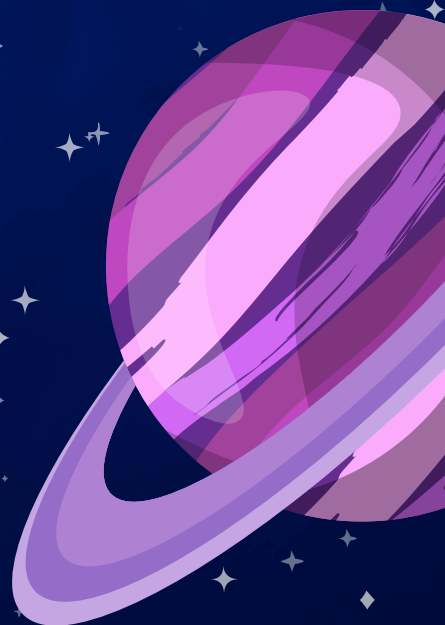




Camp CoEJ Diaries

Day 4: Wednesday 3rd July



Camp CoEJ Diaries

Day 4 – Girls camp

The day started with us mentors waking up the campers, where they were greeted with a full English breakfast, ensuring they had enough sustenance for their morning classes. It was Planet Neptune's turn to clean up, they wiped down the tables and hoovered the floor.

Today's class with Raihana bai focused on Imam Zainul Abideen as it was his wafat night, discussing his different attributes as well as his title of Syed-as-Sajideen. They also talked through why it is important for their Salah to be qabool.

In Zamina R Bai's class the campers learnt about rapport. There were a variety of different activities including having conversations using only questions and body language. Their aim was to improve their confidence and facilitate communication.

Finally, Zameenah Bai D's class the campers conducted a discussion circle surrounding the spiritual benefits of wudhu and pondered over the different methods of improving their concentration in Salah.

After the classes, we had lunch. Today's menu was kebab rolls and wedges and it was Venus that served. After lunch, the campers made their way to the hall for Zohr and Asr Jamaat Salah. Today, Yusr Baqar recited Adhan, Fatema Nandjy recited Zohr Dua, Sakinah Sumar recited Asr Dua, and Fatima Merhi recited Ziyrat.

It's inspiring to see the campers taking initiative and volunteering to recite.

Wednesday 31st July

Camp CoEJ Diaries

Day 4 – Girls camp

After salah, we headed out for activities. Today, everyone was able to enjoy a forest trail together!

The trail led us through the woods to a clearing where the campers made different kinds of dens/shelters using sticks. The campers utilised their creativity and thought outside the box to form functional shelters. At the end of the trail, the instructors showed the girls how to make a bushfire using dry sticks of different lengths and widths. After that, the instructors made some popcorn over the open bushfire while they all played games. Finally, the girls learnt how to start a fire using a fire starter and cotton wool. Even the mentors had a try!

After the activities, we had some time to allow the campers to freshen up and reflect on the day in our Planet Times. Planet Venus focused on the saying of Bibi Zainab; “I see nothing but beauty” and relating that to the idea that Allah has made us all unique individuals and that should be celebrated instead of zooming in on imperfections. Planet Mercury designed postcards to commemorate their time at the camp, drawing all sorts of different activities that they have engaged in over the week. Planet Neptune made friendship bracelets to celebrate the bonds that have been cultivated throughout Camp CoEJ 2024.

The campers then had some time to practice their presentations for the Muharram Workshop. Today, as it was the wafat of Imam Zainul Abideen, the campers were asked to write rhyming couplets about the Imam in pairs. Other campers were able to use this time to practice their Qur'an, Marthiya and Nawha recitations.

Wednesday 31st July

Camp CoEJ Diaries

Day 4 – Girls camp

It was then dinner time which consisted of Spanish Rice with Neptune serving and Venus cleaning up.

Following dinner, the campers attended their Personal Development Time where Zainab Bai conducted a workshop on the importance of hijab.

The Muharram Workshop was a majlis for Imam Zainul Abideen. All campers recited their poems, while the others that had prepared something were able to recite. We ended the majlis with Tabarruk and the Postbag, the campers really appreciated all of your wonderful messages!

Finally, the day ended with campers having wind down time before lights out, to ensure they are rested for the next day.

Looking forward to another fun-filled day of activities tomorrow!!

Wednesday 31st July

Camp CoEJ Diaries

*Our collective poem as a gift to Imam
Sajjad(as) on his Shahaadat*

Zain ul Abideen you are so ill, you suffered and
struggled to fulfill Allah's will.

Zain ul Abideen you suffered through Karbala,
Yet you managed to spread the message so far.

The whispered prayers are 15, written by Zain ul
Abideen.

You were ill so you could be our next Imam,
to spread the message of Islam.

You saw it all Zain ul Abideen,
Always in prostration you were Sayyidus Sajideen.

He sacrificed so much to keep Islam alive
And so for that Islam will always thrive.

Prostration was his middle name,
for he gave so much in his reign.

Zain ul Abideen you sacrificed, so much for all the
believers, who are very touched.

Imam Sajjad was tired and sick,
but all the enemies did (to him) was kick.

Imam Sajjad witnessed a very terrible war
Yet he still prostrated on the floor.

Wednesday 31st July

Camp CoEJ Diaries

*Our collective poem as a gift to Imam
Sajjad(as) on his Shahaadat*

Imam Sajjad was trapped in chains
walking through Shaam with so much pain.

The Imam often fell into sujood
To ignore Yazid being crude.

During the torture in the prison in shaam,
Imam ZA showed us all how to remain calm.

You went through so much grief and pain
O my Imam Ali ibn' I Husayn.

Karbala always played back in your eyes
And you tried to make everyone realise.

How much torture your father faced
With his wife and children all displaced.

You' ve left a legacy in Karbala,
Please call us to your shrine inshallah.

Wednesday 31st July

Camp CoEJ Diaries

Day 4 – Boys camp

The day started with the mentors waking up the campers for Fajr Salah. Fajr adhaan was recited beautifully by Ali Ridha Jaffer. Qasim Bha (Jupiter mentor) recited fajr dua and Ziyarat was led by Hussainabbas Hameer.

The campers woke up at 8am to have a delicious breakfast. Today's breakfast was a full English breakfast/ cereal. The campers slept well the previous night, so the waking up process was immaculate this morning!

Following breakfast, we started the day with Planet Time, where Saturn split off into two groups and held a short debate amongst each other. The topics discussed included "The legal driving age of 18 is too high", as well as "The school week should be reduced to 4 days a week" and "Is the UK a good society for a young Muslim to grow up in?" The campers found debating these topics enjoyable and also discussed their thoughts with fellow campers within their planet whom they were still getting to know. Many interesting opinions were raised and the campers debated in a productive and healthy environment.

Today's activities were slightly changed as we had planned for a camp hike. However, due to the intense heat, we decided to do a shorter hike leading to a shelter building activity in the forest as well as a bushcraft activity which the entire camp were brilliant at. All 3 planets successfully built a fire by themselves and worked together to achieve this. This was great to see and really helped to create strong bonds between the campers.

Wednesday 31st July

Camp CoEJ Diaries

Day 4 – Boys camp

After the activities, the campers joined for Zohr and Asr Jamaat Salah, led by my planet Saturn! Husayn Mawjee was given the opportunity to lead Salah and did so excellently! Ishaq Govani recited Adhan and I (Ali Bha Kanji) recited Zohr Dua. Asr Dua and Ziyarat were recited by Zainulabideen Rajani and Aliabbas Janmohamed respectively. It has been really beautiful to see different campers coming forward and volunteering to recite over the past few days!

Lunch was thereafter served by Jupiter and cleared up by Mars. Tomato pasta, kebab buns and potato wedges were on today's menu! After lunch, we had some time to allow the campers to freshen up before they headed to their classes.

As it was shahadat anniversary of our 4th imam today, Sheikh Mustafa Bha's class today focused on the qualities of Imam Sajjad (as) and duas in Bahifa Sajjadiya, as well as a quiz to learn more about his life. In Shabab Bha's class the campers explored the importance of Salah and Wudhu as well as exploring the reason behind why we pray Salah through verses from the Holy Quran. Zamina Bai Rehemtulla's class continued to discuss verbal and non verbal communication cues as well as ways to uphold our Islamic values in non-Islamic settings.

After the classes it was then dinner time, the main for which was Spanish Rice. This was diligently served with love by Saturn and subsequently cleared up with love by Jupiter!

Wednesday 31st July

Camp CoEJ Diaries

Day 4 – Boys camp

After dinner, it was time for PDT (personal development time). Today's session was more of a fun and interactive workshop where the campers worked in their planets to solve a murder mystery as well as completing a range of quizzes. The winners were Jupiter with Mars and Saturn running them close! This was followed by dessert, which was delicious cupcakes served with custard!

Following this, we held a majlis commemorating the shahadat anniversary of Imam Sajjad (as). Tilawate Quran was recited by Qasim Bha and Marsiyas were recited beautifully by Nadhirali Rajwani, Zainulabideen & Husseinabbas Rajani, and Ali Reza Damani. Sheikh Mustafa Bha led a short talk on the life of Imam Sajjad (as) and lessons we can take from the amazing words of Dua Makarimul Akhlaq. Masaib was recited by Ali Bha Dharsee and Nawhas were recited by Ali Ridha Jaffer, Hussein Mawjee and Ali Reza Damani. Ziyarat was led by Ammar Bhanjee, who we are all so proud of for bravely taking this step!

Once again it was amazing to see different campers volunteering and taking part in such an important tradition on an emotional occasion.

Just before the midnight lights out, Ibrahim enjoyed getting a top score of 9 out of 10 with Shaykh in a late night self-made game called "Dabs". I expect we'll see a few tired eyes in the morning!

Signing off from the Mentor team,
Ali Bha Kanji

Wednesday 31st July