



TAZEEM AND MUHAMMAD LIVE IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR SONS, AMAN, AGED 16, AND HARIS, AGED 10.

Aman has learnt to lead others and organise events in the friendly surroundings of Lode Heath School

Good opportunities

Aman is grateful for the chance he was given at Lode Heath School to become confident about speaking in public and to develop his leadership skills. "I learnt a lot after joining the Student Council in Year 9, and have now progressed to making solo speeches. I have built up my skills by helping to interview new staff, making speeches to audiences, participating in conferences, and organising charity initiatives."

Further study

Now Aman has finished Year 11 and taken GCSEs in History, IT, PE, and German, as well as English Language and Literature, Maths, and Science, he is planning to go to college. "I am going to do A levels in Business, IT and Sports, and after A Levels, I would like to go to University, or do a degree apprenticeship."

Enjoying learning

He looks back on five happy years at Lode Heath, where he says there is a friendly atmosphere and the students are treated well. "I have never had a boring moment at the school and I can look back on the lunchtime football games my year group would play and how it was highly competitive and fun, bringing the entire school year together. I would describe my time at Lode Heath as exciting, adventurous, entertaining, unifying, and hard-working."

Warm welcome

Aman's friends from primary school went to different secondary schools and he remembers feeling nervous on his first day. "I was glad my cousin started at the same time and we could go in together, but I soon began to feel at home. My Form Tutor was welcoming and made me feel comfortable straight away."

Charity match

He started organising charity initiatives in Year 9 by raising money for the Pakistan flood victims. "One of my ideas was a staff versus Year 11 football match. We sold tickets and about 500 people came to watch and we had cheerleaders and sold sweets and food at half-time."

Supporting mental health

Aman helped to raise about £700 while he was in Year 11 for the mental health charity MIND, with a staff versus Year 11 football match, in which he scored a hat trick. "We also held a Grand Iftar (after-school feast) during Ramadan, when people were able to eat together after sunset as a school family," he says.

Head Boy interview

When Aman applied to be a Senior Student at the end of Year 10, students were asked in their application letters to say if they wanted to be considered for Head Boy. He says: "Three boys were interviewed by the Headteacher and Director of Pastoral Care. They asked me what I thought would make the school better and I gave them my ideas," Aman says.

Student conferences

"I suggested improving online safety for everyone who used school computers and increasing the school's presence on social media to boost its reputation, and I was delighted to be chosen as Head Boy. It has given me opportunities to build on my leadership skills and practice speaking in front of large audiences. I have also worked with students from other schools during Year 11 senior student conferences to develop presentations for our senior leadership team on ways of improving schools alongside students from Arden Multi Academy Trust."

Parent perspective

Tazeem says: "We have been very happy with Lode Heath and even though none of Haris's friends are going to the school, we are going to send him there too. At parents' evenings, I have been the proudest Mum when hearing how well Aman has done. We were delighted when he was nominated by the school for the Solihull Council's Young Carers awards. He has helped look after me and done household chores, without it affecting his schoolwork, punctuality, or attendance."