



Dear Parents/Carers & Students,

We hope you are well at this difficult time. For so many of our community who celebrate Ramadan we realise just how different, and difficult this year's celebration shall be.

As you may have been aware Bristol Cathedral Choir School has hosted a Community Iftar for the last three years. This Iftar has been open to all BCCS students of all faiths and none, including their immediate families, and is always free of charge. With the event bringing joy to many and it's growing success year-on-year, we feel determined to host the event this year. We extend a particular welcome this year to families from Trinity Academy and St Katherine's.

This year, Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) in partnership with the Iftar Project welcome you to share the Iftar experience online. The event will be held on Thursday 14th May via Google Meet beginning at 8pm, and end just after sunset (8.57/8.58pm). Ismaeel Akram, a former student and Project Manager of the Community Iftar Project will be joined by guest speakers, discussing the topic of Ramadan in lockdown. During the event we shall receive your emails and texts so together we can share our thoughts, photos and questions. The event will be closed with a live call to prayer.

Should you like to join us please email enquiries@cathedralschoolstrust.org who will send you a link to access the platform; **you will only be able to access Google Meet and the virtual Iftar using your child's school email account.** We would also like you to send questions for our speakers to us in advance when you express your interest, and they will do their best to answer as many of these as possible during the evening.

We offer you free specially prepared food for your family's Iftar meal. The meals are being prepared by Ahmed's Masala Cafe restaurant and should be collected by yourselves from the BMCS premises (based in Easton) The Pickle Factory, 13 All Hallows Road, Bristol, BS5 0HH. The meals are vegetarian and not gluten free nor dairy free. If you would like to collect a meal, please use this link to request a meal <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cathedral-schools-trusts-virtual-iftar-tickets-104549390040> before Tuesday 12th May, 9am. Please note that CST cannot accept responsibility for any of the food that is being prepared; this is to be enjoyed at your own risk.

Some CST Staff will be fasting on the day of the Iftar as a challenge to raise money, with all proceeds going to Trussell Trust food banks across Bristol.

We hope to see you at the virtual Iftar. If you have any questions, please email emessinger@bristolcathedral.org.uk or ehaddad@bristolcathedral.org.uk and we would be very happy to speak with you.

Ramadan Kareem.

Yours sincerely,
Ms Esther Messinger, Assistant Principal
Ms Elodie Haddad, Equalities Lead