



# Batley Girls' High School

## Visual Arts College

Achievement • Respect • Transformation

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**Co-Heads:**  
**Julie Haigh David Cooper**

11 May 2018

Dear Families

### Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr 2018

The school community fully understands that Ramadan and Eid are very important times for all our Muslim students. This year's Ramadan coincides with the public examinations season and preparation time for exams.

#### **Some practical steps the school will take:**

Examination dates, lengths and start times are externally set and no school is able to change these other than a very slight adjustment to start times. The joint council for qualifications has already engaged in consultation with faith groups and other stakeholders prior to setting the examinations timetable for 2018, and did take Ramadan into account. One consequence of this is that more of the large-entry examinations will take place before half term, and more will be held in the morning, than otherwise would have been the case.

- Students will continue to participate in PE. However, staff will modify activities and will be especially vigilant for the signs of exhaustion or dehydration.
- As always, our Contemplation Room will be available to all students.
- A quiet revision or rest space will be made available for any student to visit during the lunch break.
- A quiet revision or rest room will be identified on examination days where any year 11, 12 or 13 student can go between their exams.
- The Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Prom have already been arranged so as not to coincide with Ramadan or Eid.
- Examination invigilators will be briefed appropriately and will keep a close eye on students as required.
- Any fasting student eligible for free school meals will be offered the opportunity to collect an Iftar food bag that they can take home and eat later, as an alternative to the standard free school lunch. Eligible students will receive a separate letter giving details.

#### **Eid-al-Fitr**

The school is advised that the likely date for Eid-al-Fitr will start either on 15 June or 16 June 2018. Parents and students should note that, unfortunately, under no circumstances are schools allowed to change the date or time of the external examinations scheduled on these dates. This means that attendance at these examinations is essential. However, for those not affected by these examinations, the school also needs to fulfil its safeguarding duty and needs to know which students will be absent and for what reason. We hope parents will understand that the school must never make assumptions about the reason for absence and will always require notifications from parents including Eid.

For this reason, following the start of Ramadan and in consultation with Parents' Forum, we will send out a letter with a reply slip that asks parents to indicate if their daughter is to be absent from school for Eid, and to indicate the dates when they will be absent.

Yours sincerely

*Julie Haigh*

*David Cooper*

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Co Head

**David Cooper**  
Co Head

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