



### **Ramadan – A time for reflection**

The BGS community have taken their time to share their thoughts about the teachings behind the holy month and the Iftar event:

Mrs Thomas (Chair of *The Association*): “As the sun began to set on the BGS Dining Hall, families gathered to celebrate one of the closing days of Ramadan. It was so wonderful to see so many faces joining together to break their fast with dates and water, before enjoying a myriad of delicious, home cooked dishes. A huge thanks to our Junior School teaching assistant, Miss Choudhury, for her guidance and organisation, as well as to members of the *South Asian Society* and the Green Kitchen and Estates teams. Thank you to everyone who attended and made it such a special occasion. I sincerely hope that this event will continue to grow in popularity every year and that more people will join us for this wonderful celebration of faith, community and family.”

Mrs Hudson-Findley (Director of Digital Learning, Enterprise and Sustainability): “I was extremely warmed and lifted by the sense of community and connectivity that was felt at our BGS Iftar this year. The atmosphere that Miss. Choudhury and the students created were so welcoming and positive. It felt like family. I learned so much and really enjoyed meeting new people and joining in with the celebration. It was a wonderful evening.”

Miss Choudhury (Junior School Teaching Assistant): “BGS hosted its second annual Ramadan Iftar event, and this time it was even more special as BGS were joined by *The Association* and extended the Iftar invite to be joined by students, their parents, families, staff, and an Imam. The community feeling of togetherness was very evident as members of the community gathered together to pray in congregation, sing Islamic Nasheeds (vocal only songs), recite verses from the Qur’an, partake in an

Islamic Quiz, and have meaningful conversations regarding religions and cultures. The atmosphere was energetic and filled with smiles! The strong support shown to host and partake in the BGS Iftar is a testament to the school's ethos to nurture and celebrate every member of the community."

Florence Lionetti (Year 4): "I really liked attending the Ramadan Iftar. I enjoyed trying all of the different food, especially the wraps with all of the lovely chicken in. Another highlight was the songs and prayers that we listened to before eating. It felt really special."

Dua Nisar (Year 4): "I think the Iftar was very well organised, the decorations were really pretty and very engaging. I especially loved how people sang, they had beautiful voices. There was a very good selection of Naats (Islamic poetry) that people performed. The food was excellent, I loved it. Overall I think it was a very nice experience"