, with their keen attention to tajweed and fluency, ensured a fair and inspiring competition. It was two days that reminded us of the beauty of the Qur'an and the blessings of striving to perfect its recitation.









#### In the Saddle

As part of our Sunnah Sports programme, students have been taking part in weekly horse riding sessions a much-loved Sunnah activity that combines physical skill with spiritual connection.

These sessions not only offer students the chance to learn how to ride but also to care for and groom the horses, deepening their understanding and respect for these noble animals. It has been a rewarding experience that builds confidence, patience, and a strong sense of responsibility, all while reviving a cherished Prophetic tradition.





#### Making Waves

As part of our ongoing Sunnah Sports programme, students have been enjoying weekly swimming sessions a vital life skill and a Sunnah of the Prophet . These sessions offer an excellent opportunity for students to develop their strength, coordination, and confidence in the water, all in a safe and structured environment. Beyond the physical benefits, swimming helps promote discipline, resilience, and overall well-being, while also connecting students to a timeless tradition rooted in our faith.

#### Unleashing the Spirit of Sport

From the first whistle to the final cheer, the Inter-School Sports Festival in Manchester was nothing short of energy and enthusiasm. With seven Islamic boys' schools from across the country coming together, the atmosphere was charged with friendly rivalry and unity.

The day featured a thrilling mix of activities – from rugby and golf to archery, gymnastics, tennis, and a fiercely contested 7-a-side football tournament. Our team's dedication and drive saw them storm through to the finals, leaving a lasting impression on all. It was a day packed with action, teamwork, and unforgettable memories.

#### **Powered by Generosity**

Alhamdulillah, with the help of Allah hand the incredible generosity of our parents, students, and community, our in school Ramadan fundraiser was a resounding success raising over £33,000 for our school!

SubḥānAllāh!

Each class took part in a friendly competition to raise the most funds, with top fundraisers within each class winning exciting prizes including electric scooters and clothing vouchers. We also awarded grand prizes for the top fundraisers across the entire school a brand-new PS5 for first place and an Apple iPad for second.

In recognition of their amazing efforts, all students who raised £100 or more were treated to a fun bowling session. May Allah reward everyone involved and allow the funds to bring continued benefit to our school and students ameen.









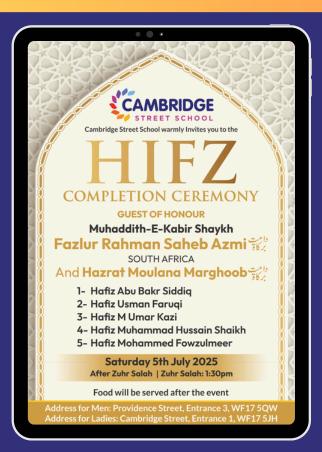


#### **A Journey Complete**

We were honoured to host a truly heartwarming and spiritually uplifting Hifz Jalsa, celebrating the remarkable achievement of five of our students who have completed the memorisation of the entire Qur'an.

The event was filled with emotion and gratitude, as each graduate recited beautifully, inspiring both peers and parents alike. The atmosphere was one of joy and reflection, with heartfelt speeches, du'ā', and a strong reminder of the immense virtue of preserving the words of Allah.

We had the honour of welcoming our esteemed chief guest, Muhaddith-e-Kabīr Shaykhul-Ḥadīth Mawlānā Fazlur Rahmān Azmi Sāḥib, as well as Ḥaḍrat Mawlānā Margūb Sāḥib, both of whom delivered deeply inspiring talks that touched the hearts of all in attendance.



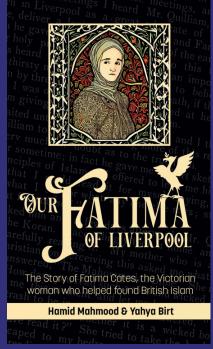
#### Bridging Faith and History with Yahya Birt

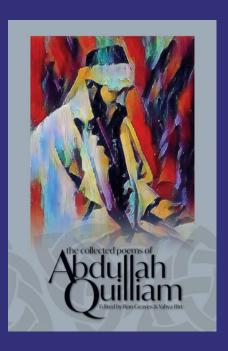
This year, we were pleased to welcome the renowned historian Yahya Birt for a presentation and workshop with our Year 9 students. As a graduate of the University of Oxford, this distinguished academic shared his experiences of studying history at one of the world's leading universities.

Through his engaging talk on the history of white English Victorian reverts to Islam, Yahya Birt helped our pupils gain a deeper appreciation for the relevance and value of their history studies. As teachers, we were proud of the thoughtful and insightful questions posed by the students.

We were also delighted to see many of the boys choose to purchase Yahya Birt's books, including The Life of Fatima Elizabeth Cates and Poems of Abdullah William Quilliam.







#### Dr Szydlo's Lab of Wonders.

Our students had the incredible opportunity to attend a joint science workshop with Madni School Dewsbury, led by the renowned chemist and educator, Dr Andrew Szydlo. Known for his dynamic and captivating presentations, Dr Szydlo brought chemistry to life through a thrilling display of live experiments that amazed and inspired everyone in the room.

From colour-changing "magic water" and explosive fire demonstrations to jaw-dropping liquid nitrogen experiments, the workshop was packed with excitement. Students watched in awe as substances froze, shattered, disappeared, and combusted before their eyes. The grand finale a hydrogen balloon explosion left everyone speechless.



#### Beyond the Books

We were delighted to welcome the Medology team to our school for their Education Beyond the Curriculum workshop. The session provided students with a fresh and engaging perspective on the world of medicine, careers, and self-development — going far beyond what is taught in the classroom.

It was an inspiring experience that both students and staff thoroughly enjoyed. The workshop sparked meaningful discussions, encouraged ambition, and opened students' eyes to new possibilities for their futures. A heartfelt thank you to Medology for delivering such a powerful and thought-provoking session!



Our students recently enjoyed a captivating educational visit to Cartwright Hall, where they explored the rich artistic heritage of Islamic civilisation.

A true highlight was the rare opportunity to view fragments of one of the oldest Qur'anic manuscripts in the world – an experience that left a lasting impression.

Through an engaging workshop, pupils discovered the intricate beauty of calligraphy within historical Qur'anic texts and deepened their understanding by studying both Urdu and Chinese Muslim calligraphy.

The visit concluded with a hands-on calligraphy session, where students were able to express their creativity while connecting with this timeless tradition.

# Inked in History: A Journey Through Qur'anic Calligraphy



#### Stop, Look, Listen: Road Safety in Action

Our year 7 students recently took part in an engaging and educational road safety theatre workshop designed to raise awareness about the importance of staying safe on the roads.

Through interactive performances, role-play, and real-life scenarios, students learned essential safety rules, including how to cross roads safely, the dangers of distractions, and the importance of visibility.

The workshop was both informative and enjoyable, helping to reinforce vital life skills in a fun and memorable way.





#### Strikes and Smiles

To celebrate both excellent behaviour and outstanding fundraising efforts, 61 of our students were treated to an exciting bowling trip — and what a fantastic day it was!

The trip brought together students who had maintained a spotless behaviour record throughout the year, alongside those who raised £100 or more during our Ramadan fundraiser.

It was a well-deserved reward, filled with laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of strikes! We're incredibly proud of their efforts and hope it continues to inspire others to aim high both in conduct and contribution.







