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Assalamualaikum and a warm welcome to all parents, staff and students to our very first edition of The Messenger for the academic year 2017—2018.

Welcome to the new academic year at Al Islah Girls High School. I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer; no doubt you are looking forward to your daughters starting the new term.

The start of school is always full of mixed emotions. For example, on the first day of school, millions of children everywhere strap on their backpacks with a certain level of eagerness, excitement, and, well, a bit of nervousness too. In some ways, each child's backpack serves as a metaphor for all the knowledge, cultural wealth, and above all, endless dreams that each student brings as she enters the classroom doors for the first time.

I would like to extend a special welcome to the parents/guardians of our new Year 7 students. Starting at secondary school is a big step not just for the children but for you as parents too. As teachers, of course, our backpacks are full too -- full of, ideas, books, lesson plans, and busy agendas. And, of course, the new year brings a sense of anticipation for each of us, too, as we also attempt to empty out our backpacks for one reason: the pursuit of educational equity.

As you may have read in the local press and on our website, I am pleased to report that the recent GCSE examination results highlighted the progress we are making as a school. I am particularly pleased to announce that the number of students who achieved $5 \times A^*$ -C grades including English and Maths at GCSE was 88%. The rates of progress in English and Maths at Al Islah are increasing rapidly, something which is not the case at national level. Such gains are a credit to the hard work of our students, staff and the support that we receive from the school Board of Governors and from you as parents.

Al Islah Girls High School has only really just started on its improvement journey and I am looking forward to continuing with our plans and to making more progress in 2017/18. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight to parents/guardians of

those students entering Year 10 and especially Year 11 how important this year will be. Your support in helping us to work through what can be a challenging time will be much appreciated.

I look forward to updating you in our monthly newletter throughout the year.

Yours sincerely'

Apa Nikhat KS4 English Teacher

Year	% Of	% of	National	% achiev-
	5 A*-C	5 A* - C	Average	ing the
		(including	of 5 A*- C	EBacc at
		English &	(including	Al Islah
		Maths)	English &	
			Maths)	
2012—2013	61	50	59.2	41.3
2013—2014	59	45	54.3	45.4
2014—2015	87	53	54.9	53.3
2015—2016	70	35	58.7	24.2
2016—2017	88	88	55.4	75

The Al Islah School Team

We have a fantastic team of dedicated teachers and staff who continuously work hard and thrive to do the very best for your daughters.

Headteacher: Apa Sabiha School Administrator & DSL: Apa Sameera

Apa Nikhat: KS4 English Apa Zainab: Year 11 Maths Apa Reshma: KS3 Science

Apa Shaheen: KS3 English Apa Khatija: KS3 & KS4 History Apa Nosheen: KS3 & KS4 Urdu

Welcome to the new Staff!

Al Islah would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new team members:

Apa Riffat: KS4 Science Apa Sadia: KS3 and KS4 RE

Apa Romana: KS3 and Year 10 Maths Apa Kulsum: KS3 Art Apa Shabana: KS3 Maths

I believe that these colleagues will be strong additions to our team and help us to continue providing the very best education for your children.

Al Islah Open Evening

Al Islah will be having an Open Day for all our potential Year 6 students on

Saturday 14th October from 9am till 12 noon.

All parents are invited to attend and have a look at the school and meet the teachers. Please spread the word to any parents that may be interested.

Key Dares

Asian Media Awards Trip for Year11: Wed 11th October

Al Islah Open Day: Saturday 14th October

Year 7 Parents Evening: Wednesday 25th Oct

Half Term Closure: 27th Oct-6th Nov

Reports to Parents: Wednesday 22nd November

