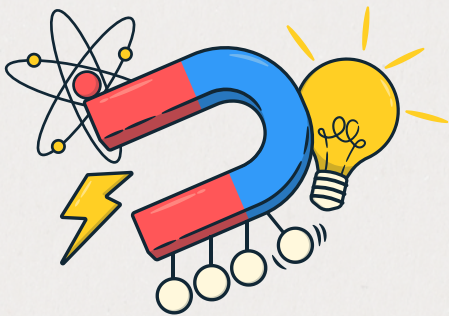


# STUDENT NEWSLETTER



Al-Birr Student Contributions



## Physics GCSE – DONE!

Alhamdulillah, our first cohort of students have completed their **first ever GCSE** at Al-Birr.

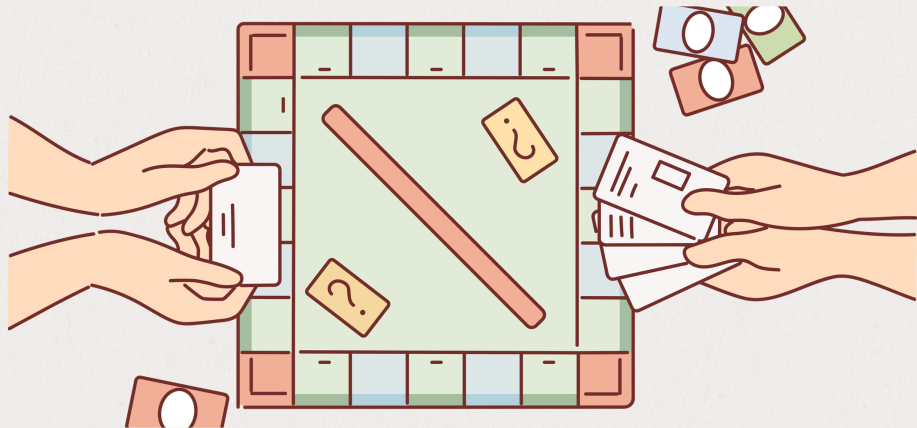
Half of ALL students attained **grades 8 or 9** mashaAllah!

**Our special mention goes to Bilal for topping the class mashaAllah!**

## Al-Birr Director Message

Alhamdulillah, the year 2 class has done really well in their first exam! May Allah increase you all. What was most pleasing to see was your dedication in engaging with challenging subjects and uplifting one another. Half the class gaining grades 8 and 9 is no small feat. As you now approach your next exams, we pray Allah gives you istiqamah in your disciplined approach. Work hard now, support one another and inshallah you will be very pleased when the results are announced. If you need any support, we are here for you.

–Dr Imran Alvi



A story by Khadijah Shah

## The Monopoly Land

Unwelcome eyes turned towards me as I got off the plane. I looked down at my outfit, nothing seemed wrong. I wore a brown top hat with a matching waistcoat and skirt. My hair was swirled up in a neat bun, the latest fashion. In my hands was the Daily Monopoly Women's Fashion Magazine, and apart from dressing differently I was the same as everyone, human. I held my head high ignoring their icy rudeness. I wanted to stare back, as coldly as they, at least I was brought up with more manners than these Londoners, I thought haughtily. I showed my passport to a lady dressed in a gauche dress. I shook my head with disapproval.

At last when I was free from the airport and their attendants' searching gaze, I headed for the infamous Grosvenor in Mayfair. I had inherited the street from my father in Monopoly land because of course, I am of a pedigreed background (I dislike crude titles such as rich and wealthy). I twirled my parasol, my plastic joints struggling to grip the handle, lifted the hem of my skirt and walked in with a great air of self importance. A waitress hurried towards me, looking surprised and a little confused. "An Earl Grey tea and some pistachio macarons please" I said dismissively.

I drank heartily, my plastic pinky exactly forty five degrees in the air, enjoying the refined ambiance of the dining hall. Plate and cup enthusiastically emptied, I stood up, brushed the crumbs off my skirt with my pearl coloured gloves and headed towards the door. "Excuse me madam, but you have forgotten the bill." I spun around, astonished at the waitresses' foolishness. "You have made a mistake, I own this place." I said to her sharply. The waitress stared dumbly at me, walking back slowly towards the security guard. Just then, it hit me like a ton of Monopoly bricks. I was not in Monopoly land anymore.



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A piece by Ismaeel

## The Quran

Muslims know the Quran is the word of Allah, given to Prophet (S.A.W) through Jibril (AS) and because of this it is a holy and divine guide for mankind.

The Quran addresses:

- Personal character
- Family life
- Justice and ethics
- Spirituality and worship
- Community and social responsibility

It's not just a religious text, it is a book of discipline and compassion.

Many people turn to the Quran for:

- Peace during hardship
- Hope during uncertainty
- Clarity when confused
- A sense of connection to something greater

Its recitation is known for its calming, rhythmic beauty.

Islamic teachings—such as fairness, honesty, charity, and respect—are rooted in Quranic principles. It shapes the ethical worldview of over a billion people.

Muslims know the Quran has remained unchanged since its revelation more than 1400 years ago. It's memorised word-for-word by millions, called hafiz, which reinforces its preservation.

The Quran repeatedly invites readers to:

- Reflect
- Question
- Observe the world
- Use reason

It's not a passive text—it actively engages the mind.

Wherever Muslims are—from Indonesia to Nigeria to the UK—the Quran connects them through:

- Shared recitation
- Shared values
- Shared rituals

It's a global anchor of identity.



Muslims know the Quran is not inspired writing or prophets' reflections it is the exact speech of Allah delivered to Prophet Muhammed (SAW) through the angel Jibril (AS) over 23 years.

This knowledge gives the Quran a unique status:

- It isn't interpreted as "Muhammad's ideas" (SAW)
- It isn't edited, revised, or shaped by human hands
- Every word, sound, and arrangement is considered intentional and divine

For Muslims, reciting the Quran isn't just reading a book — it's:

- Engaging with divine speech
- Worship
- A spiritual experience that brings closeness to Allah

The sound of the Quran recited is considered part of its miracle.

Because it is known to be God's literal word, the Quran becomes:

- The highest source of guidance
- The foundation of Islamic belief
- The measure against which all other teachings are judged

Nothing can override it.



A poem by Bilal

## Working hard to please Allah

Allah loves perseverance,  
Especially when you're running low on endurance,

Your nafs will try its best to push you away,  
But later, you will find Jannah is the only thing astray,

After hardships Allah puts ease,  
And it will no longer be your nafs that you appease,

Your Nafs will completely change sides,  
And will boost you through heavenly strides,

At this point, you're a master,  
And Shaytan will run away from you faster and faster,

On the Day of Judgement, you will meet the fruits of your labour,  
When you find out your good deeds were your saviour.

## Vocab top-picks!

### 1. Ephemeral

Meaning: Lasting for a very short time.

Why it's good: Perfect for analysing poetry or describing fleeting emotions or moments.

### 2. Mellifluous

Meaning: Sweet-sounding or pleasant to hear.

Why it's good: Great for describing voices, music, or beautiful language.

### 3. Obfuscate

Meaning: To deliberately make something unclear or confusing.

Why it's good: Useful in essays about politics, media, or complex narratives.

## Allah's Help through salah

### A poem by Ayla

When you're shrouded in clouds of darkness  
If you've been writhing in despration, absence or gloom

When the light seems to fade away  
You search through endless fogs

Yet you begin to realise you're confined in an inevitable consequence  
Simple feels most ordinary; you've frozen in the moment

You have no one to turn to, you're helpless, you're weak  
But within is the answer, the call of salah

The daybreak to a solitary night  
The final truth

The flickering light, burning in the distance  
So prostrate to the Most Powerful

The only One who can show you the light  
Turn to Allah, turn to Allah, turn with your salah.

### A poem by Liyana

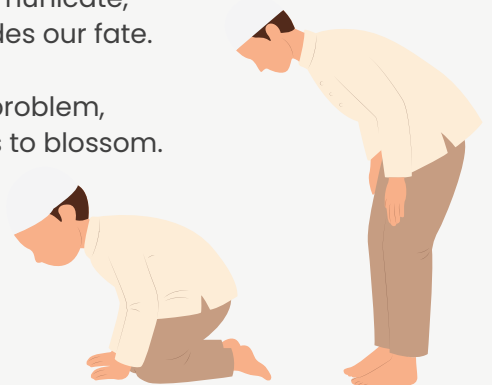
Salah is always the solution,  
You start it with ablution.

If help is what you need,  
Allah will provide it with speed.

Never in our belief should we sway,  
It is Allah that allows us to grow grey.

Salah allows us to communicate,  
With the One who decides our fate.

Allah can sort out any problem,  
All the while allowing us to blossom.



A tutor piece by Ustaath Rohan

## The Power of Writing

Allah swt tells us in His book that he taught with the pen (96:4). This must lead us to reflect on the fact that writing is itself an aspect of both teaching and learning.

It is not difficult to justify the use of reading in order to learn; we grow up learning through reading all the time, whether that learning is that of Allah's swt word or the kind of useful worldly knowledge we cultivate during our years at school.

This should not lead us, though, to neglect writing, not just to teach others but for the sake of one's own learning. When we write, we engage our brain actively and draw connections between words and ideas that are generated by reading, which relatively speaking is passive in comparison.

Writing allows us to both influence others for good, as we see in many of the books and speeches which have changed the hearts of mankind and the societies they live in.

Yet it also influences the one writing, reinforcing one's own understanding of a topic, linking different ideas in one's head, and developing the quality of clear speech, which was a recognised characteristic of the greatest and most virtuous of all Creation, the Beloved of Allah, Al-Mustafa saws.

## Get Writing!

Interested in contributing to the next issue of the Al-Birr Student Newsletter - let us know! We know your work will be great!



The life of Sheikh Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi

## Historical spotlight!

- Full name: Abul Hasan Ali Hasani Nadwi (1914–1999), also known as Ali Miyan.
- A leading Islamic scholar, thinker, and writer from India.
- Served as the Rector of Nadwatul Ulama, a major Islamic seminary in Lucknow.
- Wrote more than 50 books on spirituality, history, Arabic literature, and Islamic revival.
- Known for emphasising the importance of faith, character, and moral reform in society.
- A strong advocate of education and knowledge, both religious and worldly.
- Promoted a balanced approach between tradition and modern challenges.
- Spoke globally and worked to build bridges between Muslim communities worldwide.
- Member of several international Islamic organisations, including the Muslim World League.
- Remembered for his humility, sincerity, and dedication to spreading guidance through wisdom and compassion.

***“Your life in every way should become a beacon of guidance and it should become a means for Dawah.”***

—Sh. Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi

