8th February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalaamu Alaikum (May Peace be with you)

Special Qur'aan Completion and Prayers – Friday 29th January 2021

On Friday 29th January, across all of our Faith Schools, our families took part in a special You Tube event involving the completion of the Qur'aan and prayers for those who have suffered as a result of COVID-19. Alhamdulillah, all Praise to the Almighty, 222 full Qur'aan were completed and Surah Al Ikhlaas was completed 230,000 times.

We pray that the Almighty accepts our prayers and makes them a means of forgiveness for all who have passed away recently and a comfort for those who have been bereaved or suffered. Prayer is such a powerful part of our life – something which we can use to connect with our Lord during troubled times and deliver us from our difficulties. Thank you to all parents and members of our school community who supported - and participated in - the event.

Special Day of Prayer and Fasting – Thursday 11th February 2021

Each year, our faith-designated secondary schools participate in a Sunnah fasting programme during the winter months (November until February). The last fast of the programme is on **Thursday of this week**.

We would like to encourage pupils, staff and parents from across our family of faith schools to join us in the final fast, including reciting a small portion of the Qur'aan and making duaa (prayers) as a family just before opening their fast in the evening. Through our fasting and prayer on this day, we will seek help from our Lord and draw strength from our collective worship. With acts of faith such as these, we may also inspire hope within our families and our communities.

I hope that you will encourage your child and family to participate in this special fast. Students should only fast if they are in good health, have completed the *Suhoor* (early morning meal) and are able to participate in lessons fully. Older children in our primary schools may also fast for part of the day if parents think they are able to do so.

Thank you for your continued support, particularly for aiding our efforts to develop character and enhance wellbeing during this time. I pray that our Lord blesses each and every fast and prayer and makes it a means of our salvation. Aameen.

Yours sincerely,

(Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE
Chief Executive