

Thursday 23rd April 2020

Dear Parents/guardians,

Assalamu alaikum and Ramadan Kareem!

We are about to embark upon a most blessed month: a time of spiritual striving, when the doors of Allah's mercy are open, and sins are forgiven in their multitude. During school, under normal circumstances, we would be gearing ourselves up for the next 30 days. Coronavirus, however, has disrupted our routine. Unphased, and with Allah's help, we are still trying our best to recreate the usual atmosphere online. To this end, I have attached our Ramadan Booklet which we designed a few years ago that you can print off and start using immediately. The booklet contains reminders, a prayer tracker, hadiths and aids daily reflection. We will also have 2 assemblies every week and will continue with the collective dhikr twice weekly. Tomorrow (Friday) we will have a tutorial where we would like students to come forward with their suggestions on how we can make this month extra special. We could have a Zoom school iftaar, daily collective Quran reading session, student led assemblies, whole school Ramadan quiz, seera reading etc. We have some ideas but would like to hear what students think will help them make the most of this blessed month.

Ramadan timings are as follows:

10:10-10:30 (assembly/dhikr/tutorial)

10:30 – 11:20am Period 1

11:20 – 12:10pm Period 2

BREAK

12:30 – 1:20pm Period 3

1:20 – 2:10pm Period 4

BREAK

2:30 – 3:20pm Period 5

School online will continue until Friday May 15th. We will have the last 10 days off for Ramadan and Eid as usual and return to school on Monday 1st June inshallah.

Attendance

As you are aware, if your daughter is unwell, kindly inform the office before school starts. If she is absent from Period 1, the office will send a text message to you. Additionally, teachers are now keeping a log of attendance for all lessons. If your daughter is absent for two lessons the teacher will notify you via email. We do not want students to fall behind in any subject thus we are monitoring attendance very closely.

Pastoral care

If you have any concerns about your daughter, about how they are coping or need any other support from the school, please let us know. Your daughter's tutor is the person to contact first but we are all here to help inshallah. Many students are missing being in school and being with friends, so we have tried to facilitate mini zoom 'catch-up' sessions after school ends or during the break times.

Despite the lockdown, the government is still permitting people to leave their homes once a day for exercise. I strongly urge students to get outside every day for a brisk walk, especially if they do not have a garden. The fresh air works wonders on mental health and wellbeing!

Year 11

Lessons will continue for Year 11 until **Thursday 7th May**. Alhamdulillah many students have been working hard over the past few weeks and are submitting work. After this date, teachers cannot accept any work. Data will be submitted by the school to the relevant exam boards and results day will be on **Thursday 20th August**. I appreciate this may be an anxious time for students and parents, but I must stress that teachers are not allowed to tell students their submitted grades under any circumstance. All final grades are at the discretion of exam boards.

Zoom Security

Following on from news stories of security breaches in Zoom meetings, we have conducted a thorough review of our security settings for Zoom lessons. We are now introducing daily passwords to the lessons. The password will be emailed with the link and are very straightforward to use. Additionally, students **MUST** use their correct names to be allowed entry to the classroom. Without clear identification, we cannot let anyone into the meeting room.

We still don't know when we'll be able to open the school, but rest assured we will continue to do our utmost to keep your daughter's education our priority and keep working on building an online school community.

Wasalam

Ust Fouzia

Head teacher