

THE AVERROES SPOTLIGHT

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Issue 1

AVERROES STUDENTS RECEIVED THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS PEARSON EDEXCEL HIGH ACHIEVERS' AWARDS



EDITORIAL

GUIDED BY FAITH: ILLUMINATING THE PATH TO KNOWLEDGE

Mohammad Anisur Rahaman Shohagh

Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim (In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful)

With deep gratitude and humility, we welcome our cherished readers to the inaugural edition of The Averroes Spotlight. As we embark on this enlightening journey, we are constantly reminded of the Quranic verse: "And He taught Adam the names - all of them..." (2:31). This is a testament to the emphasis Islam places on the acquisition of knowledge.

Averroes International School is more than a beacon of academic learning; it's a sanctuary where Islamic values blend seamlessly with academic pursuits. We take pride in nurturing not just the intellect, but the spirit as well, cultivating values such as taqwa (mindfulness of Allah), ikhlas (sincerity), and adab (good manners).

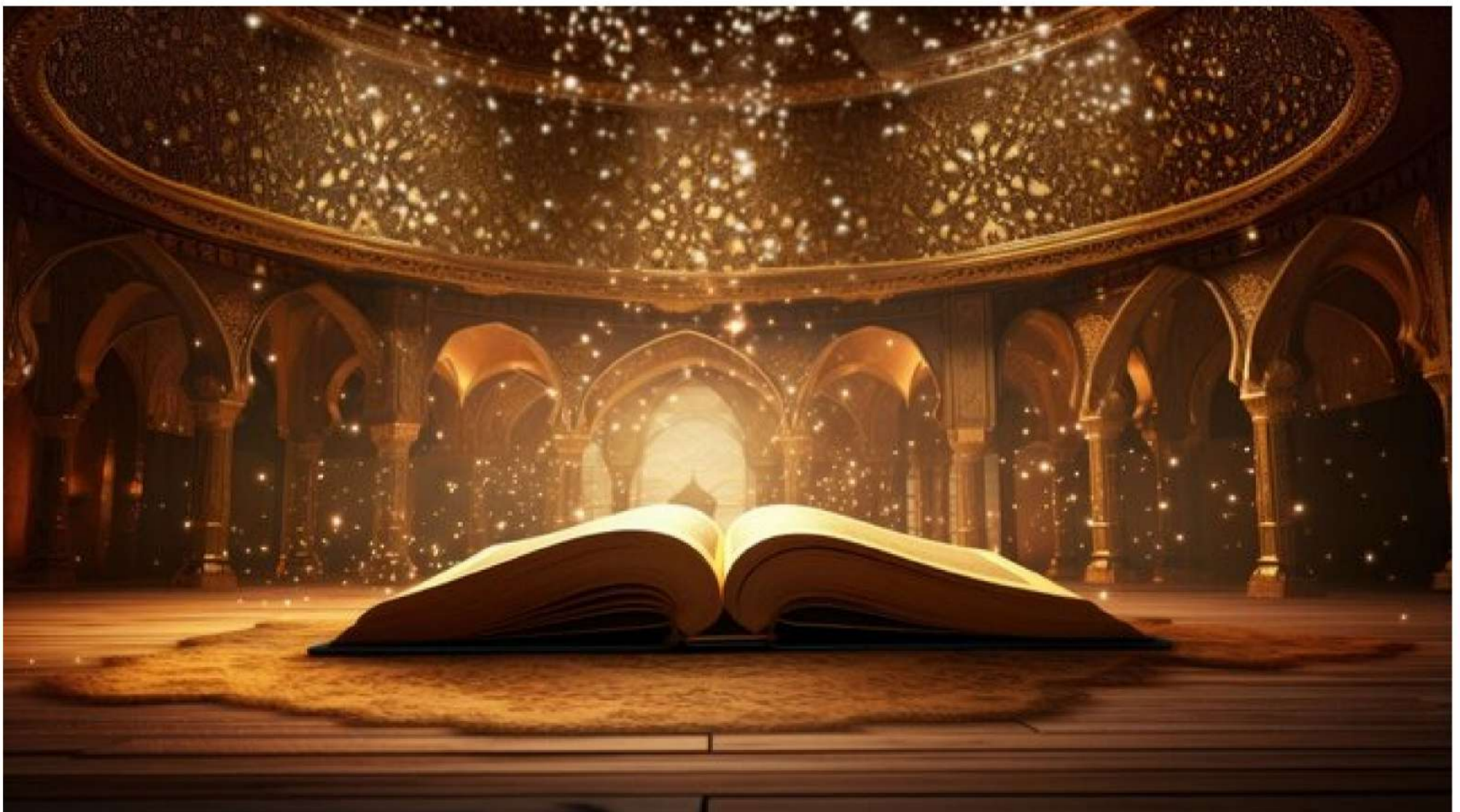
In this era, where worldly knowledge is vast and easily accessible, our goal is to anchor our students in the timeless teachings of Islam, ensuring they are not only well-informed but also well-grounded in their faith. Our mission is to inspire them to think critically, act with compassion, and serve with integrity, emulating the exemplary character of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

As you navigate through the pages of this edition, you'll encounter stories of perseverance, reflections of faith, and the synergy of tradition and modernity that epitomizes our school. From academic milestones to spiritual reflections, The Averroes Spotlight seeks to showcase the heart and soul of our vibrant community.

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim." At Averroes International School, we embrace this divine directive with enthusiasm, ensuring our students are not only recipients of knowledge but also its ambassadors in society.

To our esteemed readers, parents, educators, and well-wishers, we extend our profound gratitude. Your dua (prayers) and support have been instrumental in our journey. Together, under the infinite blessings of Allah (SWT), we shall continue to illuminate paths, inspire hearts, and raise leaders who epitomize the essence of Islam.

Principal, Averroes International School
Chief Editor, The Averroes Spotlight



ALUMNI

A Beacon of Excellence: Unveiling the Multifaceted Genius

In a world where hard work and determination often pave the path to success, we find a shining star who embodies these virtues - Fatimah Bint Afzal. With a remarkable journey, unparalleled achievements, and a heart filled with humility, she is a living testament to the indomitable spirit of perseverance and dedication.

From the very inception of her academic journey, Fatimah set her sights on the stars, and she never looked back. Her unyielding determination has resulted in an impressive academic record that includes a stellar performance of 9 A*s in her O Levels and 4 A*s in her A Levels examinations. An embodiment of intelligence and diligence, she has always been a shining star in the classroom, a trailblazer inspiring her peers and educators alike.

However, Fatimah is not just an academic luminary; she is a multifaceted talent. Her commitment to her faith is truly inspiring, as she has achieved the remarkable feat of becoming a Hafizah, memorizing the entire Quran. This extraordinary dedication showcases her spiritual depth, unwavering faith, and unparalleled ability to undertake immense tasks with grace and humility.



Fatimah Bint Afzal

As if being a top-notch student weren't enough, Fatimah has consistently demonstrated her prowess in a plethora of extracurricular activities. Her triumphs in different olympiads, debates, eloquent poem recitations, and sporting events are a testament to her versatility. With her eloquence and wit, she has left her competitors in awe, winning over not just accolades but hearts too.

Yet, what truly sets Fatimah apart is not just her accomplishments, but her extraordinary character. She is the epitome of honesty, an unwavering beacon of integrity in a world that

often tests one's moral compass. Her respect and kindness toward everyone she meets have earned her the admiration and affection of all fortunate enough to know her.

Perhaps one of the most fascinating aspects of Fatimah's philosophy is her aphorism: "The method doesn't matter as long as the answer is correct." In her eyes, the journey to success is as adaptable as the routes on a GPS. As long as the destination remains fixed and noble, one can choose the most scenic or adventurous paths to get there. This philosophy encapsulates her belief in the importance of ethical choices and ethical goals, reminding us all that the journey should be as fulfilling as the destination.

Atop all these, she's incredibly fun-loving and always filled with energy. Her playfulness and laughter are like a melody that can brighten the gloomiest of days, and her quick wit keeps everyone around her entertained.

Fatimah inspires us not only to strive for excellence but to do so with grace, integrity, and an ever-present smile. She truly is a remarkable individual, a role model for all, and a shining star in the constellation of humanity."



“The High Achievers of Averroes International School's 2023 O and A Levels batches receive accolades for their outstanding academic performance.”

Date	Day	Event
21 January - 24 January		English Week
25 January	(Thu)	Teacher Picnic
26 January		Saraswti Puja
TBA - Sports Day (Lalmatia/Uttara/Mirpur)		
TBA - Subject & Department wise staff & teachers reporting session with Head of School		
TBA - Parents -Teachers Conference		
TBA - Parents -Teachers Conference (Al Quran, Hifzul Quran)		
TBA - Staff Development Session		
TBA - Teachers CPD Session		
TBA - Parents' Tarbiyah Session (Online/Offline)		
TBA - Meet the Principal & Managing Director		

GLIMPSES INTO THE CLASSROOMS



ARTICLE**Parenting on Friendship**

Mohammad Wasif

Friendship is one of the core elements of socialization of human beings. But choosing the right friend is also important for growth and healthy sustenance. This article will discuss how parents can help their child to choose the right one.

Trust that your teenagers have the ability to judge character and make informed decisions about their friendships.

Be there to support and guide them, but allow them some agency in choosing their friends. There are few tips which will guide you to help your teenagers find better friends.

Encourage your child to talk about their friends and share their experiences.

Listen to their everyday incident with their friends without judgment and try to understand their perspective on their friendships. Again, a non-judgmental approach will greatly help them to open up about their friends.

Clearly give them the idea about your family's values and the kind of behavior and qualities you consider important in friends. Help your teenagers identify their own values and encourage them to seek friends who align with those values.

Teach your teenagers about your life experiences and how you learned to assess the character and intentions of potential friends. Encourage them to think critically about the influence certain individuals might have on their lives.

Encourage your teenagers to build friendships with individuals from diverse backgrounds and interests. This can broaden their perspectives and help them develop empathy and avoid unnecessary social discrimination.

This step is a little bit tricky. You have to discuss the importance of surrounding themselves with friends who uplift and support them. I know your child may have different perspectives on choosing friends. But always try to give them subliminal messages the positive qualities and traits a friend should have. Gradually he/she will understand and relate the values. Make sure you have done it from a very early age. You must focus on behaviors and values rather than making judgments solely based on appearances.

Pay attention to your teenagers' interactions with their friends. You have to be positively strict on this. If you notice any concerning behaviors, address them in a non-confrontational manner. Be rational rather than being biased based on your view on code of conduct. Rather you must observe from a common code of conduct.

This is a must do act to get a better understanding of their friends. Invite your teenagers' friends over and get to know them. This can help you form your own impression and offer insights into your teenagers' social circles.

While you want to guide your teenagers, give them space to make their own decisions about friends. This fosters a sense of autonomy and responsibility.

Teach your teenagers about the importance of making decisions based on their own values rather than succumbing to peer pressure. Discuss strategies to handle situations where they feel pressured to engage in behaviors, they're uncomfortable with.

Demonstrate healthy and positive friendships in your own life. Your teenagers are likely to learn from your example.

POEM**If I were a bird**

Muhammad Musaid Haque
ID:2021050, Grade: 2, Branch: Lalmatia

If I were a bird,
I could fly,
I could roam around the world,
I could go anywhere,
I could catch fish.

But, I couldn't talk like a human,
And I couldn't walk like a human,
If my wings were cut,
I couldn't fly.

Then humans could catch me,
Birds are not independent.
That's why, in every moment,
I say Alhamdulillah,
I am the best creation of
ALLAH.

ARTICLE**The Journey of a Man of Great Erudition**

Abdullah Jubran, Grade: 10

We are familiar with renowned poets and writers like Kazi Nazrul Islam and Rabindranath Tagore, but have we ever encountered the name "Dr. Salimullah Khan"? It's highly unlikely that we have. Allow me to introduce a writer, orator, thinker, and unafraid expressionist – Dr. Salimullah Khan, born on August 18, 1958, in Cox's Bazar, Chattogram. His early years of education were spent in Chattogram. After completing his SSC at Chattogram Cantonment High School and HSC at Chattogram College, he pursued higher education at Dhaka University, where he earned degrees in LLB and LLM. He spent the next few years pursuing a PhD in Economics from the New School for Social Research in New York. Mr. Khan secured prestigious fellowships at the University of London and Stockholm University. Presently, he holds the position of Director at the Center for Advanced Theory at ULAB, after teaching at universities such as East-West University and University of Development Alternative (UDA).

A Bangladeshi writer, Mr. Khan employs Marxist and Lacanian theories to delve into national and international politics and culture. He analyses western thoughts and discourse while scrutinizing the colonial



and imperial legacy of the West. On that basis, he has explored the works of Plato, Walter Benjamin, Frantz Fanon, Talal Asad, and many others. His debut book, "Bangladesh: Jatiyo Obosthar Chalchiltro," critically examined Abdur Razzaq's renowned lecture, "Bangladesh: State of the Nation." Subsequently, he authored several books including "Behat Biplop 1971" and "Adomboma." He also penned numerous articles on important topics such

as "colonialism and imperialism," "communalism," the relationship between religion and politics, and the Rohingya refugee crisis. Regrettably, due to space constraints, we cannot delve deeper into his literary accomplishments.

Beyond his literary contributions, Dr. Salimullah Khan actively engages in debates and interviews, in order to convey his thoughts and viewpoints. A simple YouTube search of his name leads to plenty of his insightful discussions. His speeches and arguments possess the power to provoke introspection and shift perspectives. Dr. Salimullah Khan can be labeled a philosopher, yet his realism distinguishes him. He adeptly merges these seemingly conflicting viewpoints into a coherent whole. It is not very often that you see an individual willing to engage with politics and religion as readily as matters of love and relationships. This quality has made him very popular among both the young and old in Bangladesh. Through sheer diligence and hard work, Mr. Khan has earned himself a place in the spotlight, which he now employs to educate his countrymen. Such is the voyage of an erudite mind.

THE DOUBLE-EDGED NATURE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

Niamatullah, Grade: 10

What if I told you that a machine cracked a problem that had baffled scientists for sixty years in a matter of days? What if artistic expression, literary abilities, problem-solving aptitude, and intelligence—qualities that we often take pride in and consider unique to ourselves—are not as special as they seem to be?

You may have heard of artificial intelligence (AI), a machine that seeks to imitate the brain's "intelligence," but do you know how far it has come in just the last few years to revolutionize the world of science and disrupt the field of education?

One groundbreaking example of AI is AlphaFold, a program that can predict the 3D structures of over 200 million proteins in mere days! To put it in perspective, humans have only discovered about 170,000 protein shapes in the past six decades, each requiring years of painstaking research. AlphaFold's discoveries are helping scientists create new cures and medicines and combat diseases like COVID-19. In the future, advanced AI may also tackle global problems like climate change.

However, in recent times, AI has gained significant attention in education, especially among students, for one reason: to seek assistance with their homework and essays. While you might think this saves you time and effort, you may unintentionally



hinder your education and future. By relying on AI, you are not challenging yourself or expanding your horizons. You are not preparing for the real world, where critical thinking and effective communication hold immense value.



“So, think twice the next time you are tempted to use AI.”

ARTICLE**HAPPINESS**

There is a famous quote by Albert Einstein, "If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things." It is a very true statement. A happy life cannot be defined until you have a dream. The most important thing is to set a dream and motivate yourself for it, every moment of your life.

Happiness is a result of your hard work, patience, and dedication, but remember no one can guarantee your ultimate result. It totally depends on you, on how you set your goal. Thousands of youngsters in the world see a dream of being a successful person, but not everyone achieves their success. The only reason for this is the ups and downs in their life. They get distracted, feel disheartened, face reality, and gradually feel the pressure from society and their surroundings. These create an obstacle to achieving their goals.

Tazkia Binte Mezbah
Grade: 10, Lalmatia



“ If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things. ”

Now, if we talk about successful people around the world and see their point of view, they forget the terms 'SADNESS' and 'BAD TIMES'. They are always ready with their emotional weapons to dive into the war, and they are the quintessential warriors in the end. So, even when you have your bad times, try to look at the positive side of it and find out the wisdom behind them. When we start looking at the positive side of everything, we stay calm and go for a better solution.

In the final analysis, if something must be true for us as human beings to exist, that would be humanity and a dream for the sake of serving humanity. When you see the smiles of people getting help from you, the euphoric feeling will give you all the success you want. What is more, gratitude is another healing device for being happy. Thankfulness should be practiced while facing any problem. We should think of the bigger problems we might fall into if the smaller problems were not there, and say 'ALHAMDULILLAH' in every situation.

The Effects of Having a Parent, Teacher, or Friend in Your Life

Nishat Tasnim Alif
Grade: 8, Lalmatia



The mind of a student is delicate; it can adapt and cope with new environments efficiently. Young children are easily influenced by people. This influences how they envision their goals and direct their effort towards those targets.

Parents supervise and guide us. They teach us how to do chores, what to do when certain situations arise, and to differentiate right from wrong. They help us build our self-esteem and encourage us to move forward.

Teachers help us discover our talents, master them, and use them for our benefit. They introduce new ways of thinking and observing things, help us form our own opinions and voices in this world, and enable us to choose careers that align with our future aspirations.

Friends brighten our lives with happiness and joy; they help us solve problems that we cannot tackle alone. They provide motivation and endless support so we can use our full potential to make our lives better. They play a very important role in shaping us into who we are today. Our friends are essential building blocks for us.

Whenever we are in a tight spot, we turn around and ask for the advice of our parents, teachers and friends. We try to imitate them and want to make them our role models, aspiring to become more like them. Therefore, parents, teachers, and friends make significant contributions to our lives.

ISLAM**AVERROES (IBN RUSHD)**

Did you know? Averroes International School was named after the man who is known as the Prince of Science. Can you take a guess who he is? He is indeed none other than Abu Walid Mohammad Ibn Rushd. His name "Ibn Rushd" was Latinised to Averroes, which is the name of our beloved school. He is one of the greatest thinkers and scientists in human history.

Ibn Rush was born in 1126 A.D in Cordova, the capital of Al-Andalus (Spain). He was born into a home of scholars, so he excelled in Quranic studies. You might wonder, if he excelled in Quran studies, why was he called the Prince of Science? Well, his astonishing contributions to medicine, astronomy, mathematics and physics had gained him the name the Prince of Science. He had a fascination for anatomy, as he believed that the practice of dissection strengthens the faith. How? Well, according to his perspective, the remarkable handiwork of Allah in His creation mesmerized him. Did you know? In neurology and neuroscience, he suggested the existence of Parkinson's disease. The Prince of Science also attributed photoreceptor properties to the retina and he was amongst the first to prescribe oral medication. He used to prescribe oral medication and antidotes for poison.

Lubaba kulsum
Class 10, Lalmatia



Ibn Rushd was passionate about reading and writing books. He never missed reading or writing except on the day he got married and the day his father passed away. He authored many philosophical and Islamic books. His most important contribution to medicine was his book "Colliget" or

"Generalities on Medicine". This book of Ibn Rushd, written between 1153 and 1169, has been translated into many languages. Fun fact! His writings spanned more than 20,000 pages. Impressive, isn't it? He also contributed to Islam and Islamic law while believing that the Quran contained the highest truth and its words should not be taken literally.

Our school was named after him with the goal of producing icons like Averroes, the Prince of Science. Just like Averroes the students of Averroes International School excel in Quran studies, Islam and subjects like science, geography, business etc. Averroes International School already has many students who have received the high achiever Award for O Level and A Level examinations and have committed the entire Quran to memory. Some even managed to learn and study the meaning of the Quran.

The students of Averroes International School are trained to balance general studies and religion. That is why Averroes International School has the slogan "One school serving the purpose of Here and Hereafter".

In Conversation With Professor Mokhtar Ahmed

Nahjat Shaheed Nubala
Grade: 10, Lalmatia



Question- How do you think we should deal with the challenges and problems we face regarding Islam?

Answer- We, as Muslims do face a lot of challenges regarding Islam. We get called terrorists and extremists just because we cover up and defend our religion. Even some so-called Muslim women find wearing the hijab suffocating and they feel caged. These people tend to make young Muslims feel confused and question the truthfulness of their own religion.

To get rid of this confusion, we have to study Islam and gain a deep knowledge of it. We need to know what Islam actually says about these challenges.

Question- Do you think wearing the niqab should be obligatory for Muslim women?

Answer- This question is quite interesting as it has many answers. However to understand the truth, we need to consider some facts first. First of all, we should acknowledge that the body part that attracts people the most is our face. When people describe someone as very beautiful, they usually refer to their face. Secondly, even though Allah did not make it obligatory for a woman to wear a veil over their face, He mentioned the law of covering which clearly states that a woman must wear a veil

from her head to her toes. Even our Prophet (PBUH) had all of his wives cover their faces. Therefore, I think it is better and more preferable to wear the the niqab.

Question- From the perspective of Islam, what do you think about this world full of technology?

Answer- Technology is a double-edged sword – being both a blessing and at the same time a curse too. Using technology we can communicate, study, research among other things. However, it can also lead to destruction. This is because people have become excessively dependent on it. Many no longer prefer reading physical books. Instead they opt for web articles or e-books.

We are living in a world of social media where we often pretend to be happy. As a result, we forget to spend time with our family members while choosing to communicate through the internet instead. Yes, there is no denying that technology isn't inherently negative; to some extent technology can be helpful. But once we get sucked into the world of social media, we forget about the real world.

To deal with these negative impacts, we need to set limits on screen time. It can be a maximum of 3 hours a day. We need to find alternatives to distract ourselves from technology, such as organizing our rooms or reading interesting books.

Question- What should parents do in order to keep their children away from technological devices?

Answer- To convince a child to stay away from technology, parents must start by helping them understand gently why technology may not be beneficial for them. Parents must also spend quality time with their children and take them to parks or on trips. They need to encourage them to read books. They can start off with shorter books, and then gradually increase the length of the book chapters. It is important for parents to be patient and not rush the process; otherwise their children may lose motivation to even try.

STORIES**SCARLET HANDS**

Ayeshah Amin
Grade: 9, Lalmatia

I sat there at a table by the window and the smell of roasted coffee beans filled my lungs as I took in deep breaths.

I was going through the file of the most recent victim, scanning through each line, making sure I hadn't missed out on any important details. Seven murders, yet all we knew was the suspect owned a black Harley-Davidson VRSC and wore a skull mask. How great! I got to thinking of every kill and where it had been done when my thoughts were interrupted after a waitress came with my order in her hand and placed it on the table.

"Still no luck with this one, huh?" She asked. I shook my head as a reply. "Hmm. It's tough, isn't it? Not knowing who it is. Could be anyone." She replied casually. Maybe a bit too casually because that sentence struck a gut feeling in me as I called Rowan, my partner, and left the Cafe without touching my coffee. "Rowan, I need you to do something."

After getting enough information from Rowan about the girl, I headed out. That evening, I sat in my car parked at the back of the Cafe, waiting for her to leave. Maybe Rowan was right; maybe I was being silly. Soon after, the girl got out of the back door and got into a white Toyota Corolla and drove off. I followed suit.



After driving for a while, she pulled over in front of an old warehouse. I guess I was on the right track after all. I texted Rowan enough details and attached my location along with asking for backup and left the car to enter the Warehouse.

All I had to do was take a few steps in before feeling something bang against my head and everything went pitch black.

I regained consciousness after what felt like a few long minutes and realized I was tied to a chair. I turned my head to inspect my hands, which were elegantly bound with a scarlet ribbon, and then turned my attention to the figure standing before me.

The waitress was standing with a gun in her hand. "Fell right into my trap, detective. How sad!" she said through

an eerie smile as I clenched my jaw. "Ah, how nice it would be to do everything without you on my tail? You know, I thought it would take me a while to lure you in. You, a renowned detective, who can solve it all. But you couldn't crack my case, now, could you?" she continued. I glared at her then shifted my eyes around for anything that could be a potential weapon, but instead, I saw the said Harley Davidson parked at a corner with the skull mask on it. Well, would you look at that? I'm right. I sarcastically thought.

My attention diverted to her once more as I heard her say, "Well detective, guess this is goodbye. God, I wish we could have hung around more. Pity!" as she grinned at me devilishly and pointed her gun at me.

I closed my eyes and heard the gunshot. I waited for the pain to pierce through my body, but it didn't. Opening my eyes, I saw the girl pinned down on the floor by one of my colleagues and Rowan rushing to untie me.

I was then taken outside the warehouse and into an ambulance to be checked for any injuries. Rowan sat down beside me. "You did it. I guess I was wrong." He chuckled and said.

'I did it. I caught the killer, so it's done. Right?' I told myself, refusing to listen to the small voice in my head; but the unsettling feeling in my stomach engulfed me.

Something wasn't right.

THE DISCOVERY

Nahjat Shaheed Nubala
Branch- Lalmatia

The blue sky was now covered by the clouds in a dark blanket. The trees swayed in the cold breeze. The wind made a whooshing sound as the leaves rustled. Will there be a storm?

My work shift was delayed almost by an hour due to the excessive workload, so here I was waiting at the bus stop to go home before it was too late. Luckily, I did not have to wait forever as the bus came just a few minutes later.

I got on the bus and there were only three people inside, a middle-aged woman with her child and an old man. 'Where to, Miss?' My thoughts were interrupted by the driver's voice. I gave him the address and he started driving. As soon as I took a seat beside the woman, she initiated a conversation.



She introduced herself as Bethany and her 5-year-old daughter's name was Emma. Bethany was an absolute chatterbox and her constant blabbering started to irritate me. I ended up knowing that she was a happy housewife who did not have a job.

However, the thing that surprised me the most was that she was happy with whatever her husband was earning for them and did not yearn for luxuries. She was satisfied with whatever she had. Meanwhile I had spent my entire life working and missed out on all of the happy family events. I earned enough money to be comparatively rich but it never made me happy. That was when I discovered: 'Money can never buy happiness'.

TRAVEL STORIES

My Trip To Sajek Valley

Saifan Zain Khondoker
Grade 3, Uttara branch

Last winter, my family took off to visit the Sajek Valley. We went there by bus from Dhaka. We arrived early in the morning at a spot where all the other cars had arrived and were parked, and we got ready for the main journey. We met our other cousins who came from Chittagong. Then we took a unique type of jeep named 'Chander Gari'. This sort of jeep is used to ride the high mountain peaks of Sajek. We had a very dangerous and adventurous ride. The view of the other mountains were very lovely. Then we arrived at our cottage.

The cottage was very stunning. It was a two-story cottage. There were two terrace. The view from the top terraces was extraordinary. We could catch a glimpse of the mountains of India from there. After that we all got fresh as it was very exhausting. As it was Friday, my uncle and I went to pray the Jummah Salat. After returning from the prayer we went to have lunch. We had the special bamboo chicken which was cooked and served inside the bamboo. It was so delicious. After lunch we headed back towards our cottage.

Then we took some rest and in the afternoon we got ready to go outside. The mountain we climbed was 4000 feet above sea level. The name of the mountain was 'Konglak Pahar'. Climbing the mountain was the best part of our adventure. Before climbing the mountains we paid for some



bamboo sticks for our backing. Climbing to the top of the mountain was a very dangerous and adventurous journey. After reaching the top of the mountain, we took some pictures and enjoyed the beautiful sunset. Then we spent some time and got down from the mountain. After reaching down we had 'Bamboo cha' which was an exceptionally specialized type of tea. After that we went to our home and rested.

Again in the afternoon we went out to do some shopping. We bought some bamboo cups and some other things. Then, my cousin and I sat down and had an incredible time. We all played and gossiped. Then we went to

have dinner at the same hotel as before. As we were all tired, we went home and had a very good sleep. That was the end of our first day.

The next day we woke up early in the morning. Then we prayed the Fajr salat. Then we went to see the morning sunrise which was very beautiful. After watching the sunrise we headed towards a park. The park was very beautiful as it had many swings and many benches. We clicked some pictures. Then we went back to have our breakfast. After that we went back to our cottage and packed everything as it was the time to leave. We went back with the same type of special jeep and then we reached the place where we met. Then we all said our last goodbyes. We returned to Dhaka and the others returned back to Chittagong. We all were very sad.

On our way back we headed towards a cave called 'Alutila Guha'. We had to go down many stairs to reach the cave. The cave was very dark and mysterious. We all had our flashlights on. There was water inside the cave and it was very cold and slippery. After that we had our lunch. Then we came back to Dhaka by bus.

The trip was very enjoyable. We all had a very great time. I'm going to miss all the fun we had in Sajek. I loved the trip. I want to go back to Sajek again.

My Exciting Trip to Sundarban

Husna Mymoonah
Grade: 3, Branch: Lalmatia

I went to Khulna in December 2016. I stayed at my dad's friend's house. It was a beautiful one storied house with a huge garden. The garden had trees, flowers, rabbits, chickens and a green swing. We stayed in a beautiful guest room. The place was charming and peaceful.

A few days later, we all planned to go to Sundarban by speed boat. We went to a beautiful spot in Sundarban called Karamjal. We went inside the deep jungle. It was very quiet in the jungle. The only things I could hear were birds and crickets chirping, footsteps and the sound of leaves crunching. Then we suddenly saw a monkey hiding in the leaves of a tree. It was very cute. We started walking again and saw deer's footprints. It was a beautiful dark green jungle. We were walking in the jungle and to my surprise we found a mini zoo! We saw some alligators swimming in an artificial lake in Karamjal. We also saw many deer there. I fed them leaves with my own hand and they were very happy.



A few minutes later, we found a four-storied watch tower. We went to the top of the watchtower. It was such a magical sight! We saw the enchanted waves of a beautiful, bright green canopy. Also, we saw a small river branch in the jungle. The view of the river was breathtaking. But we did not go near to it because alligators might attack us. We saw a special type of tree called "Sundari" tree. These trees grow in the mangrove forest.

When we were coming back by speedboat, we were very careful so alligators did not attack us from the banks of the "Poshur" river. We saw beautiful river water and the huge ships passing by. We also saw mini boats in the water. The sight was majestic. We ate Jhalmuri, fruits and nuts on the speedboat. The speedboat sailed for around forty minutes. After that we finally reached Mongla coastguard port, Khulna.

It was one of the best experiences of my life. This place looked as if it had appeared straight out of a fairy-tale. Khulna is a place filled with nature and fresh air. It is really a calm, relaxing and peaceful place. I want to visit Khulna as well as Sundarban again In Shaa Allaah.

ARTICLE

Social Media and Islamic Mindfulness: Balancing Digital Life

It is beyond a shadow of a doubt that social media has become an inseparable part of our lives. Nearly 60 percent of the world uses social media and research shows that people are spending more time than ever – almost two hours every day – using social media in 2023. It is always with us from the moment we wake up till the moment we fall asleep. However, while it is fun to see cool videos on TikTok or share moments on Instagram, it's super important to remember our Islamic values when we're online.

Why Social Media Can Be Tricky

Social media is like a big playground. We can connect with our friends, play games, share stories, and even learn new things. But sometimes, we might forget to behave on social media as we would in real life. We might say things we wouldn't say face-to-face or waste a lot of time scrolling when we could be doing something more valuable.

What Islam Teaches Us about Balance

Islam teaches us about balance in everything. We eat in moderation, play in moderation, and we should also use social media in moderation if we are

Fatiha Umme-e Subah, Grade 7
(Lalmatia)



“ sometimes, we might forget to behave on social media like we would in real life. We might say things we wouldn't say face-to-face, or waste a lot of time scrolling when we could be doing something more valuable. ”

bound to at all. Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) once said that the best things are those in moderation. So, we shouldn't let apps or videos take away from our prayer time, studies, or family moments.

Being Mindful

Online Before we post something or comment on a friend's picture, let's stop and think: Is it kind? Will this hurt someone's feelings or make them happy? Is it true? Are we sharing something real or just rumors? Is it necessary? Do we really need to share this, or should we keep it to ourselves? Remember, Allah is watching us all the time, even when we're online. Let's make Him proud by being the best versions of ourselves.

Conclusion

Social media is fun, and it's a great way to stay connected. But let's not forget our Islamic values and be good, kind, and balanced online, just as we try to be in real life. By being mindful, we can enjoy the digital world and still stay close to Allah swt. Let's make the internet a better place together.

GRAMMAR AND SPELLING

So, what is correct, burned or burnt?

If you're trying to decide between burned vs. burnt, you really don't have to. The words are synonymous. However, Americans mainly use burned as a past tense verb meaning injured by heat or combustion, or bad intentions. Both burnt and burned are acceptable descriptive words, but burnt is the more likely adjective in the U.S.

If you live in the UK, the rules are a little different: The British use burnt and burned as both verbs and adjectives.

Tricks for remembering burnt vs. burned

If you want to sound in the know about burned vs. burnt, do you consider yourself English or American? Feel free to use either in England. Plenty of aspiring chefs burnt their cakes on The Great British Baking Show. In an American version, though, the cakes were burned—and no one can win with burnt pastries.

Of course, if you are channeling your inner Anglophile, you might as well be in for a penny, in for a pound and consider airplane vs. aeroplane. And if you really do fear sounding ignorant, here are a few (dozen!) grammar rules to sound smarter.

MISCELLANEOUS**PUZZLE**

Umaiza Rawdah Binte Fahim
Grade- 4, Mirpur

Across:

1. Classification.
3. The ability to breathe, grow, etc. that people, animals and plants have before they die and that objects do not have
5. The direction to the right of a person facing north
6. To move in a stream.
7. Day and date teller.
9. A large ball of burning gas in space that we see as a point of light in the sky at night
10. Any plant that is grown for its grain, such as wheat
12. A thing that makes ringing sound.
13. The opposite of east

Down:

1. one of the five small parts that stick out from the foot
2. The process of taking food
4. Blooms on plants.
6. The feeling of enjoying yourself
7. A large strong building with thick, high walls and towers, built in the past by kings or queens, or other important people, to defend themselves against attack
8. The organ of hearing
10. Animals that provides us milk.
11. a device, made of fabric or rope stitched together, used to catch things such as fish or butterflies

Cross word

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The Averroes Spotlight**Newsletter**

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