

Dear all, Salaamun Alaikum,

InshaAllah you are well.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support over the course of this academic year.

It has perhaps left a lot of our minds due to the pace of life, however 2022/23 was our first continuous academic year without a break due to Covid-19, since 2019.

We have seen a swift return to normality in the last 12 months in many respects without necessarily taking stock of what has taken place over the last three years and the impact this has had on our childrens' education and learning ability. We have noted wonderful examples of the resilience of our students and the flexibility to cope with differing situations that were forced upon us as well as the positive impact of family time that arose in the lockdown period alongside the more challenging aspects such as the stunted growth of interpersonal skills, confidence and social relationships as well as a gap in learning.

The Madressa continues to try and support your child's Islamic learning and over the course of this year we have seen a return to better volunteer and staffing numbers which has provided us the ability to do more which I am sure has been noted. *I would like to sincerely thank all staff for their incredible work over the course of this year and wish them a relaxing and well-deserved break over the summer holidays before we resume on Sunday 24 September after Arbaeen and the various Wafaats that are commemorated around that time.*

The more staff however we have, the better support we can provide at all levels to your child's learning. Therefore if you think you may have some time to invest in the Madressa come September 2023 or you are perhaps curious about what roles we might have an offer, please complete this [online form](#) and someone will reach out to you in due course.

This year the Madressa has been able to run a plethora of activities ranging from events around the Kushalis of Ahlul Bayt (as) including the 12th Imam (atf). There have been trips organised for various year groups, we had Sadaqa day recently and currently the children in some year groups are taking part in Hajj activities. We have also celebrated different abilities day which aims to create a more inclusive community for the future which takes into account the needs of all individuals. For the girls who have reached the age of buloogh we recently held a tea party at the Madressa for them and for our senior students in HED we have had multiple activity days where we have worked with them before they finally depart the Madressa to draw out new skills and give them new experiences. We also had our first parents day in four years and it was wonderful to meet so many of you and be able to discuss your child's progress and future expectations.

One area that is somewhat unexpected when we were planning in 2020 but is related to what is also going on around us is the increase in costs that all are facing. Unfortunately the Madressa has not been immune to this and to the best extent we have tried to limit large cost increases for all parents by using reserve funds to cushion the increase in our fees each year.

It was intended that the Madressa would have fees in the region of £180 at the end of the 2022 academic year and £200 at the end of the 2023 academic year, however the Madressa opted to keep our fee level at £150 for 2022 and £165 for 2023. This resulted in an overall operating loss of just under £30,000 across both years.

Unfortunately we have seen two circa 10% increases in our annual rental costs and the running costs of the Madressa have also increased above and beyond what was forecasted over the last few years. Therefore, we expect our fees over the next three years to be as follows:

- 2023/24: £195 per child
- 2024/25: £225 per child
- 2025/26: £250 per child

It is important that we set out the direction of travel for the community so that all can plan accordingly and as for 2024/25 and 2025/26 the Madressa will continue to review those fee amounts and reduce them if expected costs do not materialise. The Madressa is a not-for-profit organisation and therefore all funds collected are utilised on the Madressa in full.

As the Madressa operates over 30 weeks per year, the cost per week will therefore range from £6.50 to £8.33 per child over the coming three years which for the three and half hours of time that children spend with us is well below the costs of similar educational activities. We are however conscious that the Madressa is a community organisation and so it is important that we maintain a fee level which is appropriate for the vast majority of the community.

We will continue to offer all parents the option of spreading their payments over ten months to ensure that our fees are not overly burdensome on household finances at this time. Furthermore, as we have always communicated, if any family feels that the fee is not affordable for any reason, they should reach out to us in confidence in person or via email (admin@madressa.net) and we will deal with those matters sensitively.

If parents have any concerns or suggestions, we would encourage you to feed this back to us via email on admin@madressa.net.

We hope that all families have a wonderful summer break and that if you are travelling to the holy lands for Ziyarat of Imam Husayn (as) then please do remember us all in your supplications.

We pray for the reappearance of the Imam Mahdi (atf) so that we may all be led towards success under his guidance.

With Duas,
Maisam Jaffer
Principal