



World Hijab Day 2025 reflections

South Asian Society:

Maham (Upper Sixth): "The *World Hijab Day* event at lunch was a meaningful experience. It brought different year groups together. We were able to educate others about the day and the specific topic of the importance of the hijab. I went around and asked others about the event and they said it was "beautifully organised" and "a welcoming environment". Lots of people had the opportunity to design and write lovely words of what they think the hijab means to them or others. It was inspiring to see so many people willing to try on the hijab and appreciate other religions by being open-minded."

Tara (Upper Sixth): "It was a beautiful day and it was nice to see other people value each other's faiths. It was a significant step into making BGS a more fostering community."

Akshaya (Upper Sixth): "We had a lot of fun preparing and planning the event with the D and I team. It was lovely seeing our vision come to life and was pleasantly surprised seeing the engagement from younger years."

Tireni Salako (Diversity and Inclusion Captain): "Being involved in planning this year's *World Hijab Day* celebrations at BGS was such a wonderful experience for me, because I got to develop an already well-loved event into something with an even more memorable presence. I especially loved

the new physical version of the design of a hijab house competition we came up with, because it united students and staff of all ages which is always great to see.”

Rihanna Sultana (Lower Sixth) “I found World Hijab Day to be very inspiring as it educated more people about what the hijab means and gives opportunity to personal experiences about the hijab. It was also very nice to see hijab role models that were displayed in Icreate and the Junior School library. It felt nice wearing it and it made me feel empowered and more spiritually connected.”

Miss Choudhury (Junior School Teaching Assistant): “It is always wonderful to see students and staff come together to participate in events that encourage exploration of religious and cultural clothing. For world hijab day, many students and staff wore the hijab throughout the school day for the first time, helping enhance an understanding through first-hand experience. The sense of unity and respect that filled the school was a great reminder of the importance of diversity and inclusion in our community, and the strength in celebrating differences.”

Mrs Horton (Drama Teacher): “The atmosphere in iCreate was joyful as students from all year groups came together to share experiences and learn about what it means to wear a hijab. The Sixth Form students running the event were so kind and friendly when helping people to put the hijabs on. Everyone had a smile on their face and had fun empowering hijabis across the world!”

Lison Martin (French Teaching Assistant): “I believe this kind of day and event is a great opportunity for everyone to share, discover, and participate in the rich culture of the world in which we live. It allows us to accept and comprehend every single individual in his diversity. I was very intrigued about trying a hijab as it was my first time, and I thought it suits me quite well. I like being able to try something new and especially when you meet people who are eager to share it with you. I found this initiative very relevant. These events make us all more confident and embrace everyone’s diversity and how each individual is unique.”)

Lyla-Rose (Year 4): “It felt very warm, like I was protected, full of warmth because I tried something new. It was very interesting to learn. I kept the hijab on all day, even after school. When I went home, I taught my mum and sister how to wear the hijab.”

Jessica (Year 3): “I felt excited because I don’t usually get to wear one. I bought a hijab at school, kept it on during some of the lessons, and learnt about why people wear it.”

Amaya (Year 3): “Hijab sounds like an Arabic word, but it is for everyone, and I liked how everyone was allowed to wear one. Wearing the hijab felt exciting.”

Anna (Year 5): “It felt nice, and I thought I looked beautiful in a hijab.”