

May 2019

Dear Parents

Ramadan and Exams 2019

I am writing to reassure you that we, as a school, are aware of the issues around the timing of Ramadan and School and public exams this year. There is no doubt that Ramadan falling within the exam season will put extra pressure on young Muslims. Young Muslims and their families will need to take into consideration the impact on their studies when deciding how they will observe Ramadan this year.

We know the pursuit of education is a religious and moral duty for all Muslim students and this needs to be balanced against the physical demands of fasting and staying up late for prayers, which may affect memory, focus, concentration and academic performance. The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), who have consulted a wide range of Imams, scholars, experts, Chaplains and leaders, advise that sitting important examinations can be an exemption from fasting if a student fears that fasting will affect his performance adversely.

I know that all parents will wish the very best for the success of their sons in this exam period. I hope also that you are able to reassure your sons and support them if they decide not to fast during the exam period.

If your son does decide to fast on any particular days or for any period during the exams it is important that we know this and the Exams Officer, Mrs Hogarth, should be informed in advance on bah@rgshw.com.

Should you be interested to read the guidance given to us by ASCL then this can be accessed on their website: www.ascl.org.uk (search for Ramadan and see the "Information paper" published in March 2019).

Yours sincerely

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