



# Zainabiya Madressa

Zainabiya Islamic Centre, Milton Keynes

## Madressa Annual Report

### Summary of Key achievements from 2007

#### Academic achievements, highlights:

- Successful completion of the 2007 syllabus including completion of the required in-year / end-of-year examinations and assessments, resulted in the majority of students attaining an average of **70%+ above** (7 classes, 4 subject areas).
- Excellent results from the GCSE Edexcel, for Unit D, follow last year's success of Unit K (**6 Grade A\* and 5 Grade A's**) – with 1 student achieving 100%
- In 2007, **17** Students have enrolled for GCSE Edexcel, for Unit K
- One-to-one support was provided for several children, over and above normal classes for Quran recitation to aid their personal development. A number of these students are now ready to join their peer group classes.
- In terms of recruitment of teaching staff, there has been an intake of **7** new teachers with **4** teachers leaving in the same period.
- 'Teacher Training' to enhance individual Teachers skills has been made available as an on-line resource, during this year.
- The Madressa website has been a valuable resource to the Madressa & Community throughout the year. The Madressa contains various online resources including practice exam papers supporting all levels of the Madressa syllabus / curriculum.

#### Extra-curricular activities, highlights:

- Second year running, during mahe-Ramadhan, the Madressa organised a Quiz night. The Madressa received positive feedback from those participating in the event. Inshallah the Madressa will take this feedback into account to further improve this event.
- During mahe-Muharram, Sheikh Shafiq Hudda led proceedings on Hazrat Abbas Day. This event was very well attended by students and their Parents. Students always look forward to the Sheikh's attendance and benefit immensely from this afternoon programme.
- Over **£1800** was raised by Madressa students, Staff, Parents and other Community members during a special fund-raising 'Charities-day' event.
- The students chose Thorpe Park as their annual Summer outing. Around **100** students, Teachers and parents participated in a thoroughly enjoyable and extremely wet day out.
- Milton Keynes was the hosting venue for the Council of European Jamaats (CoEJ) Madaris Heads meeting.
- Visit by the Chairman of CoEJ Madaris, positive feedback received regarding the conduct of Teachers and students.
- 'Parents Support Group' was launched with a successful trial of the 'fruit-tuc shop' in 2007, we pray that this group continues its excellent work in 2008.

## Administration, highlights:

The Madressa is grateful for all the administration support it receives, the tea, would particularly like to thank Aarif Merali and his family for their kind contribution of the Madressa Manuals.

As the Madressa continues to grow there is a need to further strengthen and focus resources in this area – this is an urgent need as we are not fulfilling a number of key requirements.

Two additional reports have also been included as separate attachments

1. Madressa accounts summary
2. Madressa website report (this has been provided by the web team).

With reference, specifically to the Madressa website report, the style, theme and focus of the website has changed. The focus of the website has broadened to include a global as well local view. The usage (and popularity) of this resource has significantly increased over the past 3 years, since inception – reflected in the increasing number of hits to the website.

This resource has not only been invaluable in supporting the core activities of the Madressa - but it has also generated revenues (through advertising services) – these significant contributions have helped in the day to day running of the Madressa. The work that has gone into managing and maintaining this resource should not go un-noticed and on behalf of the Madressa, we thank those individuals for their efforts.

This report covers a summary of each of the following:

1. Revenue generated through advertising web services
2. News of Death (NOD)
3. On-line Muharram services
4. Youth activities
5. Interfaith and propagation services
6. Ask the A'alim Services

## Opportunities identified during the last year:

The Madressa has progressed well over the last academic year with many positives - and yes, some failings too. The standard of Teaching, as ever, has been of the highest standard. This is due to the hard work of dedicated Teachers, which is proven by the high standards that students achieve.

Al-Hamdo-lillah, the Madressa has grown rapidly and demand for the Madressa outstrips the capacity / resources available. This is an issue the community needs to consider urgently, with 'your' support and guidance the Madressa can achieve much more and prosper in the following years to come.

As mentioned earlier, the administration help we receive is highly valued, however, growing numbers bring an increasing administration demand – this is something that my team and I personally find difficult to keep up with. I highlighted concerns over this in the last year and I feel it is now time to recruit dedicated administration support for the Madressa, we have inshallah secured some funding to achieve this end.

## Student enrolment, attendance & lateness

The Madressa register currently stands at over **100** students, an increase over last years reported number of **85** students. Also mentioned, demand continues to

grow and my opinion is that the community addresses the issue of Madressa space, as a priority.

The attendance is consistent at around **75%** of students attending each Sunday; there are still students that regularly demonstrate a poor attendance record. Time keeping also presents an issue with a minority of parents regularly bringing their children late to Madressa; this has a negative effect of disrupting the Teacher, the children but more importantly, is a disadvantage to the child concerned.

### Future goals and objectives

- Continue to review and strengthen the core syllabus
- Continue to attract, recruit, train & develop our Madressa Teaching staff
- Carry out CRB checks for all Teachers, Volunteers / helpers (with assistance from CoEJ)
- Create additional capacity for teaching on the GCSE Edexcel course
- Improve control by appointing a dedicated administrator
- Share best-practice through involvement with other Madaris, nationwide
- Greater Liaison with the IEB and CoEJ
- Tackling the issue of increased space capacity to meet increasing demand
- Focus on addressing student lateness and absence, during 2008.

### The Principal's remarks

In conclusion, I am proud to say that the Madressa, its students and the Teachers have progressed well, over last year; indeed I am always humbled by the continued dedication of all involved, these individuals are the cornerstone of this institution.

Sheikh Safdar Jaffer recently visited the Madressa and during this visit he made a point to check-in on all the classes; he praised the progress that the Madressa has made over the last year, particularly remarking on the 'cheerfulness of the students and the Teachers'.

May I also take this opportunity to highlight, to the community, the impact of losing Safdar Bhai from the Teaching team. In particular, I personally miss his presence at the Madressa as well as his guidance, on many matters.

As mentioned above, the Madressa is in desperate need of dedicated admin support. This should be addressed as a matter of urgency as many tasks get deferred to the working week and many then remain incomplete. I fully accept responsibility for this, this is my failing and in no way reflects on any other member of my Madressa team. In fact I am truly grateful to them for their hard work, dedication and support.

May I take this final opportunity to **thank** all students, Teachers and other volunteer helpers, who have 'put-up' with me over the last 2 years - in signing off, I would also like to sincerely apologise to any individual, if I have offended them whilst carrying out my duties as Principal of this Madressa. Please forgive me if this is the case.

The Madressa has many challenges that need to be met in order to continue to grow, in strength. I am truly grateful to Allah (SWT) to have granted me this opportunity to serve - and I also pray that He forgives me for my failings.