

# Azhar Academy

# Overview Report

September 2023

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Azhar Academy is a charitable organisation (Registered Charity Number: 1080849) founded in 1996 under the instruction and guidance of Shaykh al-Hadith Hazrat Maulana Yusuf Motala (Rahmatullah Alayh). The purpose of our charity is to provide Islamic and educational services and other charitable activities.



Record it, Report it,  
Don't Support it #ANTI-BULLYING



“ May Allah Subhanahu wa ta’ala establish as many religious schools as possible in and around London so that our younger generation may attain an Islamic education & upbringing according to authentic Islamic traditions. -Shaykh al-Hadith Hadhrat Yusuf Motala رحمه الله ”

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# Introduction from our Chair of Trustees

**Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh,**

Alhamdulillah, Allah has blessed us with the auspicious month of Ramadhan. May Allah bless us all with his eternal blessings, forgiveness and acceptance in this great and blessed month, Aameen.

Alhamdulillah since 1996, under the instruction and guidance of **Shaykh al-Hadith Hazrat Maulana Yusuf Motala (Rahmatullah Alayh)** the **Azhar Academy** has been striving to provide a high quality of Islamic and educational services as well as a range of other charitable activities. Our purpose is to continue his legacy and vision for the provision of our core services.

Following on from our landmark year of 200, where in March we were rated as an Outstanding school by Ofsted and in August, our GCSE results in 2023, despite challenging national rates, were extremely impressive Alhamdulillah. Our pupils attained a pass rate of 96%, with 95% of all the grades as 4+ grades. Of these, 52% of all grades were the highest prestigious 7-9 grades. The success of our pupils is evidenced by the fact that Alhamdulillah, 93% of our students passed with 8 or more GCSEs

This is an incredibly proud moment for us as an institution and is a testament to the hard work and effort of the school staff and teachers, who strive to provide an outstanding education to our pupils every single day and is undoubtedly the result of the sincere support and Duas of the parents and wider community. A detailed breakdown of the Ofsted report is included in this Overview Report at pages 11 and 12 and the full report is available on our website..

In 2021, despite extremely challenging global circumstances, in pursuit of our mission to support our local community, the Azhar Academy successfully purchased the former Newham College F-Block site for £2.7 million, despite the vendors receiving offers in the region of their guide price, £3.5 million. The building has approximately 25000 sq ft internally and approximately half an acre of adjacent land. In addition to the purchase, we have carried out essential works to the value of £1million, in accordance with all the necessary Ofsted and regulatory requirements. Alhamdulillah, on 20th March 2023, the Girls School officially moved into the new building. This is a truly historical moment for the Azhar Academy and we are confident that the building will enable us to continue to grow and expand the educational provisions of our Outstanding rated Girls School provision to over 450 girls inshaAllah.

We are therefore in urgent and desperate need to raise £2 million to allow us to repay the outstanding Qardah Hasanah due which enabled us to purchase and renovate the site. The Overview Report is intended to provide you, our supporters and community, a picture of what we at the Azhar Academy do and the range of services provided by the Trust.

In this blessed, most auspicious month of Ramadhan, I humbly request you to support us with this noble project in any way possible - financially, introducing us to friends/family/colleagues locally, nationally and internationally, who may be able to support us financially to pay-off our outstanding Qardah Hasanah, or professionally so that we may continue to expand in the provision of our purpose.

**With a humble request for Duas,**  
**Ismail Gangat MBE**  
**Chair of Trustees**



# Azhar Academy Sites & Activities



## AAGS (Girls School)

235a Romford Road, London, E7 9HL, acquired in 2000  
For more info : [www.aags.org.uk](http://www.aags.org.uk)



## AAPS and Nursery

470 Leytonstone High Road, E11 3HN, acquired in 2011  
For more info : [www.aaps.uk.com](http://www.aaps.uk.com)



## Newly Purchased

Tennyson Road, E15 4DR, acquired in 2021  
For more info : [newbuilding.azharacademy.org](http://newbuilding.azharacademy.org)



## Azhar Masjid

235a Romford Road, E7 9HL, United Kingdom,  
acquired in 2000 | For more info : [www.azharmasjid.org.uk](http://www.azharmasjid.org.uk)



## Azhar Offices/Education

228a Romford Road, London, E7 9HZ, acquired in 2013  
For more info : [www.azharacademy.org](http://www.azharacademy.org)





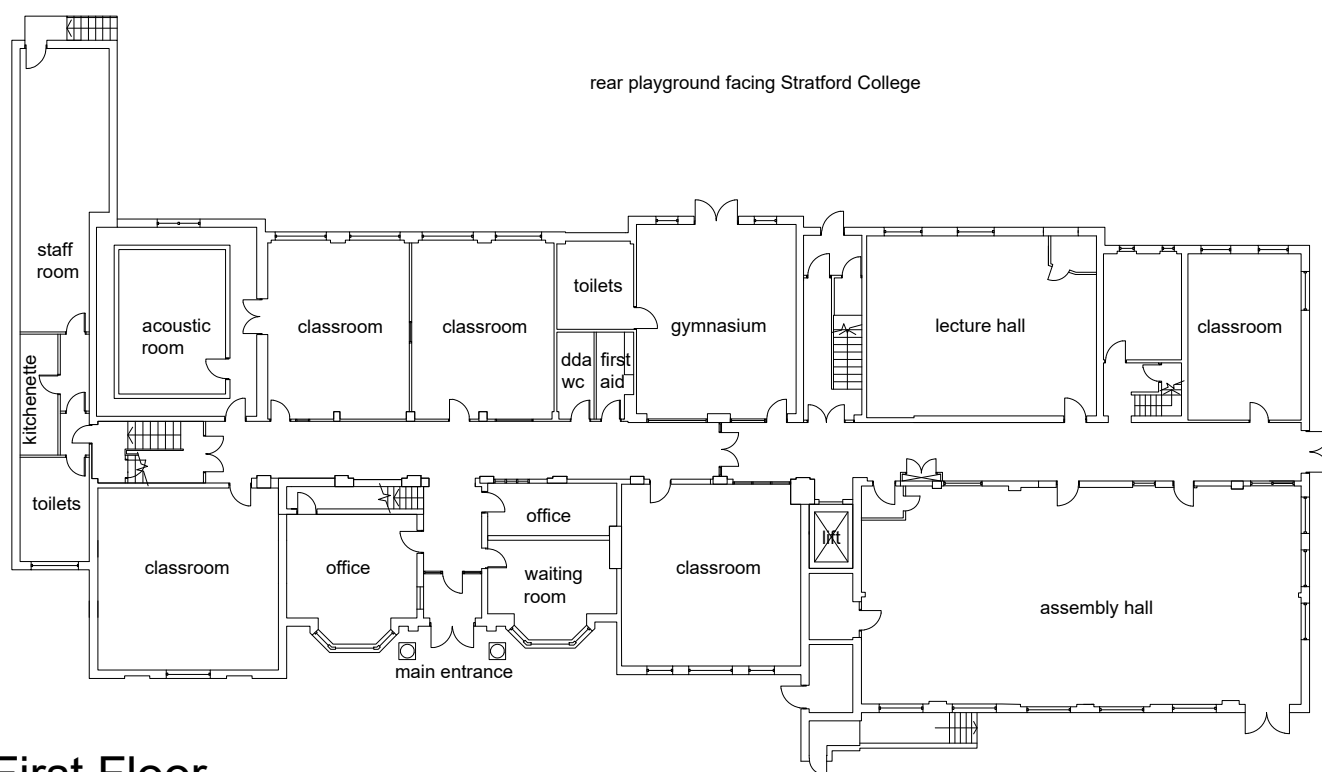
**New Building  
Tennyson Road, E15 4DR  
Former Newham College F-Block**

# Acquisition of New Building

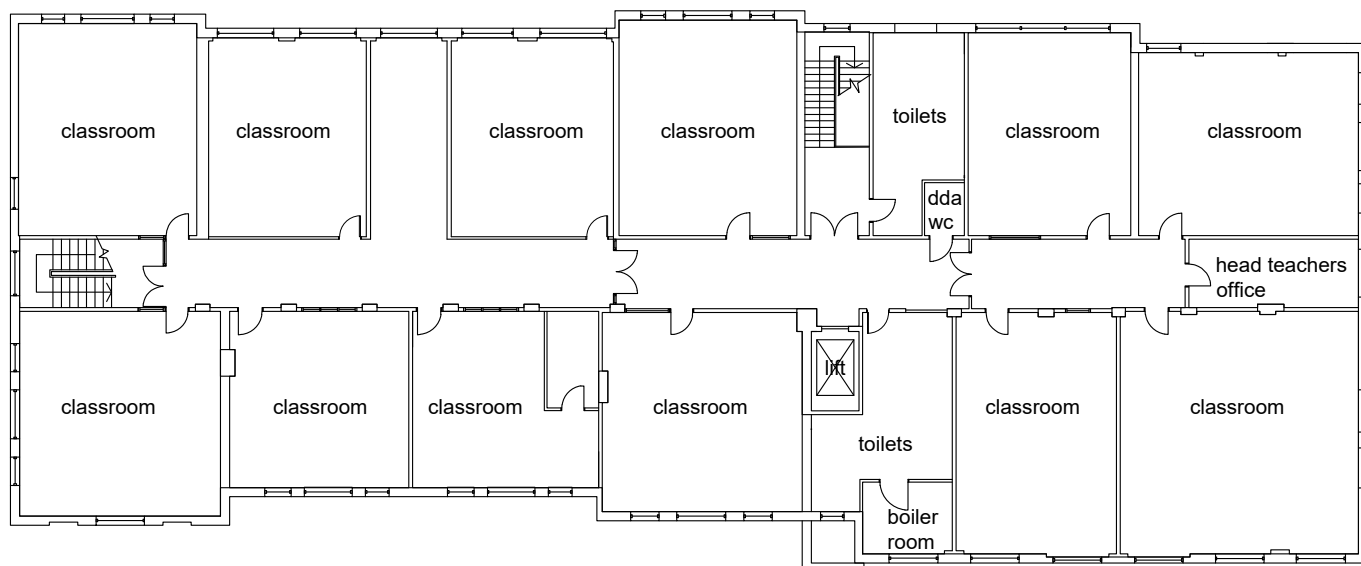
Alhamdulillah, in August 2021, the Azhar Academy successfully acquired the former Newham College F-Block for £2.7million, a building of approximately 25000sq ft internally and approximately half an acre of adjacent land. Despite the Guide Price being £3.5million and the vendor receiving offers in that region, we were selected as the preferred buyers due to our excellent educational record.

The plan with the site is to transfer our current Girls School from our Romford Road site to the new building, to accommodate for the significant demand for places. Historically, for 56 places at our Romford Road site, we would receive 120+ applications every single year. This year, to-date, with the proposed 3-form entry the new building will provide, from September 2022 we've received over 220 applications for the academic year 2023/24

## Ground Floor



## First Floor



We urgently need to raise £2 million to pay off the outstanding Qardha Hasanah raised to purchase the building, as well as for the expenses occurred for the necessary building and services work (as listed below) which was imperative to obtain regulatory approval from DfE ( Department of Education) in order to move into the new site, which was to the value of £1million.

Alhamdulillah, the Girls School at the new building began on Monday 20th March, 27th Sha'baan 1444 AH.

- 01** Apply for and get all new services, gas, electric and water into this building as all services had to be cut off when we purchased the site
- 02** Install a completely new hot water and heating plant to cover the entire building
- 03** Installation of toilets to prepare the building to meet DfE standards. This building when purchased, only had 7 toilets and therefore we had to refurbish and install 26 toilets along with accessible toilets and shower facilities
- 04** Creating 2 further classrooms
- 05** Procure and install 2 fully resourced science labs and carry out all necessary preparatory works
- 06** Install a fully functional and resourced IT suite
- 07** Installing air conditioning units throughout the building
- 08** Entire building modernising of electrical work with certification and Replacing old lights with new LED lights;
- 09** Installing a kitchen
- 10** Preparing staff rooms and staff offices
- 11** Creating an assembly hall, as the building did not have one given it was part of a larger campus
- 12** Installing CCTV, fire, burglar and panic alarms
- 13** Installing new flooring throughout the entire building
- 14** Essential decorating, painting and furnishing works, including doors and windows, and replacing wherever necessary
- 15** Installing a PA system
- 16** Purchasing and installing smart screens in every class room, as well as in the assembly hall, which also contains a projector screen
- 17** Purchasing all necessary school furniture such as tables, chairs, lockers and the alike
- 18** Creating a car parking area for staff and play area for the children
- 19** Repairing and refurbishing existing windows to ensure consistency with the entire building
- 20** Repairing roof leakages and various other roof and gutter works



# Progression of Renovation Works

We intend to keep you, our community, updated with regular updates on how the work is progressing and the specific support way require. We have carried out essential refurbishment and renovation works for the value of approximately £1 Million.

**Before**



**Now**

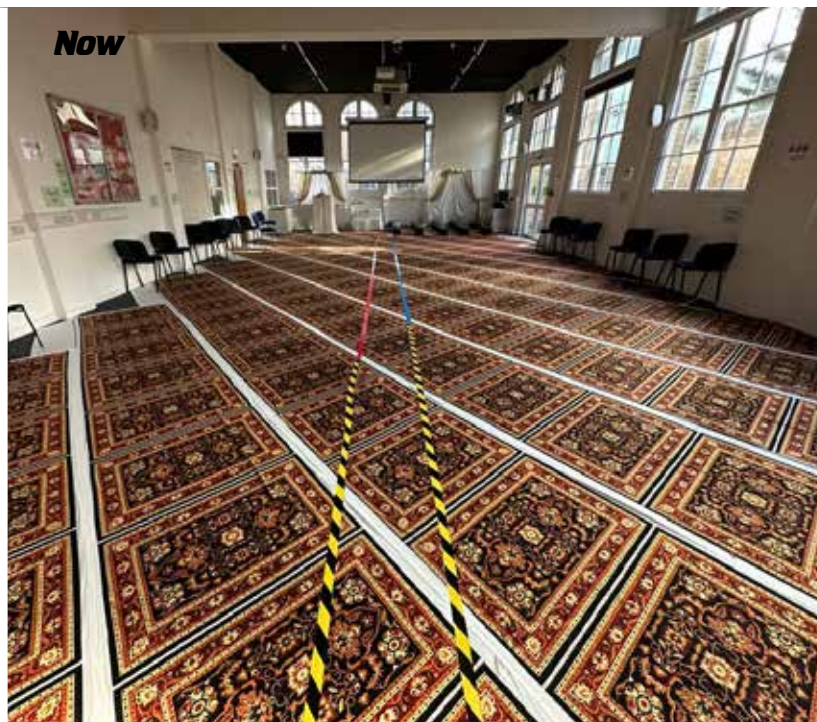


**01** Preparation works for the installment of 18 additional toilets to adhere to statutory requirements

**Before**



**Now**



**02** Creating a hall for Assembly, Lunch, Salaah.



**Before**



**Now**



**03**

Partitioning and renovating classrooms to enable a 3-form entry to increase our capacity by 50%

**Before**



**Now**



**04**

Install a fully functional and resourced IT suite

**Before**



**Now**



**05**

Procure and install 2 fully resourced science labs and carry out all necessary preparatory works

# Fundraising Packages

Below, we have outlined the various fundraising packages which we are currently fundraising for, to allow us to cover the costs associated with the renovation and refurbishment of various aspects of the building, as well as purchases that were required to enable the school to function. These smaller projects will enable you to take ownership of certain aspects of the project and claim the sadaqah jaariyah of it inshaAllah.

For further information and pictures, please visit [newbuilding.azharacademy.org](http://newbuilding.azharacademy.org) where you will be able to see the work which has been undertaken.

Lecture theatre  
£300,000



1 seat in lecture  
theatre £6,000



Science Lab  
£200,00 x2



I T suite  
£200,000



Classrooms  
£150,000 each



Toilets  
£3,000 each x26



Boiler room  
£75,000



Smart screens in each  
classroom: £2,000



Assembly / Salaah  
Hall £250,000



Flooring - £10 per sq ft  
x 21,000 sq ft



Fire Alarm system  
£75,000



2 chairs + Table  
£200



Air Conditioning Units

-

£2500 each

Roof Repairs

-

£300,000

Entire building security CCTV

-

£70,000

Security Door locking system

-

£23,000

PA System

-

£80,000

Intruder/panic Alarm

-

£16,000



# Girls School (AAGS) Primary School (AAPS)

## Introduction from our Executive Headteacher

I am extremely pleased that Alhamdulillah, having received the final approval letter from Department of Education, the Girls School moved into our new building, Tennyson Road, on 20th March 2023. This has been an eagerly awaited move for staff and students, as the transformation of the building since purchased has now made it an ideal place for them to continue with their learning and teaching journey. Alhamdulillah this move took place at a time when students will have the opportunity to spend some of Ramadhan in the new building, a blessing indeed, as we make this move in such an auspicious time. Monday, 20th March will be a truly memorable day in the history of AAGS and we are so grateful for all of your support and Duas in making this possible.

With sincerity and for the pleasure of Allaah, in collaboration with the parent community, our aim is to establish and promote a school that, under the broad framework of Islamic ethos and guidance, provides a broad and balanced education to our students, instils Islamic values in them, enriches the entire school community, promotes community cohesion and inspires an awareness of duty towards Allaah, his Noble Messenger (saw) and the entire humanity.

We recognise that knowledge is inherently noble and, hence, gaining secular & Islamic knowledge goes hand in hand at our schools. We have designed a school curriculum which provides a sound and comprehensive education for our students and aims to instil in them good moral conduct, sound comprehension of their faith and an unwavering commitment to succeed.

By providing a stimulating and holistic approach to learning, we are able to offer each student the opportunity to learn and achieve her true potential. We teach a wide range of subjects, both National Curriculum-based and Islamic, aimed to fully equip our students with the best knowledge, skills and understanding to participate positively in today's challenging and diverse society. We expect our students to leave the school equipped with the correct tools for the next stage of their education with a confident, responsible and tolerant outlook on life.

**Mrs Rookshana Adam**

Executive Headteacher - AAGS & AAPS

# Girls School (AAGS)

- We purchased our first building in Forest Gate, London, in the Year 2000 - 235a Romford Road, London, E7 9HL.
- This building was a completely dilapidated church building and we applied for Planning Permission to build 3 floors into this building and operate a Girls secondary school with a capacity of 280 pupils.
- Alhamdulillah, planning was granted in May 2002 and development work immediately began. We started the school in September 2003 with the aim of ensuring that girls are provided best quality education within a safe Islamic environment.
- Along with the full National Curriculum we also teach Aalimah (Traditional Arabic & Islamic theological studies, Hadith, Tafseer, Fiqh, Nahw/Sarf) which is accredited and accepted as an equivalent to a 2 years BA degree course.
- We also teach Hifz of Quran Shareef, an extremely popular option for a number of our students.
- On 20th March 2023, we successfully moved the AAGS from the Romford Road site and into the new building, enabling a capacity increase to 450 pupils.

For further information please visit : [www.aags.org.uk](http://www.aags.org.uk)

# Primary School & Nursery (AAPs)

- We also purchased a site, an ex-Police Station in Leytonstone in 2011, 470 High Road Leytonstone, London, E11 3HN.
- We immediately applied for Planning, developed and started a Primary school with Nursery which started in 2013.
- The school has a capacity of 200 children from Nursery through till Year 6.
- Along with the National Curriculum and Islamic/Arabic Studies, the children at Key Stage 2, Year 3, have the option to do Hifz at our Primary school.
- We have continued to develop and extend the premises, including the creation of an Assembly and Dining Hall at the rear of the building.

For further information please visit : [www.aaps.uk.com](http://www.aaps.uk.com)



# Summary of March 2022 Ofsted Outstanding Report

Alhamdulillah, through the mercy of Allah SWT, in March 2022, the Azhar Academy Primary School & Nursery and Girls Secondary Schools were subject to a routine Ofsted Inspection, wherein the schools were awarded the highest rank of Outstanding in all categories.

## Inspection of Azhar Academy Girls School

235a Romford Road, Forest Gate, London E7 9HL



Inspection dates:

1 to 3 March 2022

**Overall effectiveness**

**Outstanding**

The quality of education

**Outstanding**

Behaviour and attitudes

**Outstanding**

Personal development

**Outstanding**

Leadership and management

**Outstanding**

Early years provision

**Outstanding**

Overall effectiveness at previous  
inspection

Good

Does the school meet the independent  
school standards?

**Yes**

"The curriculum prepares them for life in modern Britain. Pupils demonstrate a keen interest and success in science, technology, and mathematics."

"The school is a calm, safe, orderly, and respectful environment. Behaviour is exemplary. Active citizenship is a strength of the school."

"The curriculum is ambitious and well-sequenced. It builds on strong groundwork in the early years."

"Staff focus on addressing pupils' well-being, particularly affected by the recent partial lockdowns"

"Adults inspire pupils to work hard. Pupils are highly motivated and keen to learn. They respond positively to praise. They thrive because staff celebrate pupils' success."

"Leaders base the whole-school approach to pupils' personal development on Islamic values. Pupils believe that 'acting upon these values is more important than knowing them'."

"Trips and visits give pupils first-hand experiences of a range of subjects and careers."

"Leaders involve parents and their children in discussing what is important to and for them to achieve well."

"Staff reduce barriers to learning to give pupils the best possible chances to be successful. They tailor the support in addressing their specific needs. Staff track pupils' achievements against aspirational targets. They achieve or exceed these high expectations. This is due to the intensive support pupils receive in the early phase of the school."

## AAGS

"They show the school's core values through the way they interact with others. Leaders have high aspirations for pupils."

"The proprietor and governors are unwavering in promoting their vision for pupils. They challenge the 'myths' that may limit what girls can or cannot achieve."

"It underpins the belief that no career or higher educational establishment is unattainable. The careers provision is comprehensive and coherent."

## AAPS & Nursery

"Teachers ensure pupils are very well equipped in using their reading and writing skills as they move through the school."

"The early years provision is well staffed and organised. Adults plan purposeful and practical experiences for children to learn."

"They model high quality language and vocabulary in developing children's communication skills. Leaders ensure pupils are confident and fluent readers."



# Material Change Inspection Report November 2022

Leaders have suitable health and safety policies in place. The proposed new premises are not yet in use, but leaders already conduct and record regular checks on the building to ensure its suitability.

Leaders have developed systems and procedures to assess and manage risk at the new site and these are appropriate. Leaders assess risks thoroughly and act promptly to mitigate these potential risks.

The proposed additional premises were previously part of a local college. The premises have subsequently been fully refurbished. The required safety checks, including those of fire alarms and emergency lighting are already in place. Leaders have effective systems to ensure that they monitor site safety, include fire safety. There are plans in place for regular fire drills once the proposed premises is open to pupils.

The premises was formerly part of the local college. This has been fully refurbished. This work is now complete and has been done to a high standard. The additional spaces and classrooms on offer at the new site are sufficient to accommodate the proposed increase in the number of pupils on roll.

The acoustics, lighting and toilet, washing and medical facilities in the new premises are all likely to be compliant with the requirements of the independent school standards. The washing facilities include safely regulated water supplies and suitable drinking water that is clearly labelled. Outdoor spaces are available for recreation and physical education, and these are also suitable for the proposed number of pupils.

Leaders have planned effectively in order to cater for pupils in the new building, and they ensure that the new premises are likely to be safe and suitable for the number of pupils the school intends to admit.

Leaders are aware of the needs of their pupils. They have created a culture of safeguarding in the school to keep pupils safe. Leaders have refurbished the new building with pupils' well-being in mind.

# 2023 GCSE Results

Alhamdulillah, through the mercy of Allah SWT, August 2023 marked an incredibly successful year for our GCSE results, despite National rates dropping significantly to below pre-pandemic levels. Our pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard to attain the best possible grades and to achieve the highest possible marks for the Girls, such that they are able to go on and pursue the A-Levels they choose to study, armed with the highest grades, skills and educational grounding to be able to thrive throughout their careers.

Some key stats are below:

The summer 2023 pass rate is 96% for students achieving at least five 5+ grades including Maths and English, with 93% of our students passing with 8 or more GCSEs Alhamdulillah.

- **95% of all grades were 4+ grades**
- **52% of all grades were the highest prestigious 7-9 grades which is up from last year (51%)**
- **93% of our students passed with 8 or more GCSEs**
- **61% achieved a minimum of 4 7-9 grades which is up on last year (65%)**
- **At least 18/46 top students achieved at least 8 7-9 grades.**





# Masjid/Madrasah

- Our newly refurbished Masjid has been designed and constructed with the capacity to accommodate and cater for 450 worshippers in total.
- Our primary aim is to serve the needs of the local Muslim community by providing them a facility for daily prayers and a place to seek Islamic education, through the variety of classes and other services we offer.
- We also welcome those from various wider communities including Muslims and Non-Muslims, those of all faiths and backgrounds, by providing them with the opportunity to learn about and understand Islam through education and social interaction.
- We operate a Weekday and Weekend Madrasah for Boys and Girls, as well as our daily evening Maktab (supplementary [evening] Islamic classes), Madrasah, Hifz Class and Aalimiyyah Classes.

Alhamdulillah, within our current buildings, we run a number of evening and weekend classes too. For further information please visit : [www.azharmasjid.org.uk](http://www.azharmasjid.org.uk)

## Key Performance Indicators

With a capacity of **370** Girls at AAGS and **217** students at AAPS/Nursery, we are delighted to have a number of our students engaged in our activities, such as:

- Number of students doing Hifz at AAGS - **58**
- Number of students doing Hifz at AAPS - **30**
- Number of girls in Aalimah Class - **162**
- Number of Aalimah Graduates - **153**
- Number of AAGS Graduates - **640**
- Number continued into Further Education - **595**
- Location for our AAGS Graduates include:
  - Oxford/Cambridge
  - Kings College London (KCL)
  - The London School of Economics (LSE)
  - University College London (UCL)
  - Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)
  - And others...
- Maktab (supplementary [evening] Islamic classes) for:
  - Boys - **79** students
  - Girls - **91** students
- Hifz Class for:
  - Boys - **45** students
  - Girls - **12** students
- Sanatain Class for Girls - **27** students
- Aalimiyyah:
  - Boys - **29** students
  - Girls - **111** students
- Weekend Madrasah:
  - Boys - **55** students
  - Girls - **35** students
- Total Number of students in Maktab - **447**

# Testimonials

**Ms Lyn Brown MP**

MP for West Ham

"I have always enjoyed my visits to the school and have found the pupils to be very keen to learn, whilst being encouraged and supported in reaching their academic potential by an excellent team of teaching staff.

The school places great value on the importance of community and family and promotes cohesion in its endeavours."

**Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP**

MP for East Ham

"As you know, I have made a number of visits to Azhar Academy. I have always enjoyed my visits, and appreciated the welcome I have received. The Academy has impressed me as a well-run school, with a good standard of academic achievement. I have also been impressed that pupils are encouraged to take a lively and intelligent interest in the local and national community, from the starting point of their Muslim faith.

I was pleased when, a year ago, Mr Ismail Gangat, the Trustee of Azhar Academy Girls School, was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours list, reflecting the Government's commendation for the achievements of Azhar Academy."

**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**

Former Secretary of State for Education

"Congratulations on receiving an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2021.

We are delighted that you have received recognition for your outstanding contribution to education. You have been the driving force behind developing Azhar Academy Girl's School."

**Shabir Randeree CBE**

Chairman, Prince's Trust International

"I am aware of the work of the Azhar Academy and its excellent reputation in the Newham area. I understand that the Academy is one of the best performing schools in the Borough and are hoping to expand their current activities... to enable them to continue to provide a high-quality educational facility to their local community."



# Donate & Contribute



## By Making Lillah Donations

Kindly transfer the amount to the following account:

Bank : Al-Rayan Bank  
Account Name : Azhar Academy  
Sort Code : 30-00-83  
Acc No : 01133601  
IBAN : GB63 ARAY 3000 8301 1336 01  
BIC : ARAYGB22

You can also make cheques payable to 'Azhar Academy' and post them to :

Azhar Academy  
235a Romford Road  
Forest Gate, London  
E7 9HL

You may also visit us at the above address for any donations to be made in person.

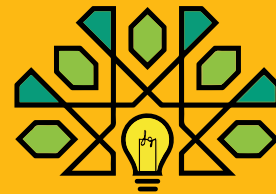


## through Monthly Direct Debit

**Monthly Direct Debit :**

Visit [www.azharacademy.org](http://www.azharacademy.org) or scan the QR code and select the 'Monthly Direct debit' on the Homepage.

The amount that you select will be debited from your account automatically on a Monthly basis.



## LaunchGood

## by raising through Crowdfunding

**Setup your Launchgood campaign by following these simple steps:**

Step 1 : Visit our Launchgood Page :

[LaunchGood.com/AzharAcademy-UK](https://LaunchGood.com/AzharAcademy-UK)

Step 2 : Set your target & name your campaign.

Step 3 : Sign up for or login to your LaunchGood act.

Step 4 : Go Live and start your fundraising.

or

**by giving Qardha hasanah /  
Interest free loan**

**AzharAcademy** 

[www.azharacademy.org](http://www.azharacademy.org)

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