

IDPE Schools' Engagement Campaign of the Year

(Development within the school has been established for six years or more)



Withington Girls' School – The first WGS Iftar

We worked with parents who approached the school with the specific idea of an Iftar event during Ramadan. We also drafted in support from the pupil leadership of the school's Islamic Society who had already expressed a desire to hold a fundraising event for bursaries. We were able to extend this collaboration by engaging with 3 sponsors from the community and inviting an Imam from a local mosque to speak. A current member of staff, formerly a WGS bursary recipient, and one of our Sixth Form Bursary Ambassadors both spoke on the night. The event was hosted by an outstanding role model for our pupils in terms of her humanitarian activism, as well as being a doctor and businesswoman.

<https://www.wgs.org/2023/03/first-wgs-iftar/>

Achievements

- Closer links were forged with both our Muslim parents and Manchester's wider Muslim community
- The event raised over £32,000. Donations came from many not previously associated with WGS

Impact

- Demonstrated the school's firm ethos of inclusive to all
- Pupils were empowered through involvement in the event, as well as meeting an inspiring role model
- Awareness of the importance, impact and availability of bursaries was increased
- Enough funds were raised to fund a 100% bursary for two years
- Building on the campaign
- Date set for WGS Iftar 2024. We aim to involve even more pupils
- We plan to seek out other groups of parents to encourage them to arrange events for their own communities

Supporting materials

[Islamic Society committee with Mrs Haslam](#)

[Rida - 6th Form Bursary Ambassador Testimony](#)

[Rida and Ms Bruce](#)