

26.02.2025

HBn/sbt

Dear King's Oak Families

We are writing to you today to let you know how King's Oak Academy will be supporting our children during the period of Ramadan and to help our community to foster understanding among us all about the challenges and requirements affecting Muslim students who are fasting.

Ramadan begins on or around the 28 February 2025 and will end on or around 30 March 2025 (depending on the new moon) with Eid-ul-Fitr falling on either 30 or 31 March.

Ramadan falls at a different time each year because the Islamic calendar is based on lunar cycles, which means there isn't a fixed date.

To our students:

- We understand and appreciate the dedication and commitment to this obligatory pillar of Islam.
- We will provide a dedicated space away from other students who may be eating during lunches and break times; we will provide a space for prayer and reflection.
- We would only suggest students to break their fast only if it is a risk to their health and wellbeing.
- We will share Ramadan as a community – staff are invited to be involved and may be keeping a fast to share their experiences with our students. We invite everyone to say Ramadan Mubarak or Ramadan Kareem, wishing the recipient a blessed or generous Ramadan, and will learn about and celebrate this time together.
- We ask all our students to talk to their family and/or staff if they feel their education is being affected.
- We will make sure rooms are at the right temperature, with fresh air circulating, especially exam halls for Year 11.
- Teachers are aware of the expectations during this holy time and will ensure learning is suitable for all, including those observing Ramadan, so that no lessons need to be missed during this time.
- We appreciate that some students and families may be concerned that in music lessons, being involved in playing music could shift the mind and body from the focus of Ramadan. We can assure families that pupils will not be listening or playing emotionally heavy songs. They will be learning key theory and the technical aspect of playing the keyboard and using music technology. It is expected that students will attend the lessons and continue with the projects they are working on, however theory-based tasks and independent reading will also be available in class.

Information for our staff:

- Ramadan is a holy month and for many Muslims it is 30 days that allow deeper connection and understanding of their faith.
- Children should only fast when they are physically and emotionally mature, they should not do anything that will intentionally damage their health.
- Children are expected to uphold their education and try their utmost in school. If they have an exam, they may be able to miss the fast and make up for it at another date.
- Young children may fast for part of the day to help them to practise or to build tolerance to the experience. Primary pupils are not expected to fast, but it is up to the families to decide this. It is

not for a school to decide on whether a child should fast, unless, as per Department for Education guidance, it is having a significant damaging effect on the child.

- Families should try not to keep their children up late during school nights and should encourage weekend prayers if need be. Fasting may affect pupils' concentration.

Support for families of students that are eligible for free school meals during Ramadan: If your child is fasting during Ramadan, please contact the Main Office if you would like to order a packed lunch (grab bag – sandwich/cake/drink) to collect at the end of each school day during this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Ramadan Mubarak from all at King's Oak Academy.

Kind Regards

H. Briden

Hannah Briden
Associate Assistant Principal for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion | King's Oak Academy