



### **World Hijab Day 2023 reflections**

Miss Choudhury (Junior School Teaching Assistant): “Students across BGS demonstrated a real excitement and strong sense of solidarity to participate and promote *World Hijab Day* at BGS. *World Hijab Day* is a great opportunity for students who wear the hijab to feel represented, students and staff who may not be Muslim or wear hijab to reflect on the hijab and wear the hijab, as well as have open discussions about what hijab signifies to individual Muslim women. Events such as this, help heighten students' emotional intelligence as they wear the hijab for a day and experience how it feels, thus enhancing their understanding through first-hand experience. Students were asking thought provoking questions such as ‘Why do you wear the hijab?’ ‘Do you have to wear the hijab?’ ‘How do you wear it everyday?’ There were some students who also stated ‘I wore the hijab today to show support to my peer who wears the hijab’. It was an absolutely brilliant day, and great seeing many colourful hijabs around the whole school.”

Ms Kelly (Junior School Teacher): “It was so lovely to be a part of *World Hijab Day*! The talk from the sixth formers in the morning gave the girls a really great insight into why Muslim women wear the hijab, addressed any stigma around it and explained why it was

empowering to them. They then gave a great, engaging demonstration showing how to put on a Hijab. It is so important to expose the girls to a range of different cultures, and it was clear to see how much they learnt from it, and how enjoyable it was for them.”

Mrs Inkson (Head of Year 6): “I really enjoyed *World Hijab Day*! Learning how to wear the hijab in different styles was really interesting, I did not realise there were so many ways of wearing them. My class and I enjoyed the experience of wearing a hijab for the day”.

Emily Pinckney (Lower Sixth): “It was amazing to see so many students getting involved and wearing the hijabs. I thought it was an extremely insightful day and I thoroughly enjoyed the video explaining what World Hijab Day is and why women choose to wear the Hijab”.

Saarah Javaid and Aafiya Alam (Lower Sixth): “Helping with *World Hijab Day* this year felt so rewarding after seeing the immense support we received by the rest of the school and even staff. We are so glad that we had the opportunity to spread awareness about the hijab and do an assembly on it as this topic is very important in our lives. Furthermore, the selfie frame with #hijabisourcrown was very popular and encouraged solidarity within the school. Overall, it was such a successful event that we hope to continue at BGS in the future!.”

Sughra Bibi (Lower Sixth): “It was lovely to get involved with this event. I enjoyed seeing other people embrace the hijab and it was a good opportunity to educate so many people on what *World Hijab Day* is all about. I helped in the Junior School specifically. This was really important to me because I feel that it is good to provide access to education regarding different people to children at a young age, especially as we are a diverse community. It also allowed me to feel very seen as someone who wears the hijab myself.”

Evie Maslin (Year 6): “The hijab felt really nice and soft, it made me feel a part of the community, and made me think that Muslim women who wear it should feel proud to wear it”.

Jessica Sweet (Year 6): “I find days where we focus on one religion helps me to learn and understand the religion better than having days where you learn about more than one religion.”

Hyira Rizvi (Year 6): "I really loved the design a hijab competition, it's really nice that the winner will have their design on an actual hijab. I felt really happy to see people who are not Muslim wearing the hijab."

Sophie Morris (Year 4): "*World Hijab Day* made me feel everyone is welcomed in the world, it does not matter what colour you are or what language you speak."

Illaria Mantini (Year 4): "I think everyone is special in their own way and they can wear what they want such as the hijab."

Hannah Holland (Year 4): "I felt connected in some way to Muslim women who wear the hijab even though I am not Muslim."

Isabella Hoare (Year 5): "I enjoyed being a part of celebrating the hijab. We were set the challenge of designing a hijab and I took my inspiration from Miss Choudhury's floral hijabs and the spring. There was a really interesting assembly about the hijab and all about World Hijab Day. At lunchtime my friends and I went up to the library to try on a hijab and I really enjoyed seeing everyone's beautiful hijabs."

Isabela Alvarez-Custodio (Year 5): "I felt warm and safe inside my heart when I wore the hijab. I felt pretty and when I looked at others wearing the hijab I thought everyone looked pretty."

Nyah Wooding (Year 5): "World Hijab Day made me feel great about experiencing something new."