

ZAINABIYA MADRESSA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2004 / 2005

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The following brief underlines the Madressa progress for the academic since October 2004

ACADEMIC

- Successful completion of Academic curriculum
- Achievement of high standards from End of Year Internal Examinations (70% average mark)
- Strengthening of Quran recitation through revamp of Quran Classes, new curriculum and growth of Thursday Qur'an Classes
- Start of the Second Batch for the Edexcel course by building internal capacity
- On going monitoring of Wudhoo and Salaat resulting in a higher standard
- Continued recruitment of new teaching staff and administrative team
- Availability of on-line Teacher's Training to enhance teaching skills
- New Zain Madrasah Website with online course material and exam papers

ADMINISTRATION

- Revaluation of Internal systematic and procedural requirements
- Restructuring of Madressa facilities and enhancing existing tools
- Implementation of new administrative systems and processes
- Advanced publication of the entire years Madressa calendar
- Introduction of Special Muharram classes for younger children with a specially adapted syllabus with the theme of Muharram
- Structured Thursday Quran Classes resulting in higher attendance
- In-house accounting system put in place
- Reshuffle of Administrator's office to include 2 Teacher's & Student's stations
- Proposed new structure of 'Zainabiya Madrasah Committee'
- Launch of Zain Madressa Website

EXTRA CIRCULAR ACTIVITIES

- Ramadan Quran competition yielding an increase in participation and raising the level of recitation standard as pointed out by external judges
- Participation in a special Fund raising event for 'Aynullah Eye Clinic' in Sadr City, Iraq with generous funds being raised in the event by Madressa students, staff and parents.
- Annual presentation of awards and Parents Day Meeting with a new structured arrangement
- Madressa outing to a Theme Park near Birmingham as part of the Summer outing

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

Overall accomplishments reached expectations and in certain areas exceed target objectives; however there is a need to re-evaluate the syllabus, either with a strong supplemental programme of study or an overhaul of the syllabus itself. Both options are under review and there is immense anticipation from several possible materials being available in the latter part of this year. This matter is highlighted as an objective in the 'Future Objectives' in the final part of this report.

STUDENT REGISTRY

The Madressa register stands at over 60 registered students. This is in line with expectations from a typical small community model. However, such a model may have a substantial impact on the analytical statistics as can be seen from the absences chart below. It is therefore vital to look at trends rather than averages for any meaningful analytical value. With this in mind, the Madressa remains a stable core provider of religious studies within the Milton Keynes region. In fact Zainabiya Madrasah now caters from children living outside Milton Keynes and from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Attendance

Attendance has improved significantly year upon year. The following summarises the trends:

Average Attendance 2001/2002 = 78%

Average Attendance 2003/2004 = 68%

Average Attendance 2005 = 81%

More information can be obtained on the following link:

<http://www.zain.madressa.net/All%20Sound%20Files/Attendance%20Monitor%202005.pdf>

WEBSITE

The Madressa website is a significant development and since its launch, we receive an average of 2000 hits per month. Besides Madressa activities, the website contains interactive facilities such as 'Ask the Alim Online' and recitations online. A respectable sum of revenue has been generated as a result of the site. The site is now a communal website that stretches the boundaries of the Madressa work beyond the academic front. The address is:

<http://www.zain.madressa.net>

ASSESSMENTS & ANNUAL RESULTS

Dedicated time and effort from the teachers produced outstanding results, particularly from the external examinations undertaken towards the end of 2005. The external examiner's report in 2004 highlighted that there was a significant improvement in the Wudhoo & Salaat areas as well as the fundamentals of Fiqh, Akhlaq and the elements of Islamic Studies whilst the subject of Tareekh was regarded as a concern. The overall conclusion being that Zainabiya Madressa has now achieved a high standard and further external examination is not a requirement. However we have continued to emphasise on the basics –wudhoo and salaat – and it is difficult to ensure consistency in these practical areas.

The Madressa intends to continue its monitoring of Wudhoo & Salaat and this has been undergoing effectively in the girls arena whilst the boys have yet to be assessed due to lack of supervisory resources. It is therefore recommended that the Jamaat support in this matter by encouraging parents as well as other members to participate in Salat-ul-Jam'aa in order to make the monitoring process an effective tool to eradicate complacency.

The aggregate final year results are summarised below:

Class	Qur'an	Islamic Studies	Combined
Junior 1	76%	76%	76%
Junior 2	79%	83%	81%
Junior 3	76%	65%	71%
Junior Average	77%	75%	76%
Senior 1	71%	62%	67%
Senior 2	68%	71%	70%
Senior 3	70%	37%	54%
Senior Average	70%	57%	63%
Overall Average	74%	67%	70%

The results overall has been very encouraging. The significant improvement in the Qur'an recitation is a delight after years of struggle. The new syllabus complemented by regular Thursday Qur'an Classes has paved the way for this high achievement. Once again, the junior results are significantly better than the junior, although Senior 1 and 2 have achieved satisfactory results and in some case above par. The deterioration of interest in Senior Three is a matter of concern. It is envisaged that the momentum of the Edexcel class will retain the interest of these students and the above results are purely based on one subject (excludes edexcel termly tests that are carried out regularly).

THURSDAY QURAN CLASSES

With TQC starting in May 2004, we have Mashallah continued to have an increase in children who are keen to learn the Qur'an.

Many have completed the small Qur'an and are now on the Big Qur'an which is a tremendous achievement.

Our team consists of Arifa Alibhai, Shabneez Dato, Jaffer Ladak, Sabera Jaffer, Rosemeen Jaffer and Kumayl Rajani. We have youth who commit to most Thursdays with enthusiasm. They are Yasmin Jaffer, Hasnain Khimji and Sajedah Khimji.

TQC has encouraged Adults to come and participate in the learning process and has brought a feeling of community spirit on Thursdays.

Teachers use Qur'an they feel most comfortable with, though the majority of young children use Yassarnul Quran. Also used are the Workbooks, 'Qur'an, Learning made the easy way' made by Rubabbai Master.

We do not set exams as the classes are mainly focussing on helping children to concentrate on Makharij and Fluency. We have held a parent's day which was successful and feel it appropriate to

hold these once every so often, but parents who have concerns always have the freedom and convenience of approaching teachers when they feel necessary.

We once again run additional Quran classes for children during Ramadhan where we included a booklet of worksheets which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Once again we would like to thank all those who dedicate their time and efforts on a voluntary basis to help children with the Qur'an.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Charities Day – As part of the Madressa curriculum activity, traditionally this event is held more with the aim of inculcating the need to give charity and thus molding it into the frame work of their routine life that which Islam teaches to give to the poor. The Charities Day was earmarked for raising and donating towards the Aynullah Clinic in Sadr City, Iraq. The event, as always, was very successful culminating in raising a decent sum to forward to the World Federation for onward transmission to Najaf.

Theme Park Trip – The annual trip this year was to Theme Park near Birmingham. Over 50 students and teachers participated and thoroughly enjoyed the day out

Presentations Day –. This will be held this year in line with last year's successful Parents Day

Ramadhan & Qur'an Competition – This is now an established annual event in the calendar of the Madrasah with the competition running into its fourth successive year. This year's competition had the added 'Hifdh' which was well received particularly amongst the ladies.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the core syllabus with more supplemental tools
- Effective Administrative control of all matters of the Madressa
- Continued growth of the reserve teaching staff
- Introduction of a structured homework curriculum
- Continuation of Edexcel Curriculum to Unit D.
- Development of a Madressa working website with evening on-line LIVE teaching
- Involvement with other Madaris nationwide
- Greater Liaison with IEB and CoEJ
- New ZMC (Zainabiya Madrasah Committee) structure. A separate document is being prepared in this regards.

FUTURE NEEDS

- Further 2 new class rooms to cater for the existing overcapacity
- Dedicated room for the Library
- A stronger financial support from the Executive Committee of the Jamaat
- Procurement of Special Islamic Educational Software
- Implementation of the Zainabiya Madrasah Committee (ZMC) framework

CONCLUSION

Overall, the Madressa has made progress year by yearend whilst there is a continuous need to persistently strive to resolve the weaker aspects of the Madressa, we can seek comfort with its overall accomplishments. The new ZMC framework will Inshallah provide a strong basis for the future running of the Madrasah.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Core Team

Four years ago, whilst retaining the official structure, a core team of six volunteers was set up to ensure sustainability of the institution. Alhamdu.. the values and objectives have now been met and evolution is required. Therefore the core team humbly withdraws and dissolves itself to pave way for a new ZMC formal structure that will facilitate greater accountability and efficiency, Inshallah.

Madressa would like to acknowledge the dedicated services of all volunteers, teachers –both Sunday and Thursdays, core team for their input. Special thanks to Mohamed Baqir Bandali for having put in the extra effort this year in assisting me in running the administrative duties of the Madrasah.

All members of the Jamaat who have contributed to the madressa either financially or through voluntary work.

Report compiled 10/01/2006
Husein Bandali
Administrator