



BGS Hosts Memorable Iftar

Community reflections

Mrs Thomas (Chair of *The Association*) reflected on the event: “What a glorious celebration it was. Special thanks to the Islam Society for the wonderful songs, prayers and presentations and to the Bel Canto choir and their teachers for performing their first ever song in Arabic, so confidently and beautifully! Thanks to the Green’s Kitchen Team for supplying us with delicious curries and to all the people who brought food to the event. You are all very much appreciated. And the biggest thanks of all to Miss Choudhury (Junior School Teaching Assistant) for all her hard work in pulling this event together yet again.

“This event is fast becoming one of my favourite days of the year (not just because of all the delicious food!). The coming together of so many people to celebrate this important date in the Muslim calendar, the sharing of copious amounts of food surrounded by friendly faces, the children running around together and the laughter are just some of the reasons that this event is so special. As the event grows each year and we welcome more families to the event, I hope that we will add further things to the programme of events to entertain and inform people.”

Miss Choudhury (Junior School Teaching Assistant): “Ramadan Iftar 2024 (BGS’s third annual Iftar) event was absolutely incredible and heart-warming! This year we had an acting

scene where students symbolically sighted the 'Ramadan moon' and announced the arrival of Ramadan, beautiful Quran recitations, multitude of informative presentations, exhibition work, poetry and our BGS Bel Canto choir singing in Arabic for the first time! The varied performances throughout the evening also emphasised the importance of this year's event. The Imam's readings from the Qur'an during the 'Call to Prayer' (Adhan) and the communal sunset prayer (Magrib) brought a profound spiritual aspect, capturing the attention of everyone present. The atmosphere was joyful as students, parents, staff and members of the Mosque gathered for the Iftar, sharing dates, food, and cultural and religious customs. This demonstrates BGS's continued dedication to learning and working together, showcasing our commitment to curiosity and unity."

Miss Brice (Head of Classics): "I was happy to be invited to the Iftar. I really enjoyed being there and learnt so much. It was great to see the student's presentations - they did so well. I enjoyed chatting to some of the students whom I teach. It was fab to see lots of families there with all ages, and the food was amazing. Loved the dates in a mini decorated mosque box! And the displays were great too."

Fleur Rocheville-Green (Year 5) "The event was really good, as it was educational but also I loved how people were gathering together and being social. I was happy that I got to eat food I wouldn't usually have. During the event I was wondering why people were praying in a certain direction and then I realised it was the direction of Mecca and I understood that people don't pray to Mecca but use it as a direction of prayer. I also realised people are religious in different ways as not everyone was fasting and not everyone was praying. I enjoyed my acting scene with Dua Nisar, and I want to say thank you to Miss. Choudhury for organising the event."

Haniya Saleem (Year 9) "The Iftar was a great experience, not only for those who are fasting this Ramadan but also to those who are not fasting as they could get first hand experience of the breaking of the fast. The event went smoothly and it was a chance to feel connected with the Muslims of our community. The food was spectacular and most people had participated in the event, whether it was presenting, bringing in food or just being there to support the Iftar. I had a great time and so did many of my friends and family. It was such an extraordinary event, I had great fun!"