



PRESTON MUSLIM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

Education with Patience Modesty Gratitude Humility Sincerity

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

There is so much to look back on this year it is hard to know where to begin. It has been a year of successes and challenges, of farewells and of new beginnings.

I would like to begin by sending our thoughts and prayers to all of those whose lives have been affected by Covid 19 and we pray that the Almighty will grant them relief from their suffering. Aameen.



Despite its massive impact upon us all I don't want to end this school year only thinking of the last four months. This has been a busy and successful year for the school and I would like us all to remember the commitment of our pupils, staff and parents in creating a school that was placed in the top 10 of all schools in the country for progress and which continues to offer our pupils a daily education that enriches their lives in so many ways. There is a wealth of events and activities to look back on over the year, charitable fundraising, educational visits and successes in national competitions. Well done to our staff, pupils and parents for their outstanding commitment.

With the completion of our new school facilities in The Crescent Building, the school is entering on a new chapter of its development. We have been able to increase the number of pupils that we can take in and, for the first time, we have purpose-built facilities that rank alongside the best. As we look to the future, we also look back in order not to lose our heritage and where we have come from. The re-naming of the Deepdale Mill Building as the Dr Khan Building commemorates someone who was one of the original founders and trustees of the school and who served on the governing body for as long as the school has been in existence. Dr Khan was always a champion of the school and it is fitting that we remember him in this way. There is more detail in the newsletter about the new names for all the buildings.

There is a familiar saying that, 'You don't know what you've got until it's gone!'. I know that our pupils have come to realise that their school is a special place: a place of stimulation, fun and engaging challenge, where teachers challenge pupils to reach higher and further than they thought they could and where pupils embrace that challenge and relish it. This crisis has shone a light upon what PMGHS stands for and what we have to offer, it has made us all appreciate how we extend and develop our pupils.

After five years with us, in a slight abrupt fashion, sadly our Year 11 pupils leave us transformed into confident, educated and resilient young Muslimahs: their faith deepened, and their eyes opened to understand the world around them and to be ready to take up their place in society. We look forward to inviting them back once things have settled to give them a sending off, they rightly deserve. With the blessings of the Almighty the school will continue to offer our girls what they deserve: the best.

We wish all our pupils and their families a safe and restful summer.

Mufti Javid Headteacher

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GOOD LUCK

To our Year 11s!

MEET THE PUPIL

Amaara Latif

Tell us about yourself?

My name is Amaara Latif and I am currently in Year 10 and I am a Head Girl at PMGHS.

Why did I choose to attend PMGHS?

I chose PMGHS because I loved the welcoming environment it brought from the moment I walked through the doors. I felt that it had a perfect balance of an academic and Islamic environment which is exactly what I wanted in a school. I knew that PMGHS would be the place that would help me grow as an individual and support me in achieving the best possible results.

What is your favourite subject and why?

My favourite subject would have to be history as I find it fascinating to learn about how society has changed over time and the changes that the world has gone through to get to where we are today.

What would you like to do when you leave education?

I would like to pursue a career in law because it is all about rights, justice and understanding people and society. Through this career, I want to be able to help people and make a positive impact on the lives of others.

A PUPIL RETURNS TO SCHOOL

Walking into the school after a long time away, made me very excited. After a chaotic time, the school brought some sort of normality and routine in my day. The sight of the unique new building amazed me; the radiant colours standing out amongst the dull weather. Stepping into the Quawwat building, I realized how much I missed school and the others would agree with me as they anticipate the time, they would be allowed to go back to school. As soon as I entered, the office teachers greeted me with a bright smile and a hand sanitiser. I was pleased with the precautions taken by the school as they checked the temperature of the pupils and the hand sanitisers, all around the school.



"It felt comforting seeing my friends again"

In my meeting with Mrs. Malik, I told her about my daily routine and what a normal school day at home is like for me. Keeping at a safe distance, we discussed my future career options, as did the other pupils in their meetings. I felt grateful to the school for making sure we were comfortable doing our work at home and making sure we were clear about our future plan. Hearing the casual conversation going around the hall was refreshing, as teachers chatted with pupils about college applications and revision plans.

Stepping out of the building, I saw a few of my fellow classmates, sitting outside catching up; two meters apart. It felt comforting to see my friends again, as they chatted away excitedly, talking about the things they had been doing. The dinner ladies greeted me with a salaam, I appreciated all the times they had stood outside and helped us. Such small actions seemed so important now that I look back.

And then, just like that, I went back home to the four walls of my bedroom, hoping to be back in school very soon.

Juwairiyyah, Year 10



MEMORY BOXES

700 black crates stand stolid, piled high in every classroom, every office and every corridor.

Today is Moving Day

Today, July 2nd, 2020 they are being moved, all of them, to our new home across the road. If we didn't really believe we are finally moving from the Quwwatul building before, the reality strikes now.

For some of us who have been here from the very beginning, it is sad to leave. There are many memories buried within the walls of these rooms and there have been many changes over the years.

We first moved into the building in 2011, bringing with us just under 200 pupils. The school was much smaller then and had a real family feel which we have worked hard to maintain as the school has grown.

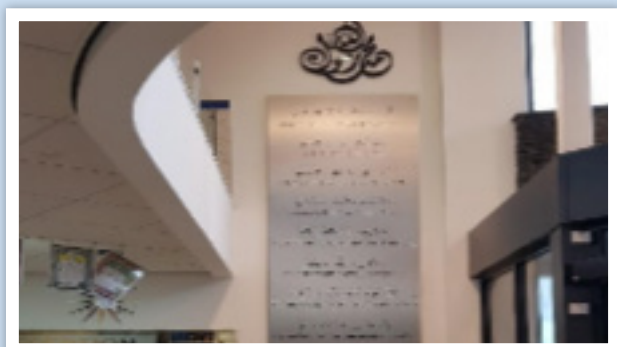
Mrs Akubat, Exams Officer remembers the move in January of that year, as she was the last to come and join us. She finally arrived in the March, two months later, once the main phone line had been connected! The one thing she said she really appreciated, was having a sink in the staff room. The facilities in the Mill Building back then, were pretty basic. The one thing she said she'd miss on leaving, would be the view of the Mosque from her window and the hustle and bustle at prayer times.

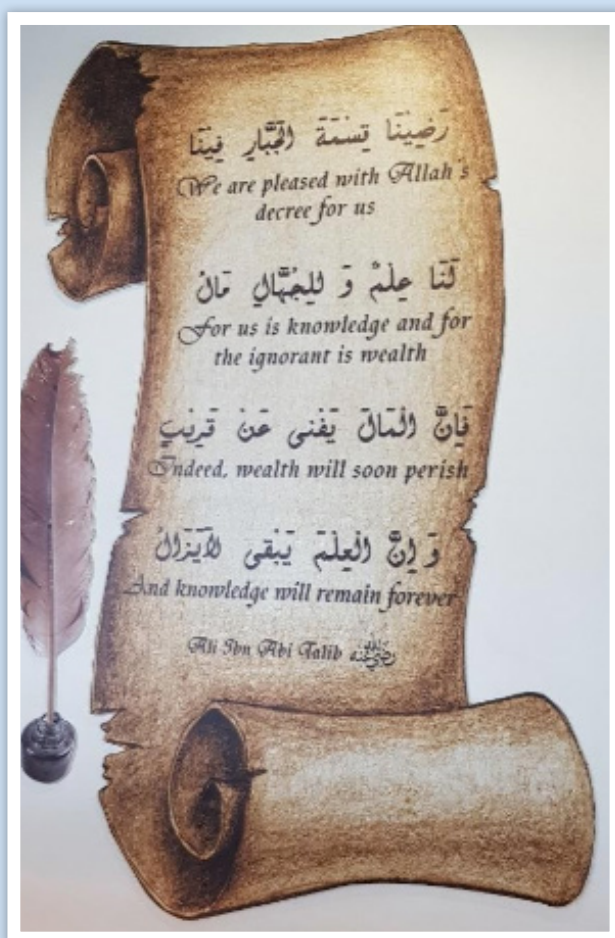
We all love and appreciate the beauty of the building and for me that has never changed. I have always been impressed by the Arabic calligraphy on the walls, the intricate colourful tiling and the carpeted floors. I will miss the state-of-the-art designs that surround us, and I will miss the carpets. From my conversations with staff about what will be missed, carpeted floors came out top. It's unusual to be able to walk around a secondary school in bare feet and it gives a homely, relaxed and calming atmosphere to the place. With so few pupils in the building at the beginning it was a quieter school, with a friendly vibe and plenty of room.



Parent still comment on our polite pupils and the warm atmosphere within the school.

Another unusual aspect of the school was that the reception hasn't always been on the ground floor, but on the first. Mrs Mohammed, Headteacher's P.A. recalls when parents would come up the stairs to the first floor to access the school, and delivery drivers would be heard shouting loud 'hellos' from an empty entrance hall, trying to work out where everyone was and where to leave the boxes. The downstairs reception was only opened to us, to share with the nursery, after our first Ofsted in 2013. It's hard to imagine the school without our ground-floor rooms and reception team.





"...we work hard to maintain the warm and welcoming atmosphere"

Contacts with the community and the nursery have been an integral part of life within the school since then. Often our pupils watch the little tots playing in the playground, pointing out their cute brothers and sisters and cousins to their friends. Thinking about it now, it's only been in the last few years we've had a playground and garden. At first, outside the school, there was just an extended car park, without tarmac, and of course no separate nursery building.

The school has grown annually with each new Year 7 intake, and we work hard to maintain the warm and welcoming atmosphere as the school population grows. Staff have always benefited from the luxuries of the building and continue to maintain great relationships with pupils, their colleagues and the wider community.

We have said our goodbyes to many colleagues over the years: Mr Seedat, Mrs Lukman, Mrs Secretary, Mr Adam, Shireen Apa and Dr Khan to name but just a few. I think losing our grandfather of Science, Mr Jiwa was one of the saddest days for all who knew him. I remember sharing Room 7 with him and Mrs Lukman in the early days. He always had funny stories to tell and pearls of wisdom to share, and Mrs Lukman was always solving Maths problems. I've never known anyone eat, sleep and breathe Maths as much as she did.

We have also welcomed so many new members of staff as we have introduced new subjects. Mrs Bangee became our Special Needs Coordinator and after the introduction of French to the language curriculum, Mr Yelland became the French teacher.

The newest subject to be introduced this year is Drama and all the English department are moving out of their comfort zone and setting up base camp in what used to be the Science Building. We will enjoy creating our own vibrant space down the road. Please come and visit anytime, you never know who or what you may find...

So, in September, we move on, to begin a new chapter in PMGHS history. We are all very much looking forward to a new start, although the prospect is daunting as well as exciting. With the new intake of a larger Year 7 we will have over 540 pupils in total. The school just keeps growing and we really do need a bigger place to stay. It is a great opportunity to build on our successes and to make a myriad of new memories.

by Louise Bettess



NAMING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

As the opening of our new school building marks an important development for the school we have also chosen to name, or rename, our other school buildings so that, in many ways, September marks a new chapter for PMGHS.

Therefore, from September PMGHS will be made up of:

The Crescent Building

is the name of the new building. It reflects the school's uniform and logo, which is also an emblem of Islam. The five colours represent the five pillars of Islam and the five-year groups in the school.



The Fatima al-Fihri Building

is the new name of the current Science Building. As the new building will contain a new science laboratory and science studio, the science department will move out of their current building. Fatimah al-Fihri is credited with founding the oldest existing, continually operating and first degree-awarding university in the world, and was a staunch champion of girls' education.



Dr Khan Building

is the new name for the Deepdale Mill Building. Dr Khan was one of the founders and trustees of the school. He was a loyal supporter of the school and a strong upholder of its ethos and values. Sadly, Dr Khan died in 2018, but we would like to remember his huge contribution to the school by naming the Deepdale Mill Building after him, as this is where the original school was based.



Bait ul-Hikmah

this is the name that is being given to the new humanities block, which will be a two-story block of six classrooms on the site that has previously been occupied by the Eric Wright builder's cabins.



SPIRITUALITY RAHMA MERCY

We are delighted to announce that the total PMGHS has raised for the girls' school in Albania is:

£4569.31

Congratulations and well done to the top five girls who raised the most amount:

Thanaa Nomani 7M- **£740.00**

Khadeejah Patel 7H- **£135.60**

Umaymah Patel 7G - **£130.56**

Ayesha Esmail 8P- **£193.85**

Rummanah Laly 9H- **£118.47**

The Spirituality team pays a surprise visit to hand deliver awards and certificates from the Rahma Charity.



From Head Girl to Published Author

We are delighted to announce that one of our former Head Girls (Maryam Bargit) has just published her first book of poetry 'Refuge' and this is available to purchase through Amazon.

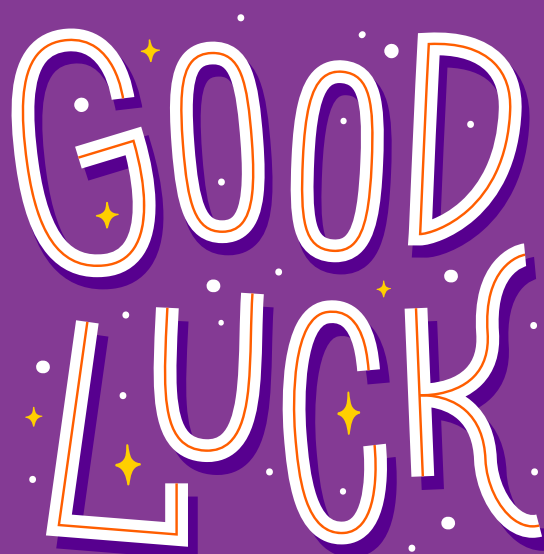


FAREWELL YEAR 11'S

ONLINE LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

We held an online leavers assembly for our Year 11s on Thursday, July 16th 2.15pm. It was an unusual farewell for our Year 11s that will be forever remembered. We are sad that we have been denied a proper end to the term, but the assembly was a wonderful opportunity to look back and laugh and reminisce about their time at PMGHS.

Mufti Javid began the assembly with a wider reflection on the current Covid situation and on our memories of them as a year group. Form tutors then spoke about their own form groups. Our Head and Deputy Head girl Fowziyah Adam and Kawthar Bodi both went down memory lane and shared their own recollections, from a pupil point of view.



We would like to wish all our Year 11s great success in their future endeavours!

Year 7 Transition Meetings & Virtual Assembly

As we bid farewell to our Year 11s we are delighted to welcome our new Year 7s. Our Pastoral Coordination staff conducted 1-2-1 transition meetings in school for all pupils and parents. This was an opportunity for parents to come into school for a short meeting where they were given booklets about starting at our school, information about uniform and attendance and which form group they will be in. It was also an opportunity for parents to tell us a little

more about their daughters so that we can make sure that their transition to high school is successful.

These meetings were followed, with an invitation for both parents and pupils to attend a virtual 'assembly' with the Headteacher and other key staff and to be shown some parts of their new school. It has been lovely to be able to welcome our new Year 7 pupils, despite the current restrictions. We look forward to seeing them all in September.



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