



PIONEER SECONDARY ACADEMY

Part of the Sikh Academies Trust





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WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Pioneer Secondary Academy (PSA). As a Sikh faith school we welcome students of all abilities, faiths and backgrounds. We are a community with a family atmosphere that allows students to gain confidence and forge new friendships quickly. In addition, we are able to ensure that all of our students are known, feel valued and are supported.

Through high expectations, our exam results speak for themselves, but we believe in developing well rounded individuals. At Pioneer Secondary Academy, we are committed to developing the leaders of tomorrow by creating as many enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom as possible for our students.

We are unique with our approach to school and combined with our core values we will help your child to reach their potential, be compassionate, a creative thinker and someone who embraces diversity and challenge. I extend a warm welcome to you and your family to visit us and discover what we have to offer.

Mr Sahota, Headteacher

OUR RAISE VALUES

During your child's time at Pioneer Secondary Academy, they will be taught about our core values of Respect, Aspire, Integrity, Seva and Equality. Our values are represented in the word 'RAISE' and consist of the characteristics that we believe underpin the development of our students. Learning to embrace these values will help empower them to become kind citizens that positively contribute to society.

“Ever since I have joined PSA, I have become more sociable, ambitious and happier. Coming from an independent school, I felt nervous about my peers, but I was wrong to be scared. The students are very kind. We are so lucky to be in a Sikh faith school because we have a peaceful Gurdwara on site which allows us to practice our spirituality. We have already been offered endless enrichment opportunities related to this.

- Year 7 student

Respect

Show tolerance and empathy towards others.



Aspire

Set ambitious goals.
Have no limit.



Integrity

Always do what is right.
Be honest and trustworthy.



Seva

Always seek to help others.
Be selfless.



Equality

Embrace our differences.
Treat everyone fairly.



SIKH ETHOS

At Pioneer Secondary Academy, the Sikh spirit is the heartbeat of the school. We believe in excellence in all that we do. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural element of our school culture is taken very seriously. We believe that as well as academic excellence and a world class education, our students deserve the opportunity to develop internally. Making the right choices, becoming ambassadors and catalysts of change by serving others is very high on our agenda.

The Sikh values of Naam Japna (to meditate daily) Kirat Karni (to work with integrity) and Vand Chakna (to share with others) is what we value the most. On site, we have a beautiful Gurdwara that is open to all faiths and none. We have a daily spiritual practice of meditation and encourage active listening and mindfulness.

Our Gurdwara is a safe space for young people to come and sit, reflect, practice kirtan, experiment with diverse music genres including a fusion of classical and modern styles.



Our students are leaders in the Gurdwara and engage in traditional Gurmukhi and modern languages giving them the edge above others.

Each student is given the opportunity to learn and perform actions according to the Sikh Rehat Maryadha (Code of conduct) as well as learn how to run a Gurdwara by experiencing and practising each element personally. Our programme allows students to train one another to grow both, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Our open-door policy means that those from all faiths and none are given the chance to learn and develop themselves through their own faith and belief. Our school takes pride in celebrating auspicious days and making them a part of the calendar to celebrate every student, staff and parent in the school community, creating an atmosphere of inclusion and diversity in all that we do.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student voice is a cornerstone of our school's development. Our student leadership team mirrors senior staff roles. These students spearhead whole school projects, and organise the junior leadership team.

- Some of the responsibilities the student leadership team hold include:
- Running school events such as charity events and enrichment activities
- Delivering assemblies to raise awareness about important world issues
- Leading the day to day operations of the Gurdwara
- Supporting peer's mental health, for which they are provided training
- Interviewing new staff

We firmly believe that empowering our students to influence the direction of our school, will in turn make them more skilled leaders of the future, and strengthen the sense of community at PSA.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

We are proud to be one of only 500 schools in the UK with its own CCF unit. From humble beginnings in October 2018 the unit has grown to almost 60 cadets and 6 staff. We uphold and practise the core values of the British Army – Selfless commitment, Respect for others, Loyalty, Integrity, Discipline and Courage.

CCF has hugely improved my confidence, leadership, and self-belief, making me both mentally and physically stronger and more resilient. I have also learnt how to deal with difficult situations, and to have greater confidence in my abilities. I can honestly say that CCF has made me the person I am today, and I really don't know what I would have done without joining. It is truly the best decision I have ever made.

- Year 10 Student



ACADEMIC LIFE

We provide a curriculum that is inclusive, aspirational, broad and balanced and based on RAISE and Sikh values. It is our mission to educate the whole child and to support them in becoming confident, productive, selfless, and ethical members of society. We teach our students that by drawing upon the two cultural traditions we can work towards a more harmonious and integrated Britain. Our children flourish in an academic curriculum that is inclusive, rich and ambitious!

“My teachers motivate and encourage me in my lessons. I enjoy my lessons, especially when we discuss what we have learned as a group.”

- Year 9 student



“My teacher has tested positive for being the world’s best teacher! I was never confident in some of my subjects, but my teacher has supported me a lot in the topics I used to struggle with. Thanks to you sir!”

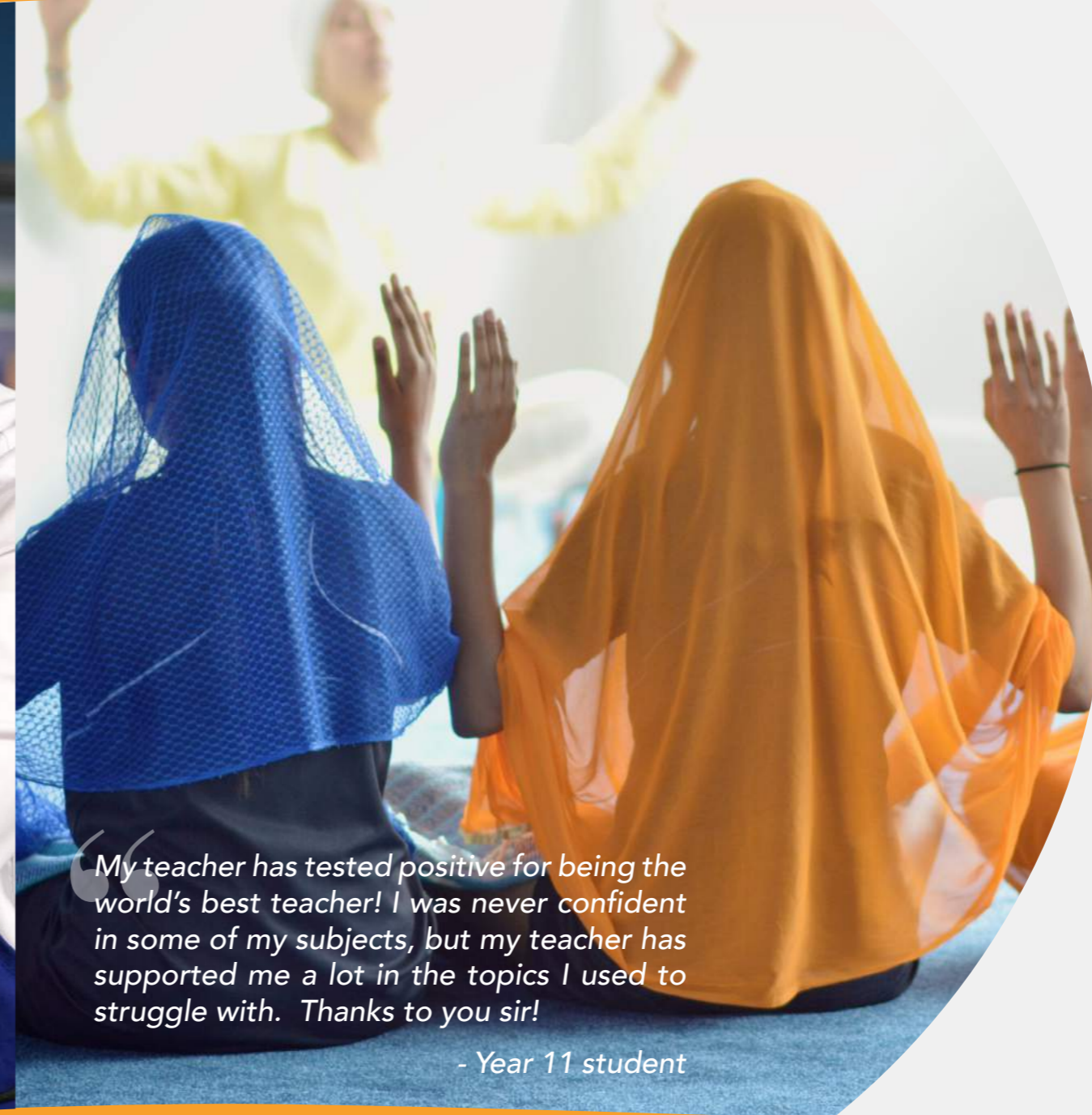
- Year 11 student

PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral system ensures every student is known as an individual and receives the support they need. Everyone belongs to a tutor group and their tutor will monitor their overall progress, communicating proactively with parents when needed.

Wellbeing is at the centre of all we do. At PSA we help our students embrace all forms of mindfulness, acknowledging the impact that it has on our own wellbeing and that of others. We embed mindfulness and wellbeing in our assemblies and through our personal development curriculum. From year 7 - 13 students participate in sessions relating to personal health, mental wellbeing, relationships, diversity, personal safety, breathing and meditation. In addition to this Year 13s engage in a 12 session course that focuses of building self esteem and charity work. Year 7-11 engage in a 20 week resilience programme run by the MoonShot series.

Your child’s wellbeing is at the forefront of all we do.





ENRICHMENT

Although we prioritise ensuring our students have bright futures, we value their happiness in school and encourage them to discover their passions. We believe that the greater the wealth of experiences our students have, the more they will understand about themselves and the world around them.

Our enrichment programme is delivered through:

- Weekly 'learning for life' lessons during form time
- Recreational clubs
- Subject specific clubs
- Super learning days focussed on developing life skills
- Confidence and aspiration building programmes for targeted individuals
- A variety of trips to build student's cultural capital

Our extra curricular timetable is constantly evolving based on what students would like to do, and the various talents of our staff body. Some examples of the clubs we offer include:

- Art Therapy
- Motorcycle maintenance
- Kirtan
- Be her lead
- Various sports clubs
- STEM and other science clubs

With a wealth of opportunities, you can rest assured that your child will be supported on their journey of self discovery throughout their time at PSA.

The staff at PSA are all friendly, caring and always want the very best for their students. The school puts opportunities in place that benefit the students. For example, I was privileged to be selected to attend a female empowerment conference, where I was given the opportunity to present to business leaders who are passionate about Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.



WELCOME TO OUR SIXTH FORM

Our aim is simple, to provide a nurturing and academically challenging atmosphere where students reach their full potential. We understand that each student is unique, and treat them as such. Our Sixth form is large enough to have a stimulating atmosphere, but small enough so that all students get to know each other and their teachers. This personal touch is key to our students' success in achieving their academic and personal goals. This allows us to ensure that students attend lessons tailored to their needs, receive detailed and regular feedback from teachers, and substantial individual support when making decisions about life after sixth form.

Our Sixth Form has a dedicated and passionate team of highly skilled staff who facilitate a wide range of A Levels as well as a number of Level 3 BTEC qualifications. Our offer is tailored to ensure our Sixth Form students fulfill their aspirations of attending university, embarking on an exciting apprenticeship or stepping into the world of work. Please see our website for our most up to date offer.

“I enjoy being given more independence and a wide range of experiences, this has helped me to feel confident when revising by myself or with my peers. I have been able to build a strong connection and feel supported by my teachers.”



WORK EXPERIENCE AT OUR SIXTH FORM

At Pioneer Secondary Academy Sixth Form, all our students benefit from an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by them and their families. We have a dedicated careers advisor who delivers high quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities. Every Sixth Form student enjoys multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes.

We are incredibly proud of the opportunities our students embrace in relation to their next steps and we will continue to work with the local community to ensure every student has first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities, and expand their networks.

“It is easy to build a professional relationship with teachers in the sixth form as they are very supportive and caring, we benefit from a student centred approach because there are smaller class sizes which helps to enhance the opportunities for 1:1 relationships.”





MEET OUR HEAD BOY

Pioneer Secondary Academy has been an excellent fit for my choice of subjects to study further. I find the way I am taught is both challenging and rewarding and motivates me to achieve my very best. The school has created a safe, inclusive environment where all walks of life are welcomed as is in keeping with the Sikh ethos and values at PSA.

I also embrace that PSA is mindful to shape all its students to be good all round citizens, teaching us life skills and values that are crucial to integrating into a working environment and a mixed culture and society.

PSA also successfully fosters relationships with employers and other education providers that benefit the students. For example, I was privileged to be selected to attend a conference at Parliament which allowed me to network with several influential people, such as Tanmanjeet Dhesi, Labour MP, which not only benefits my future opportunities but also helped me raise the profile of our amazing school.

In addition to this, the staff at PSA are all friendly, caring and helpful and always want the very best for their students.

PATHWAYS

Our students have gone on to study at a wide range of Universities and Apprenticeships. We have seen students progress to study subjects such as Medicine, Computer Science, Aerospace Engineering and Law. It is extremely rewarding for the PSA community to celebrate our Sixth Form successes together.

We have external experts that deliver UCAS workshops and masterclasses in preparation for University and apprenticeship applications.

These sessions provide students tailored support on their chosen pathway whether that is to Oxbridge, a Russell Group University, Interview Techniques or finding suitable apprenticeships.

“I found the workshop gave me more confidence in my personal statement allowing me to feel at ease with my application towards a medical degree at a range of top UK universities. I have now edited my personal statement to reference the skills I have acquired to show my suitability for medicine.”





CONTACT

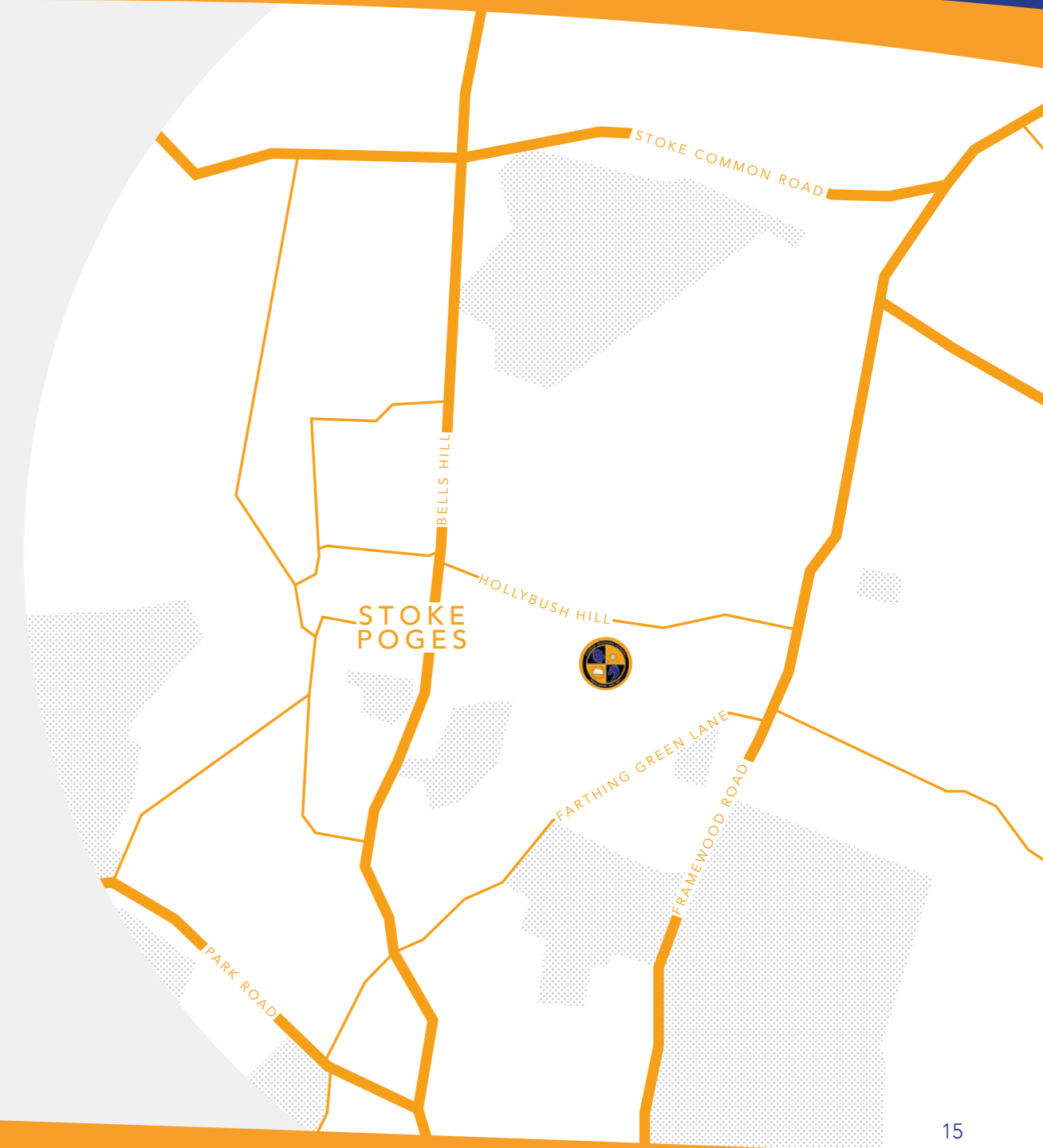
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