

# THE BENCHMARK

Cambridge Education with Islamic Tarbiah

PRESENTS

# THE MARK

2021  
-  
2022

# TABLE OF CONTENT

02

*School's Vision | School's Aim |  
School's Philosophy*

03

*Director's Message | School Head's  
Message | Editor's Note | School Anthem*

04 - 19

**Section 1: [Young Journalists]**

*A Strong Believer Is Better Than A  
Weak Believer | Women's Empowerment:  
The Rights Granted By Allah SWT  
Vs Women's Day Celebration | How Do I  
See World Around Me? | The Person I  
Admire Most | Lesson To Learn  
From Pandemic | How I Have Planned To Make  
Most Of Ramadan | Social Media- Socializing  
Or Misleading Component For Life*

20

**Section 2: [Report]**

*Arabic Imla Competition*

21 - 23

**Section 3: [Achievements]**

*Benchmarkians Reap Accolades!  
| CIE Results*

24 -25

**Section 4: [Interview]**

*• My Journey at the  
Benchmark (Girls Campus)*

26 - 27

**Section 5: [Poem]**

*Ramadan | School*

28 - 29

**Section 6:**

**[My Veil - My Modesty]**

*My Story of Wearing Hijab*

30

**Section 7:**

**[Students with  
100% Attendance]**

## SCHOOL'S VISION

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ  
وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ۝

“Indeed In The Messenger Of Allah [Muhammad Ur Rasoolullah (P.B.U.H.)] You Have A Good Example To Follow For Him Who Hopes For (The Meeting With) Allah And The Last Day, And Remembers Allah Much.”

~ (Surah Al-Ahzab: 21)

## SCHOOL'S AIM

To Prepare New Generation Having Leadership Quality And Not To Be The Followers Of Alien Ideologies But To Play The Role Of Torchbearer By Their Excellence In Knowledge, Character, And Positive Action.

## SCHOOL'S PHILOSOPHY

We Believe Education Should Be For Life And Not Just For Living And Knowledge Must Have Application That Can Help You In This Life And In The Life Here After.

## SCHOOL HEAD'S MESSAGE

With immense pleasure and gratification, The Benchmark has launched its first ever magazine "The Mark", Alhamdulillah. The Mark is a manifesto of students' deep thinking reflecting Islamic Tarbiah and how they ponder the world around them as well as to exhibit their ideas & talent of writing skills. I extend my warm wishes to all the students & literary society members for their efforts & Valuable contribution.

May Allah(SWT) help us to make our girls a better Muslim following the path of Ummhat ul Momineen & prepare them for both worlds.

Shabzeen Khan  
Section Head (Girls Campus)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Alhamdulillah, we are thrilled to start a new journey at The Benchmark; The Mark. The Benchmark, by the grace of Almighty, is always thriving to develop abilities in the student that would help them excel in this world and the hereafter Insha'Allah. Hence, The Mark is one of our projects that aims at inculcating the skill of expression in our students, while deepening their insight into the Quran and Sunnah.

The mark will be issued half-yearly and would include contributions by our students from the Girls Campus Insha'Allah.

May Allah give all our students success in both worlds. Most importantly, may He not deprive us of the real success that He mentioned in the glorious Quran; "whoever is spared the fire and admitted to the paradise has indeed been successful." (Ale- imran:185) Ameen!

## SCHOOL ANTHEM

### Our Guide is the Quran

Dusturuna-al Qur-anu	Our guide is the Quran
Wa Deenuna-al Islamu	Our Religion is Islam
Arkanuhul Jaleelah da-aimun Fadheelah	Five Noble Pillars upholding what is virtuous
Wa yash-Shahadatani, qa-aidatul Iman,	To make the Testimony is the base of the Faith,
wa-Sawmu, Wa-Salatu, Wa-Hajju, Wa-Zakatu	and the Fast, and the Prayer, the Pilgrimage and Charity.

# 1 - YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.1 - A STRONG BELIEVER IS BETTER THAN A WEAK BELIEVER

Are you one of those people who think that physical strength is the thing that grants people success? Well, Being physically stronger, yet having weak faith can cost a believer too much. That is why the preference of a strong believer over a weak believer is highlighted.

A strong believer refers to a believer who has a firm determination and is inclined to the affairs of the hereafter. Such type of a believer is better, firstly due to his character. The qualities of honesty, justice, loyalty and a high level of tolerance are undoubtedly found in a strong believer. Also, a strong believer never has regrets in life and is always satisfied. However, a weak believer may experiences ups and downs in his relation with Allah and could easily get caught in Shaitan's trap which is quite alarming.

Another quality of a strong believer is that he identifies the actual purpose of life which is to please Allah. Come rain or shine he does not allow any obstacle to come between him and Allah. Moreover as a strong believer he thanks a lot for everything, he enjoys all blessings, he is never fearful of anyone but Allah who grants him inner peace.

Despite having faith in Allah the weak believer might become unthankful at times and could turn away from Allah when a calamity befalls him. Nevertheless, this is not the case with a strong believer, as it is stated, "A great storm puts out a little fire but feeds a strong one. Trials conquer weak faith but grow a strong faith."

To conclude you can now imagine how a strong believer is superior to a weak believer. So, do you think that having a high level of faith would cause a believer to gain real success in life after death?

By: Suha Munawwar (Grade O-I)

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.2 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (THE RIGHTS GRANTED BY ALLAH (SWT)) VS WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Women throughout the world have fought for over a century for their rights and a greater say in every part of life. The women in the Western world celebrate international women's day on 8th March each year.

This is the day in which they celebrate woman's social, economic and political achievement and also demands gender equality. They show the world that they are not less than men and they can do whatever men can do. In the past women mostly stayed at home and once they started going out, they realized that they are also capable of earning and so, They wanted to stand right next to men in every part of life. Women represent the power of women on the 8th of March and demand to be treated equally and not looked down upon.

While this looks and feels amazing that women finally come out into the open, it can also be hazardous for women. They are physically weaker than men because of it some of them get harassed easily. They also get depressed because of the pressure of duties which sometimes can't be handled with their responsibilities in homes. Most of the important things like their offerings and themselves are left behind. The woman can't also complain because it is their choice of going out and work.

On the other hand, if we look at the teachings of Islam, Allah has given us an easy and comfortable life mostly within the boundaries of our home and also all rights like inheritance. Women's status and respect are also high in Islam and protection is provided to every female. Islam confirms that both men and women are equal in the sight of Allah. Allah is the creator of humans and he made the two genders differently and gave them different responsibilities.

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

Islam encourages the pursuit of knowledge for men and women both, and the recognition of female education has been encouraged and practiced throughout this Islamic history. Moreover, women were active participants in the cohesive functioning of society. They expressed their opinion freely and their advice was actively sought. In Islam, women are not obligated to earn or spend any money on housing, food or general expenses. However, they can do so by their will as Hazrat Khadija did with the prophet peace be upon him.

In conclusion, women are already given the rights which suit them even before Western society had even thought about gender equality. It is more comfortable for a woman as she is created for a special purpose.

By: Fareeha Qazi (Grade O-I)

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.3 - HOW DO I SEE THE WORLD AROUND ME?

Islam is the guiding light for this world. The world around us is constantly changing. Islam reflects the divine purpose of our life.

A Muslim's life in this world is complete submission to Allah Almighty. Quran facilitates our understanding of the world. Quran is with a deep intrinsic understanding of our world today. It has the answer for Science geography politics, history, medicine -engineering everything including s answers for here-after.

Al-Ilm is what we get from Qur'an, is the source of guidance to see the signs of Allah (SWT) around us in this world. The Qur'an states in surah Al-A'raf verse no: 54 Allah created the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them in 6 days (Qur'an 7:54). Everything that is around us signifies Almighty and his oneness and eternal living. The Qur'an states in Surah Hameem sajdah verse no 53. "We will show them our signs in the universe and in their own selves until it becomes manifest to them that this (the Quran is the truth" (Qur'an 41:53).

Generally in the world around me is everything a big race with no clear finishing line. We are basically competing against others for the acquisition of material things and for the recognition which comes with it. But being a Muslim, I see the world around me as to fulfil our duties assigned to us by Almighty that is to worship him done and be on the path that's shown to us by his messenger.

The world around me spun in every direction and has its reflection on every one of us. It is on us to choose between the Do's and Don'ts and the right and wrong. Today we live a digitized world. People are more Connect via systems and calls than physically and emotionally. Nothing is perfect in this world and everything that goes around me constantly changes my mind and affects my decision making.



# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

The Qur'an states in surah Ar-Rehman verses no: 19-20 "He released the two seas, meeting (side by side) between them is a barrier (so) neither of them transgresses" (Quran 19-20) In fact complete surah Ar-Rehman is known as the beauty of Quran. In this, we get knowledge about the undeniable blessings of Allah. Allah in beautiful verses of surah Ar-Rehman describes its blessings and obliged mankind to observe these blessings actually.

Being a young Muslim girl my objectives lie aligned with Quran and Sunnah. I see the world around me as one of the blessings given by Allah to us and to glorify his creations.

**By: Hafsa Adnan (Grade V Fz)**

In the world, I see good and bad people. Some will betray us and some will guide us to the right path. In the world, I see many things that look good from the outside but it is bad from the inside. Verily in the Quran says: The life of this world is merely the enjoyment of delusion. (Surah Al Imran Verse: 185). Now I have seen that when we go out and we wear a scarf people stare at us or make fun of us. Our Prophet (S.A.W) said that one who follows sunnah while others don't he or she will get the reward of 100 martyrs. Now people also force us to take photos and after some time we will enjoy taking photos. Now I have seen many people who would pray their prayers on time but now because of the technology people would forget to offer their prayers on time. When going to other countries, people will think that we are terrorists and they will start treating us very rudely. Now we should not start doing the things that aren't allowed in Islam. We should have strong roots and we should think about the Prophets and Sahaba who also went through the same pain but didn't do anything wrong. Now dear brothers and sisters we should have strong roots and if we worship the correct way we will be in heaven (Inshallah) where no one can bully us. The Quran says, "And the life of this world is nothing but play and amusement." (Surah AL An'am verse 322)

**By: Aisha Syed (Grade IV Fz)**

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.4 - THE PERSON I ADMIRE MOST

The wives of the Holy Prophet Peace be upon him have been given the honorific title of “Ummaha tul Momineen” mothers of believers by Allah himself. They deserve special respect and regards for, they were those women who were chosen to be the noble wives of the prophet peace be upon him in this life and in the hereafter. The wife I admire the most is Hazrat Zainab binte Jahsh. She was born in 590 C.E. She was the daughter of Umayma binte Abdul Mutallib who was the paternal aunt of Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him.

Her father was Jahesh Ibn Riyab. First she was married with Zaid bin Haritha R.A the adopted son of Hazrat Muhammad peace be upon him. Their marriage could not succeed and they left each other. Hence Holy prophet P.B.U.H married her. She used to say to other wives of Prophet P.B.U H "You were given in marriage by your families, while I was married (to the Prophet) by Allah from over seven Heavens. She was the seventh wife of Prophet P.B.U.H. She used to dye the leather and donate the money she earned to charity. She was the first wife who died after 9 years of Muhammad PBUH's death in 641 C.E The Holy Prophet P.B.U.H had told my wife with long hands will be the first to meet me after my death.

Hazrat Ayesha R.A gave a glorious tribute to Hazrat Zainab R.A in these words, “I have never seen a more righteous woman than Zainab R.A nor one with more taqwa of Allah, more truthful in his speech more kind to her relatives, more benevolence and more dedicated to the work that she did in charity. May Allah be pleased with her. She has narrated 11 Hadith which are recorded in the book of Ahadith. Her personality is a real role model for Muslim Ummah.

By: Fatima Hasan (Grade V)

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.5 - LESSON TO LEARN FROM PANDEMIC

During this difficult time of covid 19 pandemic, when there is a lot of stress, fear and confusion, Islamic teachings can be very helpful in mitigating these conditions. Management of a Pandemic like the current COVID-19 requires a holistic approach consisting of prevention treatments, social support and emotional management. The teaching from the Quran and the hadith provide excellent guidance for the holistic management of pandemics.

Islam tells Muslims to utilize the means to protect themselves along with keeping their trust in Allah (SWT). Someone asked, “O’ Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) shall we not seek treatment?” The Prophet peace be upon him said yes you should seek treatment and Allah (SWT) has created a cure for every disease except old age. Maintenance of good personal and community hygiene is one of the beliefs. Prophet peace be upon him used to cover his face with hand or garments while sneezing or coughing.

To understand Islamic teachings about protecting the public from death and sickness from a pandemic, we need to go back to the very beginning of Islam. Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him advised his companions to value their health and life, urging people not to go to a place where there were epidemics. The messenger of Allah peace be upon him said, “if you hear that the plague epidemic has started in the land, do not go there. If you are present in that land do not come out from there.” The teaching of the prophet peace be upon him also exempt Muslims from holding congregational prayers when there are chances of some harm such as rain. Safeguarding both religion and life are amongst the primary objectives of Sharia Islamic law.

**By: Laiba Khan (Grade VII)**

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.5 - LESSON TO LEARN FROM PANDEMIC IN THE LIGHT OF QURAN

People used to be busy every day and they wanted a room or a couch where they can sit and work easily through the Internet. Suddenly in 2019, there was a disease known as covid 19 spread into the world very quickly. The people got disappointed due to the consequences of it. However, there were many lessons to be learned from this pandemic. I have learned the lesson from the pandemic and will follow it in my life.

### **Grateful to Allah:**

People were saying that they wanted a room to work easily and they didn't want to be busy but now when the disease spread, people were exhausted to be free in a way that they want some work to do. So this means that people were very disappointed and were ungrateful to Allah S.W.T. Allah had said, humans are not grateful to Allah. If a person would be blessed with a garden by Allah, he wanted one more rather than being grateful to Allah. So we should always be grateful to Allah.

### **Have Patience:**

In this pandemic, many people were fired from their jobs. They got busy finding other online jobs from which they can earn money for their family but not only these many people were isolated in hospitals because of covid 19. Their families were managing the fees for the isolation every day as much as they can. There were many other issues as well that affected the world but from this pandemic, I have learned that we should have patience in our life as Allah test us. As it is Sunnah of our holy prophet peace be upon him so we should always keep patient.

### **Helping Each Other:**

As many people lost their jobs and some people faced crises in their businesses due to pandemics. Some people run out of money to fulfil their family needs.

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

So their relatives, neighbours and friends helped each other by fulfilling their needs or helping each other to find new jobs cost in the pandemic I have also learned to help each other as we are Muslim brothers and sisters.

## **Taking Precautions to overcome the Disease:**

Allah has forbidden a person to visit any place where any disease is spread out and if a person is present in that place where the disease has spread out so don't leave that place. There should be some precautions in a country where the disease is spread like, people should maintain social distance, wash hands before eating when coming home wash our face, hands and feet to be saved from germs.

## **Remember Allah and follow His last Prophet (P.B.U.H):**

In a pandemic, people moved towards Allah. Because they knew that Allah is the one who can help us only. They also followed the Sunnah of the Prophet peace be upon him and recited Quran with a proper explanation. Allah is the only one who is our God and He has the supreme power and He is merciful. We should only ask for help from him and should follow his prophet peace be upon him if there is any disease or better situation so we should always remember Allah and we should be grateful to Allah keep patients and helping each other.

**By: Nashmia Shakir (Grade VII)**

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.6 - HOW I HAVE PLANNED TO MAKE MOST OF RAMADAN

Ramadan is the holy month of Islam. It has its own glory and brings a certain aspect of peace and soulfulness. Throughout the year I and many other Muslims all around the world wait for this grateful month. Like many people prepare their New Year's resolution I and my friends prepare Ramadan resolution. This essay is based on the plans and goals that I would like to fulfill this month.

Whenever Ramadan arrives I like to plan the entire month. I go to the stationery shop and buy a Ramadan themed planner, colourful markers, stickers and others scrapbook material. I then form a fancy layout and start jotting down the point of resolution. After that, I would like to read one para of Quran every day including its Urdu translation. This is to ensure that I thoroughly understand all the verses that I have read which will ultimately help me to become a better Muslim.

Other than this I also plan on learning to make at least one dish either for Sehri or Iftaar. So my mother has encouraged me to do so as well. Even though I do know how to make some yummy fried delicious items such as French fries and samosas, fruit chat and sherbet are a few other things that I can make.

Taraweeh is also a very important part of Ramadan night. Our prophet peace be upon him has emphasized this practice and told us that the one who failed to ask for forgiveness for his sins is ruined. Hence this year I plan on performing Taraweeh with full devotion. Charity and helping the poor not only around the year but especially in this holy month has been emphasized. Hence I have been saving up a small amount from my pocket money for the whole year so that this money can be donated to the poor and the needy in the form of zakah. Another Ramadan resolution that I try to fulfil this year is, reducing or absolutely ending my TV hours and devoting this safe time to better tasks. This includes helping my parents with house chores and my siblings in their studies.

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

In order to become better Muslim, we should try and practice everything that we learn in Islamic studies and my resolution is to summarize them mostly. Although attempting to fulfil these, will definitely be harder than it sounds but also as long as we have pure and good intentions Allah will definitely accept whatever we are able to do out of His love. Our good intentions and actions are always rewarded, no matter how small and insignificant they appear. May He give us the ability and guidance to follow the correct path to be better Muslims and humans and encourage the people in our surrounding to do so as well.

By: Javeria Aman Syed (Grade VII FZ)

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.6 - HOW I HAVE PLANNED TO MAKE MOST OF RAMADAN

Ramadan, the 9th month of the Islamic lunar year is the holiest of the months. As Ramadan arrives the gates of paradise are opened and the gates of hell are locked up. “Abu Hurairah R.A reported that: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, ascended the pulpit and he said: Amin, amin, amin. It was said, “O Messenger of Allah, you ascended the pulpit and said amin, amin, amin.” The Prophet said: Verily, Gabriel came to me and he said: Whoever reaches the month of Ramadan and he is not forgiven, then he will enter Hellfire and Allah will cast him far away, so say amin. I said amin. Whoever sees his parents in their old age, one or both of them, and he does not honor them and he dies, then he will enter Hellfire and Allah will cast him far away, so say amin. I said amin. Whoever has your name mentioned in his presence and he does not send blessings upon you and he dies, then he will enter Hellfire and Allah will cast him far away, so say amin. I said amin.

This narration tells us the importance of the holy month. First and foremost we must spend an entire month fasting from dawn to sunset. As it is obligatory this month for every adult Muslim except for those who are chronically ill or travelling or are elderly. Moreover, the spiritual award of fasting is multiplied in this month because of its dearness to Allah (S.W.T). Last prophet Muhammad peace be upon him said “Whoever fasts Ramadan, then follows it with six from Shawwal, then that is (equal in reward) to fasting every day.” (Tirmidhi: 759)

In Ramadan Muslims not only refrain from food and drink but also from all sorts of sinful behaviours and devote themselves more to offering salah and reciting the holy Quran I would also make sure that I spend most of my time following the same. The practice of fasting has also been necessary for believers to attain taqwa thus increasing their acts of charity observing humbleness and striving to improve as a person not only makes us a good Muslim but also disciplined individual.



# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

Fasting teaches us to be compassionate towards food by making us realize how blessed we are. It also provides many physical and emotional benefits. Restrictive eating once a year is thought to have a positive effect on general health while at the same time it teaches self-control, sacrifice and empathy towards those who are less fortunate thereby encouraging us to be more generous.

Ramadan is an opportunity for all Muslims to redirect their lives toward the teaching of Islam. We must plan our days in such a way that we are able to recite the entire Quran in 30 days. Moreover, we should also form a habit of performing extra nightly prayers, especially during the last 10 days of Ramadan as the Laila tul Qadar is the holiest night of the year falls during these last 10 days. The merits of this special nightly worship are numerous and they are a perfect opportunity for every Muslim to develop the habit of observing Qayam ul Lail.

Ramadan is indeed a time of spiritual reflection and self-improvement. The act of fasting along with heightened devotion and worship is set to direct the heart away from worldly activities and cleanse the soul by freeing it from harmful impurities. Therefore we should strive to put more and more effort so that we are able to garner the limitless bounties offered by Allah in this beautiful divine month of blessing.

**By: Noorisma Umer (Grade VII Foundation)**

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## 1.7 - SOCIAL MEDIA- SOCIALIZING OR MISLEADING COMPONENT FOR LIFE

If a place is silent, it means either it's an empty space or a place without Wi-Fi. It has been a global trend for everyone to have Internet access for entertainment and business. Its importance is on an increase with the passing time and one can observe how critical it has become to lead an all in all modern life with various social media apps on our smartphones. Through social media, anyone online is empowered by an unrestricted flow of information to add to their knowledge bank. Undoubtedly, social media has removed communication barriers and has created decentralised communication channels. It has also opened doors for all to have a voice in a democratic fashion including people in repressive countries. Although it has brought many benefits, social media has a more negative impact because the combination of isolation and global reach has eroded our culture.

Social media is robbing us of the trust and comfort we once placed in one another, replacing the human fellowship and emotional support we once drew from each other with virtual connection. It robs us of self-control and of the ability to think independently and instead makes us gullible to join any group that posts perverse messages that tickle our ears and amuse our senses without evaluating the consequences.

Ironically, social media is turning us into one of the anti-social generations. We prefer texting to a phone conversation, online chats to face to face meetings. Therefore, in many cases, physical human interactions are replaced with social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and by many others.

It is the objective of this article to present evidence of how social media negatively affects our society. First, social media promotes a false sense of online friendships leading to emotional and psychological issues. Secondly, it has become easily addictive taking away family time as well as having lessened

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

interpersonal skills. Lastly, social media has become a tool for criminals for committing illegal acts. However, many would argue that some of these negative effects are not a direct cause of social networking, however, I will only focus on just a few of them.

**Social media depression** is the new phenomenon that develops when individuals spend excessive time on social media sites, such as Facebook or it could be other platforms and began to exhibit symptoms of depression. Social media helps individuals to depict a false image of their lives. People get jealous of other people's lives and their achievements because this is all they have shared. However, we have been instructed by our beautiful deen to not look at those above but to look at those below you so that it would help us in being grateful to Allah almighty. The depression due to social media is leading to suicides as well especially among adolescents. One of the professors during a study also stated that texting and instant messaging is making it very easy for adolescents to become even more anxious.

**Cyber bullying** has also become a major issue among youth in the last couple of decades. Bullying is defined as an aggressive act that is carried out by a group or individual repeatedly against a victim who cannot defend him or herself. These issues also lead to suicides significantly in teenagers. Some time ago, there was an 18-year-old boy who was an online game addict. Once his mother called him for lunch. On her persistent calls, he had to leave the game which caused him to lose the match. His friends bullied him for days and that led the poor boy to suicide.

**Social media- a fool's errand**, indeed platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and others are extremely harmful for us. We keep on scrolling for hours and hours wasting are precious time. One of the attributes of the believers is that they abstain from time-wasting activities as told in surah momininun verse 3. As we have heard time is money for a believer time is more precious than anything. A believer makes best use of his time by doing good deeds and pleasing Allah Almighty.

# YOUNG JOURNALISTS

**Fabricated news**-the spread of misinformation in social media is not new. Every day we read a bunch of news online which may happen to be true, often it is not. These fabricated stories are forged to influence reader's own opinion or to deceive them. When we read a news and are intrigued by it we go on spreading it mostly just for the heck of it. However, in surah Al Hujuraat Quran : O you who believe! If a Fasiq (evil person) comes to you with any news, verify it, lest you should harm people in ignorance, and afterwards you become regretful for what you have done. [AL-Hujrat, Verse 6]

The channel of social media platforms promotes show off, jealousy, depression and gratefulness. Furthermore, it has led us to become unaware of our surroundings and just maintain our profile and image online due to which many people suffer from personality disorders. It has indeed taken a toll on most of our lives!

By: Muntaha Somroo (Grade VIII)

## 2-

# REPORTS:

## EVENTS AT THE BENCHMARK GIRLS CAMPUS

### ARABIC IMLA COMPETITION

First, our class teacher came up with an announcement Arabic Imla competition in our class. Students who were willing to participate in that competition, their names were marked in the list which was given by our teacher. For Arabic Imla Competition we got 10 to 15 words to get prepared and we had to learn those words wholeheartedly. We got a notification from our teachers on our school portal which was related to the competition's data and criteria. The teacher had already told us that it would be a well-structured, meaningful competition. A single mistake will not be ignorable. So we had to practice more and more in order to get rid of mistakes and to score well.

On the competition day, the teacher dictated to us the words from the given Imla list. She repeated the word three times. Students need to listen to those words carefully and write on the provided sheet. After the competition, we had to wait for the result. We received the competition result after five days. Students who scored good marks got certificates from school as a token of appreciation.

By: Hania Naveed (Grade V)

# 3 – ACHIEVEMENTS

## 3.1 - BENCHMARKIANS REAP ACCOLADES!

“The Benchmark” institution caters its students with disparate platforms to flourish beyond the generally perceived limits. The sky’s the limit for the pupils here and the students of grade O2 have proven to be a living testament to this notion. The students pursued attainment of academic excellence in the challenging times of the pandemic, emerging as luminaries after their Cambridge international examination for O level.

By the grace of Almighty, 14 students sat the examinations for three subjects namely: Pakistan studies, Islamiat and second language Urdu in the October-November series in 2021. The mock examinations were an attestation of the students' tough grind, and after the procurement of their results on the 18th of January 2022, the students raised the bar yet again by securing one of the highest numbers of A\* and A's across institutions. They brought laurels to their Alma-mater by clinching 40 A\*s and A's out of 42 achieving 95% Success.

On the 18th of January, when the cohort was handed its result statements with high hopes yet palpitating hearts, a plethora of emotions struck the candidates upon sight of their exceptional grades. It would be apt to mention here that 7 A\*s and 7 A's were achieved in second language Urdu, 6A\*s and 7 A's in Pakistan studies and 9 A\*s and 4 A's in Islamiat but also that two students secured straight A\* in all three subjects.

The Benchmark commended its pupils on the 30th of January 2022 by awarding its keen learners, who took off brandishing their emblems of recognition and acknowledging their debt to their mentors. It was indeed a moment of stark pride for the institution when its second batch made history.

With their sights affixed on the future, the students advance towards further leaps in life, while expressing their aspirations for the best and bidding good luck to their juniors. Furthermore, they humbly thank their lecturers who played a pivotal role in assisting them in achieving their first major academic challenge and removing hurdles that had blocked the way.

By: Hadia Usmani (Grade O-II)

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## 3.2 - THE BENCHMARK (GIRLS CAMPUS) CIE RESULTS 2021

HADIA USMANI  
O-I F Z  
2021

3 A\*

AQDAS  
O-I F Z  
2021

3 A\*

WANIA  
MUDDASSIR  
O-I F Z  
2021

2 A\* 1 A

SARA IMRAN  
O-I F Z  
2021

2 A\* 1 A

HANIA HASSAN  
O-I F Z  
2021

2 A\* 1 A

FARWA  
O-I F Z  
2021

2 A\* 1 A

WARDA  
SHEHZAD  
O-I F Z  
2021

3 A's

RUMAISA  
AHMER  
O-I F Z  
2021

1 A\* 2 A

NABIHA ARIF  
O-I F Z  
2021

1 A\* 2 A

# ACHIEVEMENTS

NAWAL  
SIDDIQUI  
O-I F Z  
2021

1 A\* 1 A

MARYAM  
JAWAD  
O-I F Z  
2021

1 A\* 2 A

MINAAM  
KHALID  
O-I F Z  
2021

3 A's

MARYAM  
JAWAD  
O-I F Z  
2021

1 A\* 1 A

UROOB  
BINYAMIN  
O-I F Z  
2021

2 A\*



# 4- INTERVIEWS

## MY JOURNEY AT THE BENCHMARK GIRLS CAMPUS

By: Abeeha Furqan School Representative (Grade O-III)

**Q1)** How would you describe The Benchmark in a few words?

**Ans:** A good school has diverse and compelling measures of success measures that families and communities understand and value.

**Q2)** The Benchmark terms itself as 'Cambridge Education with Islamic Tarbiyah'. What do you think differentiates this school from other schools?

**Ans:** In this modern society, we as Muslims lack Islamic education and if we relate this from other school we are blessed with this Islamic education which is prioritised over our worldly education in our school.

**Q3)** In all these years of your education, I'm sure you must've had numerous terrific experiences. Amongst them, what would you term as the most enriching experience in your life as a Benchmark student?

**Ans:** For me it is learning new things in different ways with my teachers.

**Q4)** Please express your thoughts about the extra-curricular activities and the events being held at The Benchmark.

**Ans:** Being a part of these events and extra circular activities have not only boosted self-esteem but also given me the confidence to face the audience.

**Q5)** You were nominated as The Benchmark of the school twice; indeed an astounding honour. What advice would you deem suitable for future nominees?

**Ans:** Alhamdulillah! I am honoured to be head girl of my school twice and I just want to say to the future nominees that don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

# INTERVIEWS

**Q6)** How would you rate The Benchmark as an O'levels institution? Also kindly elaborate your O'levels experience in brief.

**Ans:** It's that time of the year again! The O-Levels are just around the corner and I feel a little frantic as the exams are getting nearer. As it will be my first appearing year so I would not be able to say much about the environment.

**Q7)** Any words of wisdom for your juniors?

**Ans:** Cope with failure and learn from mistakes.

**Q8)** Could you express some words for your teachers as well?

**Ans:** Teachers are the spark, the inspiration, the guide, to our life. Books, sports, homework and knowledge, but teachers are the pillar of our success and in the classrooms teachers are the best.

**Q9)** You're about to take your first academic leap in a few months. What are your thoughts on graduation?

**Ans:** We're proud of our accomplishments and the person we are graduating from high school is the first step to my dreams. Alhamdulillah!

**By:**  
Abeeha Furqan  
School Representative (Grade O-III)

# 5- POEMS

## POEM: RAMADAN

O Muslims It is Ramadan  
Its a blessing of Rahman.  
Fast in it for thirty days.  
As it is passed at a good pace.  
Worship the Almighty with heart and soul  
Forgiveness of sins should be our goal.  
We should do so many good deeds.  
to enter Paradise one must needs.  
All the goodness is multiplied by seventy  
Said by the Prophet, it is a guarantee.  
From the Almighty, it is our guest  
We must accept and deliver our best.

By:  
Zulekha Ali  
(Grade IV)

# POEMS

## AN ACROSTIC POEM : SCHOOL

Sunrise initiating the start of the day  
Classroom echoing with laughters and giggle  
Having the most of the time with friends.  
Obedient students following the teachers  
Opening minds of the generation  
Life would never be the same without school

By:  
Umm-e-Hani  
(Grade IV)

## 6-

*MY VEIL  
MY MODESTY***MY STORY OF OBSERVING HIJAB**

“Hijab is something that keeps a woman backwards or pressed and degraded.” Isn't that how most people think today? Well, you might change your perception when you get to know about my story of observing hijab.

When I was a little child, I used to observe every little thing my elder sister did. Similarly, she followed everything my mother did. As a result after being inspired by my mom, when she began wearing her hijab and abaya, every one appreciated her a lot. This made me very jealous and I too wanted everyone to praise me. I then realize that even I had gradually developed the desire to wear hijab. By this time, I was seven years old. My parents were very pleased with me and motivated me too. This was the beginning of my journey of observing hijab.

Later as my sister observed complete hijab with naqaab, I could not digest seeing her relaxed while I was all over the place deciding what to wear whenever we went out. As a result, I started wearing abaya as well. Then, I as I grew older, my parents told me that I should not just wear hijab to compete with my sister but I should understand the real purpose. They explained that we are actually supposed to cover ourselves for protection against the gazes of strange eyes. Also, they said that it is the commandment of Allah (SWT) as quoted in Surah al Ahzab verse 59. They added that In Urdu woman is called aurat and the Arabic term aura has the same root letters as this means any part of the body which may not be visible to the public. Thus, this clearly indicates that the entire body of a woman is meant to be covered.

I got further encouragement to wear naqaab this way and I finally started doing so. This completed my hijab and I truly felt very secure and special. In addition, I got a lot of respect from people outdoors. However, some people believed I had lost my freedom after I began covering myself. Not surprisingly, I thought the complete opposite way due to the environment in which I grew up.

# MY VEIL MY MODESTY

I then tried hard to figure out a strong statement that would change their minds until COVID-19 came. Covid forced them to wear masks, and I was shocked how they did not think about their freedom this time. Then I proudly ask that isn't the hijab we are ordained to observe better than this piece of cloth that makes your face look uglier they were probably left speechless.

To conclude I believe that this journey of mine has made me come closer to Allah and has made me become an inspiration for other children. One thing you all must realize is that one day you will all be covered from head to toe in your funeral. Don't let your last day on earth be the first day you wear hijab.

By Suha Munawwar, (Grade 0-1)

# 7- STUDENTS WITH 100% ATTENDANCE

## 100% ATTENDANCE IN SESSION 2021-2022

NAME	GRADE	HOUSE	ATTENDANCE
Anaya Adnan	VII FZ	Unity	100%
Abeeha Furqan	VII FZ	Faith	100%
Mahnoor Naveed	VII KK	Faith	100%
Samona Hussain	VI FZ	Unity	100%
Hafsa Adnan	IV FZ	Unity	100%
Eshal Hoorain	IV FZ	Unity	100%
Ayesha Imran	IV FZ	Faith	100%
Misbah Furqan	VIII FZ	Faith	100%
Syeda Hadia Azeem	VI FT	Faith	100%

# THE MARK



+922134812592, +922134812591



asst\_admin@thebenchmark.com.pk  
feedback@thebenchmark.com.pk



thebenchmark.com.pk



thebenchmark.com.pk



The Benchmark



The Benchmark School



C-19 & 20 Block 4,  
Gulshan-E-Iqbal, Karachi, Pakistan.

by

**THE BENCHMARK**

Cambridge Education with Islamic Tarbiah