

# SAPIENCE CHRONICLES

Sapience Girls Academy

319 Waterloo Street, Oldham, OL4 1ER

Tel: 0161 6528563

Email: admin@sgacademy.org.uk



## IN THIS EDITION

### Latest news-Ofsted

#### Visitors

Mr. Mutlu Sanciklar

Mrs. Havva Simsek

Josee Kana Bizimana

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Peoples History Museum

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Bouncenation

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## HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Assalamu Alaykum Warahmatullah,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all readers to the first edition of the Sapience Chronicles. Alhamdulillah, we have completed our first term as Sapience Girls Academy. We would like to extend our gratitude to our fantastic teachers and wonderful students for their hard work, perseverance and patience.



Our Senior Leadership Team and staff body have worked collaboratively to deliver our ambitious plans and systems in the school to further elevate the standards of teaching and learning to promote positive attitudes and behaviour. This term we passed our registration inspection with Ofsted, Alhamdulillah. We also focused on successfully embedding new systems and procedures, including a broad and rich whole-school curriculum. This includes the addition of history and art to our GCSE curriculum, and enrichment to our KS3 curriculum. This term we celebrated Mental Health Week, Careers Week, and Black History Month. Pupils engaged in a variety of immersive learning experiences this term to advance their understanding of subjects, and engage with our rich SMSC and whole school enrichment curriculum.

We welcomed distinguished visitors and respected experts in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Literature. Our guests delivered insightful and motivational assemblies for our students to broaden their horizons. Our careers fayre and careers week further provided our students with an opportunity to explore a plethora of career options. Following an eventful and exciting start to the academic year, we hope to provide further enriched learning opportunities in term two as we continue to cultivate a rich and dynamic learning environment.

Kindest regards,

*Ms Kaiser*

EXECUTIVE  
HEADTEACHER

*Ms Naaz*

HEADTEACHER

# LATEST NEWS

## We were visited by Ofsted...



As you are aware, we were eagerly waiting for Ofsted to complete our registration inspection to officially transition to Sapience Girls Academy. This was a monumental step with regards to the changes that we have implemented, and supports our trajectory and vision for the school. Alhamdulillah we can now share that we have successfully passed our registration inspection. The inspection further cemented the success of our changes, each department was highly praised and commended in the inspection feedback. We would like to thank our Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff for their hard work and endeavours, who Ofsted recognised as 'role models' for all pupils. We would also like to thank our students who impressed Ofsted with their 'confidence and passion for the school'. Finally, we would like to extend our appreciation for all parents and their consistent cooperation and support. May Allah SWT grant Sapience Girls Academy endless success and make it a beacon of educational excellence, Ameen.

In her report published last month, Ms Darley had high praise for the curriculum which is "informed by the school's Islamic ethos" and offers a broad range of core and additional subjects.

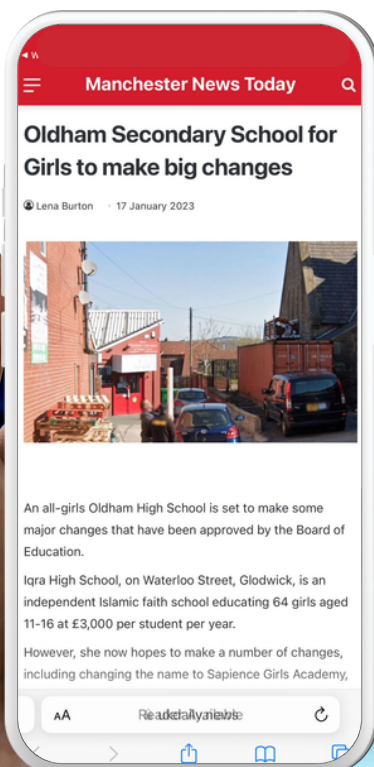
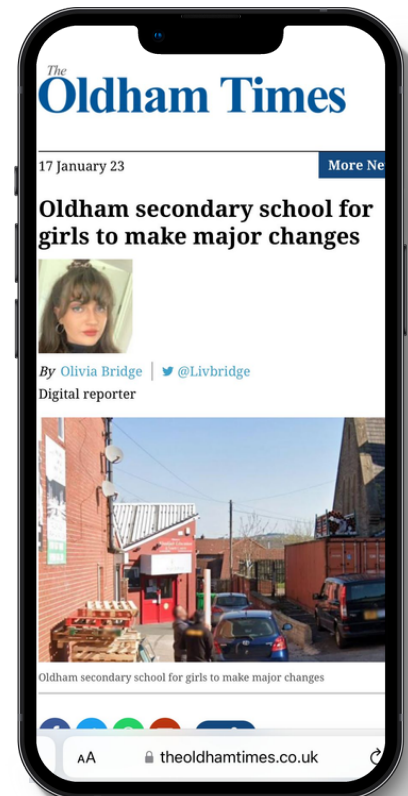
Ofsted further found a new special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) team has been established which the inspector wrote is evidently a "priority" for leaders, teachers and the school as a whole.

Poor behaviour and bullying at Iqra were also found to be "extremely rare" while the pupil's attendance and punctuality is high.

Meanwhile, others described the environment as having an "inclusive culture" where they "feel safe".

Students spoke "enthusiastically" to the inspector about their work in lessons and about the school council.

She also found pupils enjoy lessons where teachers think "creatively about how they can help pupils to understand British values through the lens of local, national and international history" such as by learning about the Oldham riots and about the abolition of apartheid in South Africa.



The pre-inspection for Sapience Girls Academy likewise looks promising as Ofsted found a number of changes had taken place to the school in the last 12 months, including its leadership and developing trustee board.

In her final verdict, Ms Darly said the academy is "likely" to meet its statutory requirements of the Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2014.

When it came to the physical premises, Ofsted found the school to be a "pleasant place to learn" as classrooms are well-maintained with natural light and plenty of space.



# CAREERS

## A Day with a Refugee...

By Elizah Rafiq

In order to celebrate Careers Week and Black History Month, the English department organised an engaging workshop with Josee Kana Bizimana, author of 'The survivor champion'. This book is an inspirational and moving story illustrating the trials and turbulent journey of a refugee child, fleeing from war and struggle. The workshop was delivered in an engaging and interactive manner, and provided us with a unique opportunity to learn life lessons which we will carry with us and utilise.

For example, we learned the importance of gratefulness and the value of understanding people, no matter their race, gender, ethnicity, everyone has a story of their own. Josee's story told us about her life experiences as a refugee child.

Josee's story does not only demonstrate the strength of women. Josee is an incredibly strong woman who went through many hardships alone on her journey from Rwanda to the UK. Despite this, she had the courage to write her story to share with the world.

After she shared her life changing story, we took part in a reflective workshop where we shared our thoughts about her story and reflected upon how refugees from different countries share their stories and their struggles. We wrote letters to refugees sharing supportive words. We were also honoured to be the first school to receive signed copies of Josee's new book. We are very privileged that we were able to access an established author and hear incredible stories with inspirational messages. The session left us all feeling grateful and thankful for all that we have, it allowed us to acknowledge the difficult times people are facing and to say Alhamdulillah for everything.



## Move Towards Medicine

By Madeeha Habib



University Hospitals  
Birmingham  
NHS Foundation Trust



**GUEST  
SPEAKER**

**DR.HAVVA SIMSEK**  
Consultant Paediatrician

This term we were honoured to host Dr Havva Simsek. Dr. Havva is a paediatrician consultant from Birmingham University Hospital. Dr.Havva shared her story of education, medicine and career pursuits to become a consultant.

Dr.Havva's assembly was incredibly motivational and inspiring, and encouraged those of us who intend to pursue careers in science, medicine or dentistry. Dr.Havva explained the importance of pursuing passion, working for the sake of Allah and considering the importance of barakah and Ibadah whilst working. Dr.Havva beautifully described how working with pure intentions, for the sake of Allah SWT turns your acts into Ibadah. She also explained the importance of individual duty, she shared that she feels Allah SWT has granted her an important opportunity and that is to serve the creation of Allah, hence we should all reflect upon our personal duties. As Allah SWT revealed in the Holy Quran *"Allah likes a worker to be perfect in his work"*.

The assembly left pupils feeling motivated, encouraged and inspired.

## Exploring Engineering

By Arij Shakir



**GUEST  
SPEAKER**

**MR.MUTLU**  
Software Engineer

Mr Mutlu Sancaktutar is a successful software engineer based in London. Mr.Mutlu possesses multiple degrees and is highly qualified in his field of engineering. Mr.Mutlu has worked with many local and international companies. He has expansive experience working with Turkish and British governments in Defence, Retail, R&D, Banking and Education sectors. He currently works as a Software Engineer, Technical/Management Consultant, Project and Programme Manager. Mr.Mutlu also provides volunteer technical trainings, thematic seminars and career consultancy services for over 20 years.

We were incredibly honoured to receive Mr.Mutlu as a guest, he shared his knowledge, expertise and insight into the field of the technology and engineering. He encouraged us and highlighted the importance of our role as young Muslim women to pursue careers , to be ambitious and to have big goals for ourselves. Particularly, if we want to follow and emulate the examples of the greatest women in Islam such as Sayyidina Khadijah RA, and Aisha RA and Fatima Al Fihri who possessed knowledge of both the Deen and Dunya.







## Church Visit Teaches KS3 About World Religions

By Humaira Rauf (Year 8)

Key Stage 3's recent trip to Oldham Bethel Church was organised as part of the school's Religious Studies, History and SMSC curriculum. The trip is also part of our enrichment curriculum which aims to provide opportunities for integration into the wider community.

The trip was very insightful and interesting. The first session was spent with Pastor Steve, he delivered an engaging presentation about Christian worship, the history of Christianity, the different denominations and the history between the various churches. For example, the Anglican, Methodist, Catholic church and Church of England. Later on we had a Question and Answers session, and were able to see how a baptism takes place.

Our second session was lead by Mrs.Campbell and Mrs.Ashraf, they delivered various activities which we completed in focus groups. We enjoyed playing various games, such as snap and memory games with cards which had symbols of Christianity. We also discussed quotes and excerpts from the Bible in light of modern times. At the end of the trip, we were given books about Christianity and an 'All your questions answered' book to help us with our RE studies.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time spent in Bethel Church and look forward to collaborating with them with in the future for further community projects.





# History Heroics

By Ruqqiyah Yasir and Mahnoor Asghar

This term we visited the People's History Museum which was part of our History, PSHCE and SMSC curriculum. The trip was incredibly fun, memorable, eventful and educational. We were welcomed by the team and received an engaging introductory session. We then visited Gallery One and Two in separate teams to complete our learning tasks and activities. There were various fun and engaging activities that we were all eager to play and get involved with. We also joined a treasure hunt within the gallery. There were many props and sets which provided immersive learning experiences. We thoroughly enjoyed our experience as we learned about the political and social changes in England.





# Manchester Cathedral Visit

By Maariya Khan

As part of the Religious Studies curriculum, we visited the Manchester Cathedral in Piccadilly Gardens. The experience was very interesting and educational. We received an introductory presentation, and we were able to ask questions and appreciate the historical architecture. We then collaborated with Amnesty International to produce postcards and letters for refugees. Our cards will be posted, and our messages of hope, positivity and our best wishes will be received.



# Getting our Skates on

By Aisha Lawal

We visited Skate Manchester this term to enjoy our enrichment curriculum. Skating was a fantastic experience, although the majority of us were inexperienced, and had multiple slips and trips, it was all part of the fun. We enjoyed our experience thoroughly and made many fond memories with our friends and teachers. We will always remember this trip!





## Bounce Nation

By Arij Shakir

We ended Term 1 with another fun and extremely enjoyable trip to Bounce Nation. We spent our Friday morning trampolining, enjoying various obstacles, and activities. We also enjoyed sweet treats in the adjacent café, which were well deserved after our activities.

Trampolining and having fun with your friends is a great stress reliever and physical exercise also improves mood, and mental health. This was a great way to end the term, and felt very rewarding following our assessment week and a term of hard work and learning.



## Looking to the future...

By Maymunah Shafiq

It's that time of year again when Year 11 pupils return to school as mature students as they transition from Year 10 to Year 11. We are now seriously thinking about our GCSEs, careers options and future pathways. In order to support the significant changes and pivotal time period, a Careers Fayre was arranged by the careers coordinators where local colleges were invited to speak to KS4 students and parents. This gave us an opportunity to talk about our next steps and was very insightful by helping us to understand the different pathways and many options we can explore following our GCSEs. The guest speakers also spoke about what they have to offer in their colleges and they provided pamphlets, prospectuses and booklets which covered all their courses. The Careers Fayre was reassuring and very helpful, especially for Year 11 students as it allowed us to find clarity, clear any confusions, and make action plans for our progression to college and higher education.





# Eco Warriors

By Aqsa Mahmood and  
Zoya Kabir



**"And do not waste, for Allah does not love the wasteful." (Qur'an 6:14)**

The eco council discusses eco-friendly ways to deal with environmental issues within the school to prepare our students to live their future lives with consideration for global issues. The aim of the eco council is to help the school develop into an environmentally friendly place by saving electricity within the school, turning off the computers and other switches in the school when not in use and making sure that there is nothing taking up extra electricity. We have individual responsibility to do so as it will have a positive impact on the school as well as the environment.

The eco council has been highly effective in aiding the school towards the successful reduction of carbon footprint as well as reducing waste, reusing and recycling. We are not just fulfilling our positions as humans on this earth, but we are also fulfilling the true meaning of being a Muslim, as well by abiding by the Quran. We are told in the Qur'an not to waste as many poor people do not have access to half of the things we eat, drink or even wear.

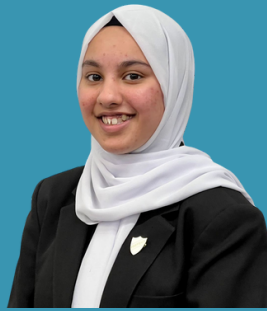
During recycling week at Sapience Girls Academy, students were taught the consequences of not recycling, the waste that is produced and that they should recycle to keep our world clean. Members of Eco Council also organised a teacher's competition based on recycling. Ms Iqbal was the winner of this competition. Everyone enjoyed the competition as it was interactive, engaging and an immersive experience for both staff and students.



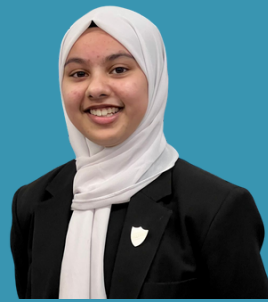


# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

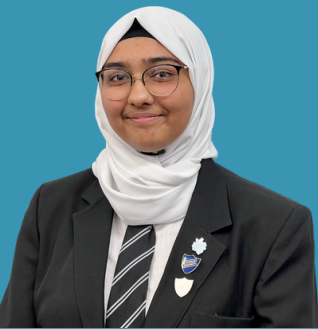
Meet our Prefects



**Khadijah Hussain**  
**Headgirl**



**Nazeera Hussain**  
**Deputy Headgirl**



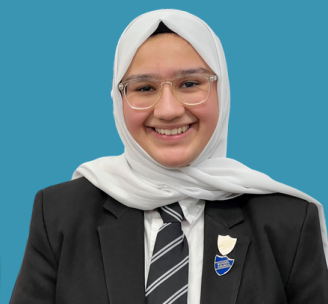
**Eliza Rafiq**  
**Senior Prefect**



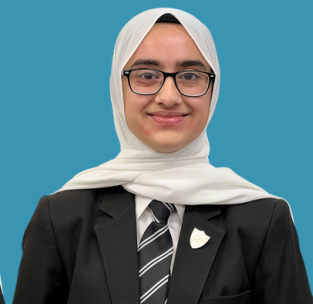
**Amina Rauf**  
**Senior Prefect**



**Amanah Mahmood**  
**Senior Prefect**



**Arij Shakir**  
**Junior Prefect**



**Uswa Ahmed**  
**Junior Prefect**

## Meet your School Council



**Eliza Rafiq**  
**Chair**



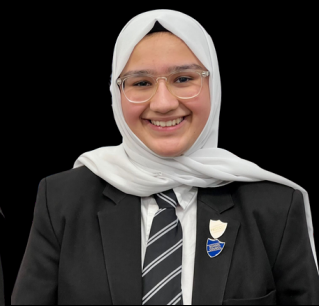
**Maymunah Shafiq**  
**Vice Chair**



**Aisha Lawal**  
**Secretary**



**Maariya Khan**  
**Secretary**



**Arij Shakir**  
**Year 10**



**Humaira Rauf**  
**Year 8**



**Mahnoor Asghar**  
**Year 8**



**Zoya Kabir**  
**Year 7**



**Ruqayya Yasir**  
**Year 7**



**Madeeha Habib**  
**Year 10**



# Head Girl's Words of Wisdom

By Khadija Hussain

Studying at SGA has allowed me to refine many traits, overcome, and build on some of my stronger skills. As we shall be the women of the future, SGA has always pushed its pupils to be the best versions of themselves. The extracurricular activities offered at the school give all students the opportunity to develop valuable life skills while also having fun. In addition to teaching students valuable life skills, the school also promotes female independence. During my time as a student at the school, I learned many valuable skills. The finest part of the school has always been the assistance the students provide for one another, as they have dependable teachers to turn to for help with anything.

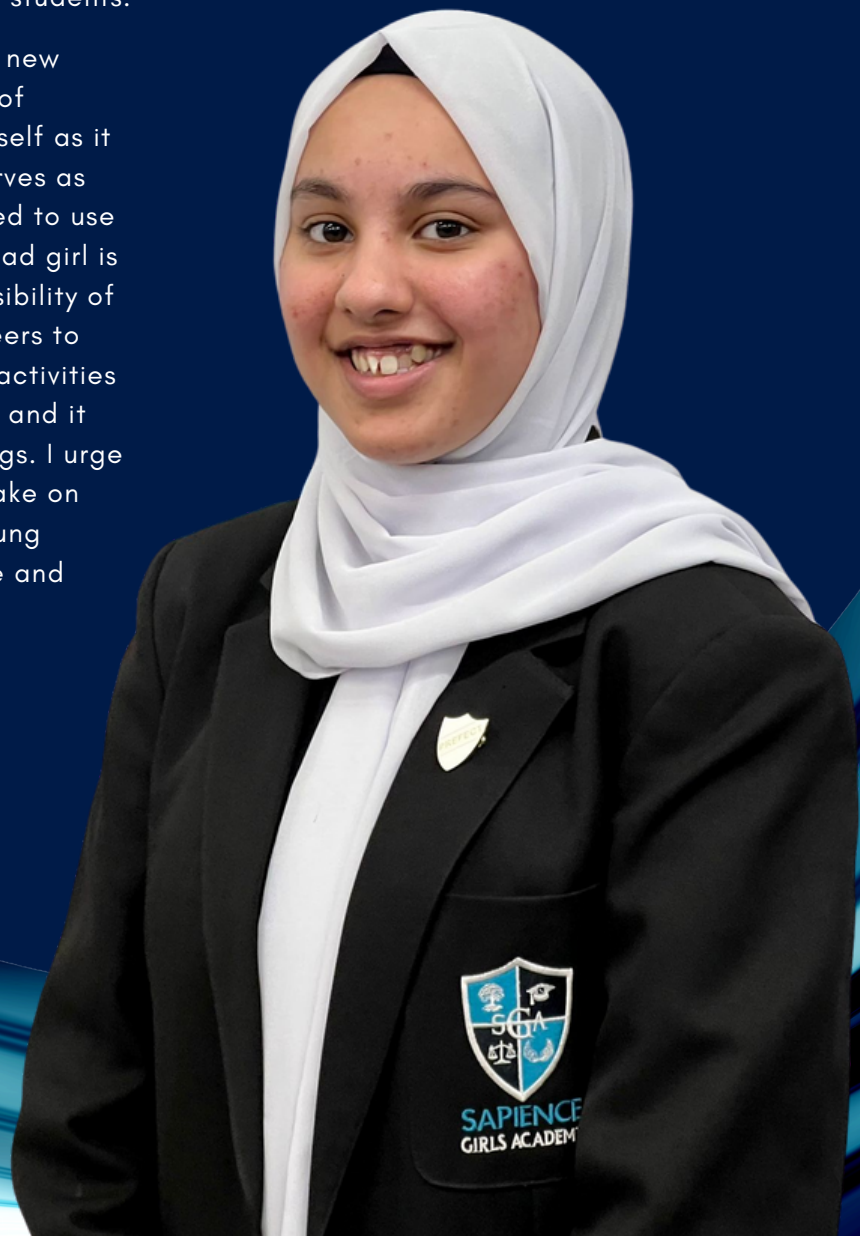
As head girl, one piece of advice I would like to pass along is to have a positive attitude about your studies and yourself. Strive to concentrate on yourself, your goals and your future career. Make that your motivation to work hard in your studies and pursue your desired career in the future. As students, we should fall in love with the journey toward improving oneself. Additionally, we have teachers and other students that are members of the school who can support one another.

I advise all students to strive to become head girls and prefects while attending Sapience Girls Academy as this is an amazing opportunity. Being a student and influencing important decisions for the school and its students is a surreal experience to have. Being in this position enables one to represent and serve as an example for younger students.

This achievement opens up the road to a lot of new skills and boosts your confidence. The process of becoming head girl is quite an experience in itself as it involves interviews and speeches. All of this serves as preparation for the time when students will need to use their newly acquired talents. The position of head girl is interesting to have as you will have the responsibility of being able to represent the opinions of your peers to the student leadership. Being a part of school activities and events is an interesting job within the role, and it has increased my confidence among other things. I urge all students to volunteer for this position and take on leadership roles in school to evolve into the young independent women SGA wants you to become and take on leadership roles at the school.

*Khadijah Hussain*

HEADGIRL



## Parent Coffee Morning

This term we initiated our Parent Coffee mornings, our Coffee mornings take place twice a term. We discussed various topics in the coffee mornings such as the progress of the school, implementations of new systems and policies, and various decisions affecting the students and parents. The coffee mornings are incredibly important to develop strong and transparent communication between parents and the school. Parents are able to freely discuss matters in an open forum, and are also able to join in decision making, and school development plans.



## Y10 Parent Meeting

We invited Year 10 parents this term to discuss GCSE preparations as their daughters progress into Year 10. Key stage 4 can be a daunting and overwhelming period for students and their families, with GCSEs just around the corner in Year 11. Therefore, Miss Naaz spoke to parents regarding the GCSE examination and grading system, discussing the impact of GCSEs on future careers and how parents can effectively support their daughters at home to achieve optimal results.

**YR 10  
PARENTS  
MEETING**  
PREPARING FOR GCSE'S

## Exam Week

We completed our first term with assessment week. Assessment week took place from 5th December to 9th December. Our week of assessments is an imperative part of GCSE preparation. Exam week allows pupils to consolidate their learning and track their progress over this term. The exam week also allows pupils to prepare themselves for their GCSEs by becoming used to examination conditions, utilising exam timetables, preparing personal self-directed learning timetables. Pupils will receive their results on parents review day taking place on 25th January.





# TEACHER'S CORNER

What an amazing start to Sapience Girls Academy! I cannot tell you how excited I am for this new chapter for our wonderful school. I can also see the passion in our students who making fantastic progress and developing in our school. One of our greatest achievements this term has been to build a genuine love for reading in our school. Most of our pupils now can't wait to find those pockets of time during the day to pick up a book. Being a book lover myself I also can't keep myself away from our amazing library!

## DEAR STUDENTS

To our wonderful pupils, we are so proud of your progress, personal and academic development this term. I look forward to seeing you become fantastic ambassadors of the Deen through exemplary behaviour, academic excellence and Islamic Tarbiyah. Whilst the school supports you through your personal academic journeys, it is important to remember that only YOU are accountable for your progress. You are responsible for how you spend your time at home. Secondary school is a pivotal period in everyone's life, here you will not only prepare for your first academic stepping stone, your GCSEs, you will also develop key life skills. During your time at SGA you will not only be prepared for higher education, you will have the opportunities to prepare for life. You are ultimately accountable for how you utilise your time, resources, and support systems at school. Never be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We are all here to support you, all we ask from you is to focus, work hard, and try your best. And God willing you will not only achieve but exceed your potential.

## DEAR PARENTS

In Islam, Parents are honoured and revered in every capacity, with this great honour comes great responsibility. Parent communication, involvement and support is essential for every child's development. Secondary school is a time of change, evolvment and growth. Pupils heavily rely on their parent's guidance and support to navigate this interesting period of life, whether it's planning career routes, personal development or academic achievements.

Therefore, I urge all parents to take keen interest and accountability in their child's progress, strengthen their partnership with the school by attending parent review days, workshops and coffee mornings. Keeping informed and engaged is imperative to effectively supporting your daughter as she navigates her academic journey.

*Mrs. Ashraf*

DEPUTY  
HEADTEACHER



# ACHIEVEMENTS

We concluded the Winter term with an Awards assembly for our pupils. The Awards Assembly celebrates the achievements, hard work and progress of our pupils. Students receive certificates according to our behaviour and rewards system. Celebrating and recognising positive behaviour is essential to encourage 100% attendance and punctuality, good behaviour, effort, positive attitudes, excellent classwork and homework.



**Summaya Abdul Ghani- Yr 8**  
**Zainab Hussain- Yr 9**  
**Inaya Khan- Yr 9**  
**Bisma Shabaz- Yr 10**  
**Afifa Batool- Yr 11**  
**Amina Rauf- Yr 11**  
**Mahnour Rashad- Yr 11**

**Asra Hussein - Yr 9**  
**Khalisa Zaheer- Yr 9**  
**Amina Saddique- Yr 10**  
**Safa Asif - Yr 10**  
**Khadijah Hussain- Yr 11**  
**Samarah Khan - Yr 11**



**Ruqayya Yasir- Yr 7**  
**Zainab Ul Haq- Yr 9**  
**Aisha Khan- Yr 9**  
**Munisa Asif- Yr 10**  
**Uswah Ahmed- Yr 10**

**Salma Kouser- Yr 10**  
**Farheen Hussain- Yr 10**  
**Aleena Shahid - Yr 10**  
**Zobia Kabir- Yr 11**



**Zoya Kabir- Yr 7**  
**Fatiha Khan- Yr 7**  
**Ennaya Khan- Yr 9**  
**Radiyah Noor- Yr 9**  
**Zahra Ahmed- Yr 9**  
**Zainab Jabeen- Yr 9**

**Haleema Hussain- Yr 9**  
**Amna Ahmed- Yr 9**  
**Madeeha Habib -Yr 10**  
**Umme-Habiba- Yr 10**



**Rabiah Ahmed- Yr 7**  
**Mahnour Asghar- Yr 8**  
**Humaira Rauf- Yr 8**  
**Safa Hussain- Yr 8**  
**Tehreem Fatima- Yr 8**  
**Zayna Noor - Yr 9**

**Yumna Mahmood- Yr 9**  
**Aisha Lawal- Yr 9**  
**Anaya Khan- Yr 9**  
**Aimen Nazir Yr 9**  
**Maariya Khan- Yr9**



**Anisa Khanom- Yr 9**  
**Jawairia Shah- Yr 9**  
**Sofia Shakoor- Yr 9**

**Amina Zahoor- Yr 9**  
**Hajrah Umar- Yr 9**



## HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT
Monday 9th January 2023	Year 11 Mock exams begin
20th January 2023	Progress reports released to parents
25th January 2023	Year 7 to Year 10 Parents review day
8th February 2023	Year 11 Progress reports released
10th February 2023	Year 11 Parents review day
13th February to 17th February 2023	Half term Holidays
20th February 2023	Term 2B commences
1st March 2023	World Book Week commences
6th March 2023	National Careers week commences
7th March 2023	World Book Day
8th March 2023	International Women's Day
13th March 2023	British Science Week commences
17th March 2023	Charity Week commences
23rd/24th March 2023	Ramadan TBC
3rd April to 17th April 2023	Spring Holidays





**SAPIENCE**  
GIRLS ACADEMY  
FAITH CULTIVATING EXCELLENCE