

# PSA NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022



## HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

We have presented some amazing experiences for students this term, extending learning beyond the classroom, which you will be able to read more about in this edition.

In the last week of school, we have celebrated the success of our students with our end of term celebration assemblies. We congratulated our students with numerous awards for their hard work, values demonstrated, perseverance and resilience shown.

Wishing you a very happy, safe and restful festive season and we very much look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Sahota



## SPECIAL AWARD

Congratulations to Navleen Kaur, Head of Sikh Ministry at PSA, for receiving a prestigious special award for Contribution to Education by the Sikh Federation (UK) and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), hosted by MP Preet Kaur Gill and MP Tan Dhesi.



# MESSAGE FROM THE SIKH ACADEMIES TRUST

As we approach the winter break, I hope you are all keeping well and I'm sure are looking forward to the break over the Christmas and New Year period. Across our two schools, the children have had a busy autumn term of growth, development and facing new and exciting challenges. We also took time to reflect on the very sad news of the passing of two KPS colleagues - our thoughts and prayers remain with the families of Jas Mahil and Sunita Kaur at this difficult time.

As you will know, we are making good strides in our recruitment plans and have been successful in appointing a Headteacher at KPS. Following Mr. Vig's resignation, recruitment will soon be underway for a replacement Trust CEO. In the interim, we continue to be supported by Garret Fay from the Insignis Trust. May I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Vig for his support and work over the years he has been with KPS and then more recently as CEO of SAT. He was part of the original team that set up the school, for which we are grateful. We wish him well for the future.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Nanda (Acting Head, KPS) and the whole KPS team for stepping up this term to provide cover through this challenging time. With the new appointments, we will have increased capacity at KPS.

In addition, thank you to Mr. Sahota and his whole team at PSA for the hard work they have put into making great progress in all areas of the school since the school transferred to SAT in May this year. We recognise the many challenges that have arisen along the way which the school has had to respond to.

We wish you a lovely break, and hope that you are able to find some time to rest and spend with your loved ones.

Jujar Singh & Gurminder Singh  
Co-Chairs, Sikh Academics Trust (SAT)



## GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

PSA were pleased to organise a ground-breaking ceremony for our eagerly anticipated Sixth Form Centre (Sefton) due to open in the Autumn of 2024. Year 11 students were invited by the construction team at T&B to take part in the ground breaking ceremony on Thursday morning. Students had the opportunity to leave their mark by digging up a piece of the ground and making history!.

Sefton boasts a variation of new learning facilities including an IT suite, new classrooms, common room, careers library, kitchen utility for students. We also will have a brand new multi purpose hall in which students can partake in indoor sporting activities as well as sit public examinations and attend lecture style lessons and assemblies.



# NOV 8 - GURU NANAK DEV JI GURPURABH

To celebrate the 553 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji we planned a special event in school. All students were invited to wear traditional clothing or non-uniform (£1 contribution). The money raised is being used to send one primary and one secondary child to school in India under the EDUCATE PUNJAB project. Our special assembly consisted of guest speakers from All Faiths and None.



The Ministry of Defense and the Sikh Network came to share activities with our students as well as our own staff leading drama performances and storytelling, music, art & creativity workshops followed by Guru ka Langar (community kitchen) for all. There was an interfaith panel of experts from All faiths and none to answer the students' questions on faith, belief and values.



Our students also visited a nursing home and dementia concern in the following weeks. They demonstrated selfless service and community cohesion through caring and listening to vulnerable members of our community. We also provided food to the local Slough foodbank on this day and a group of sixth form students delivered and worked to support them.



**IN THE MORNING PARENTS CAME TO THE GURDWARA TO LISTEN TO STUDENTS PERFORMING KIRTAN , OUR STUDENT SEVADAARS LEAD THE MORNING PRAKASH AND SINGING.**



## DEMENTIA CONCERN

Students and staff visited the outpatients in the Hobbayne centre on 17 November. A Year 9 student played the dhol and the room bellowed with the drum bringing the patients to their feet, moving and tapping and clapping to the beat. Following this students from our choir, Year 7, 8 & 9 then sang songs from current popular music to sacred chants leaving our audience mesmerised. Both staff and the participants were so grateful and then interacted with our students asking them about school life and reminiscing about their own time in education. Our students were showered with praise for outstanding behaviour, talent and maturity. There was an unspoken camaraderie that developed and an overwhelming sense of gratitude that young people from Pioneer cared and showed respect and understanding for those suffering from Dementia and the experience was most humbling for our community. We received exemplary feedback from the centre about the children and their visit:

*“Thank you so much for coming to see us today. It was a very special occasion and a beautiful shared experience. Linda, myself, all the team and all our Thursday Group loved your visit.*

*Our members' faces lit up the moment your pupils came in. Once the music and song started our members were captivated. You could feel the positive energy and happiness fill the room. So many really joyful moments all in unison. You brought sunshine today.”*

## USTAD BALJIT SINGH

The legendary Ustad Baljit Singh ji came with his ensemble to PSA to celebrate the Gurpurabh of Guru Ramdas. The students and staff attended a beautiful assembly in which he played classical music with the Dilrubah, Tar Shehnai and Jori (percussion). The performance was outstanding and the students were given workshops where they were able to play the instruments under the guidance of the teachers.

We now have students who are very passionate about Traditional classical Gurmat Sangeet music and ready to learn more during enrichment which we will launch in the new year.





# PARIS TRIP 2022 - PSA FIRST TRIP ABROAD!

Twelve Students accompanied by three staff went to Paris to commemorate "Armitage-Remembrance Day 2022 " paying a special tribute to the Sikhs that sacrificed their lives in the two world wars as well as Guru Nanak's Gurburabh. We were invited to participate with the Sikh Community in Paris marking moments in history and our students were given a very warm welcome by the Gurdwara where PSA students recited Gurbani, kirtan and gave speeches on religious freedom and justice. We had a private session with the deputy mayor of Bobigny who is the first turbaned Sikh to be an office bearer in French Politics. Our students had an exclusive tour of the town hall and met with senior members of the community, Members of parliament as well as army officials and the French police. Finally, we had a wonderful tour of Paris, from Notre Dame to Bastille, students experienced french food, culture, architecture -art, historical sites as well as the iconic Eiffel Tower. Our students were constantly complimented on their outstanding behaviour, attitude and selfless service. We have been invited back to Paris next year and will be looking forward to embarking upon new educational European adventures in the future.

"It was a trip my friends and I had been looking forward to for months, and my God did it not disappoint! We evolved as people, friends, and by some strange coincidence, family. We met amazing people who had nurtured relationships that had survived decades of distance and still managed to thrive. We bring hope that this could be us someday. We saw monuments that arose from blood and anguish that hold strength and hope for the French. Were exposed to some ugly truths and harsh realities of life, and were introduced to strong individuals that choose to challenge the diktat and face the world with their Guru by their side. The relationship I built with my Guru through this has transformed me, lit inside of me a fire that I hope will burn forever."

- Simi B  
Year 11 Student





# REMEMBRANCE DAY

Students across the school observed our CCF team pay respects to fallen soldiers as part of remembrance day. Following a minute silence, Amritpal Singh read a powerful poem to the whole school.

We were also honoured to have PSA representatives from our CCF troop lay a wreath at the Stoke Poges Remembrance service.





# ANTI BULLYING

## (BY THE STUDENTS FOR THE STUDENTS)

**BULLYING:** A word that impacts us all. Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group. By another person or group where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online. There are 6 types of bullying : Physical, Verbal, Emotional, Sexual, Online/Cyber and Indirect.

Here at PSA, we have a no bullying zone, however it can get tricky to keep on top of things. That's why we have lots of ways to keep everybody happy and safe.

-Firstly, we have an easily approachable safeguarding team, who are always free to talk to anyone.

-We also have Bullying and Mental Health ambassadors, who can act as a voice for the students.

*As a victim of cyberbullying (2 years ago), recovering from it was tough. Going into school and not knowing how to act, who to tell and pretending everything was ok. The messages never stopped, it was endless. I thought of telling an adult to act on the situation but I knew that it would just make it worse with kids finding out and calling me a 'snake'. I'd go to school to peers laughing at me and go home to find accounts editing photos of me and comment on the most nasty things. I felt like a no one. Like I wasn't valid, just to scroll on social media and desire something I wasn't. I didn't even feel comfortable around family or friends. I couldn't even look at myself in the mirror, just thinking about myself made me sick. I found myself turning to the messages, I re-read them constantly it was like a drug. I was intoxicated into this pit of nothingness. Blunt mentally. Blunt physically. Nothing could further deter me. I'd wish it never happened. I wouldn't wish it upon my worst enemy. All those sleepless nights and school absences have a toll on you. You realise later how much it really affects you and learn the only thing you could've changed to help the situation is to tell someone sooner. Speaking out is the only way. It's the start to your path of recovery. I feel happier knowing we are encouraged to express our feelings and can speak to staff about any problems we are experiencing.*



# ANTI BULLYING

Anti-bullying poem:

It's hard. When you don't feel safe in a place you should.

They say the bullying made you Stronger,  
but you didn't need to be strong,  
You needed to be loved.

...

My heart hurt so much a cut to the wrist meant nothing  
I felt each and every part of me unravel  
and break away like spools of thin thread.

I felt my confidence plummet to the ground  
Watched it shrivel away.  
I felt joy slipping away from the tips of my fingers  
I felt my anger cloud my every other thought

*I.Felt.Everything.*

*I felt myself become nothing,  
and then build myself back up until I was my everything  
I still am.*

*And I don't regret it.*

*It's okay that you're not who you thought you would be. I think it's important to be at peace with that.  
You're still a presence, a hint of life  
A body with a heart and thoughts and opinions.*

*You're not unlovable. Your life isn't ruined.*

*Your past doesn't define your present nor future*

*Trust your ideas, be your biggest cheerleader*

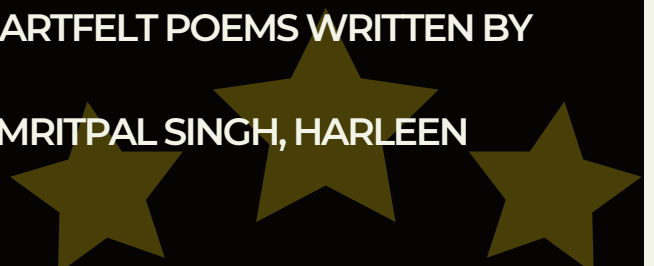
*The greatest platitude in the world,*

**"EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON."**

**BELIEVE ME. IT DOES.  
EVEN THE BAD THINGS.**

**YOURS TRULY,  
THE BULLY AND THE BULLIED.**

**EXTREMELY POWERFUL STATEMENT AND HEARTFELT POEMS WRITTEN BY OUR AMAZING STUDENT AMBASSADORS:  
CHARANPREET CHAHAL, ZAIMA KHOKHAR, AMRITPAL SINGH, HARLEEN KAUR AND DHIAAN JOHAL.**



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The month of October saw PSA celebrate Black History month. All students were invited to participate in a Library competition, where they had to create a bookmark related to Black History.

During tutor time students learnt about the reason why History month is important and celebrated. Students explored key figures like Henrietta Lacks, whose cancer cells are the source of the HeLa cell line. The first immortalised human cell line and one of the most important cell lines in medical research.



October 10th was World Mental Health awareness day, as a school we took the opportunity to combine both areas into an assembly, where students were able to learn about the issues surrounding mental health and the BAME community. We explored ways of dealing with mental health and how we can support each other and signposted organisations that can provide support.

In Art, year 8's researched and created artwork inspired by Lois Mailou Jones. Jones championed the international artistic achievement of African-American art. She was an artist and educator who played an important role in inspiring African-American artists.



## PE UPDATE

We left Pioneer Secondary Academy 3rd November. It was the fencing festival and we were really excited to learn about fencing. We reached Westgate school and I was a bit nervous because there were other schools there too: Slough and Eton, and Wexham. We played games like sword dodge. It's like dodgeball but with swords. Then we played Simon says with fencing movements like 'advance' it was pretty fun I was really blessed to be given this opportunity by Pioneer Secondary Academy, thank you. One photo shows Jiya and Avneet playing against each other. It was really fun and there was a champion and a normal person. The champion would be the winner after defeating the opponent. It was really fun. After the session ended we all received medals!!

Written by Avneet and Gurleen in Year 8.

It isn't just about raising the profile of PSA students doing sport and being more active, we are also helping other schools in the local area. Our superb Year 11 GCSE PE students have supported the organisation of a primary schools badminton competition and were so good at their roles they were invited again, this time to lead a primary schools SEND boccia competition. We are looking forward to seeing these students represent n Year 12 next year.





# SINGH SAHIB PROFESSOR MANJIT SINGH JI

At late notice, we were privileged to host the youngest and most highly educated cultured Sikh, Singh Sahib, Prof Manjit Singh, who became the Jathedar (Pope) of two Takhats – Shri Kesgarh Sahib Anandpur Sahib and Shri Akal Takhat Amritsar.

Singh Sahib ji is the founder of a very successful educational establishment called the Mighty Khalsa International with over 500 students. Singh Sahib ji is currently taking care of twelve orphaned children known Mata Sahib Kaur Bal Asharam. Children that attend the school and are fully funded for education, accommodation as their basic personal needs. Baba Bhag Singh is a fully functional de-addiction centre which provides health and healing services to those who are suffering from alcohol and long-term drug abuse.

Singh Sahib ji graced us with his time by delivering an inspirational talk and Q&A to students, as well as meeting parents and staff after school. The key messages of his talk were centred around following your dreams, dedication and wellbeing.

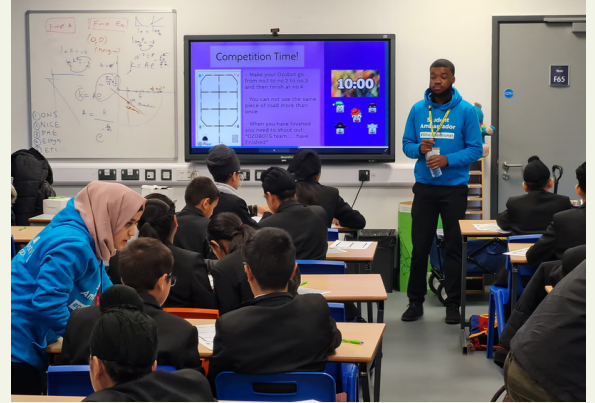


“The talk was unbelievably inspiring, I want to give back more to the community, it has given me a sense of purpose.

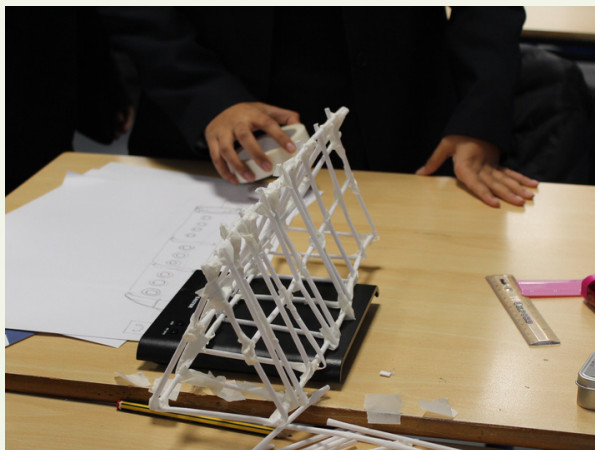
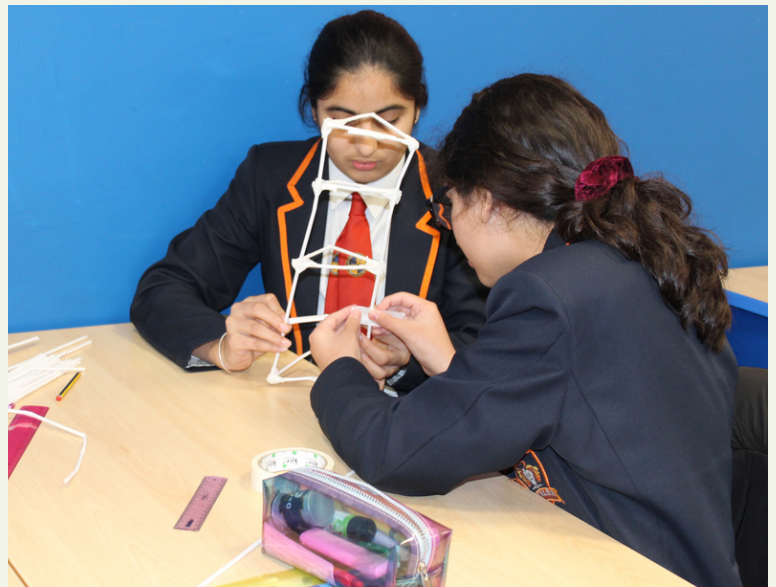
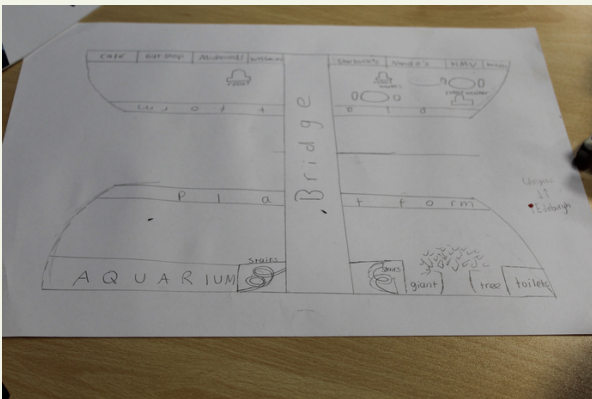
## STEM - ROBOT CODING

Lesley Warren (STEM lead) & student ambassadors from Brunel University came to PSA to deliver the Rob-coding sessions to our Year 7 and 8 students on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 December. Robo-coding, Ozobots are small, line following robots that allow students to learn coding in a fun and hands-on way. Students are encouraged to learn through trial and error, placing the correct sticker on the map so that the Ozobot can enter the 'Drop-Off Zone'. Once they understand how to operate the robot, it's competition time!

The workshops were really valuable to our students and the feedback was really positive inspiring students to get involved in coding.



## AMAZON AWS WORKSHOP



**"IT WAS A REALLY FUN INTERACTIVE SESSION AS WE ALL WERE GIVEN A CHANCE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IT WAS GREAT TO LEARN HOW WOMEN CAN GET INTO TECH ROLES"**



## PERFORMANCES

Congratulations to our Year 11 student who performed their graded practical component to proud parents and staff at PSA.

The time and effort invested really reflected in the performance, well done!



As part of the curriculum our drama students went to watch Blood Brothers in the theatre and our English students went to watch a Christmas Carol. Both performances were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Mr Bullen is planning a trip to watch Lion King next!





## REPORTS AND EDULINK

You should have received your child's school report on Friday, if not please do get in contact with the school office.

To improve communication with parents we will be introducing a new parent app. Edulink One is a parent portal and communication app that keeps your child's school information in one place, meaning you are more informed and involved in their learning journey. Further information about our roll out of the app will follow soon.



## STAFF UPDATE

We are sad to be losing Ms Lallian, recently married who is relocating to Coventry. Ms Ahmed (Science) who has gained promotion, as an Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Gill who will be leading a larger Maths department and lastly Mrs H Kaur (Sikh Studies and RE) who has found a job closer to home following her daily round trip 140 miles from Northampton. We wish you all the very best in your new roles and thank you for your time, commitment and lasting impact you have had on our students.



# Welcome

In January, we look forward to welcoming three very experienced teachers, to the PSA team. Mr Miles, Assistant Headteacher, who will teach PE and RE, Ms Patel, Head of Maths, and Mrs Byard-Jones, joint Head of English.

## LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD - SCHOOL GOVERNORS

We would like to introduce you to our Local Advisory Board (LAB) School Governors. Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children. Congratulations to the 2 Parent Governors who were elect earlier this year: Ms Paramjeet Kaur (parent of a child in year 9) and Mrs Jasmine Kaur Shergill (parent of a child in year 7). Below is a complete list for our governors:

LAB Membership	Name
Head of School	Harmeet Sahota
Elected Parent 1	Mrs Paramjeet Kaur
Elected Parent 2	Mrs Jasmine Shergill
Elected Teaching Staff	Mrs Rupinder Kaur Bajwa
Elected Non-teaching staff	Mrs Amandeep Rana
Foundation LAB Member	Mr Navroop Singh
Foundation LAB Member	Ms Corrine Gill
Foundation LAB Member	Mr Charanjeet Bhachu
Foundation LAB Member	Mr Tajinder Singh Matharu
Foundation LAB Member	Mr Mandip Atwal
Foundation LAB Member	Mr Gurminder Athwal

## FOOD BANK DONATION

Thank you for your donations for Christmas jumper day and the contributions to the Foodbank collection. Food donations have now been collected in time for the festive season by Nishkam SWAT.



# PSA CAREERS

Our Careers team is dedicated to ensuring the students have the knowledge and skills they require to kick start their careers in the world after education. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Ms E Day or Mrs J Basra at school.



**NAME:** ELLEN DAY

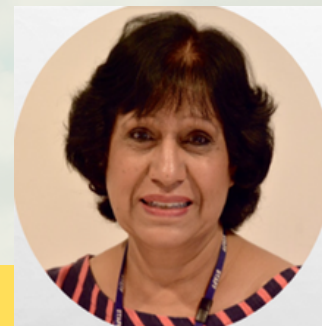
**ROLE:** CAREERS LEADER

**WHY DID YOU BECOME A CAREERS ADVISOR?**

I AM REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING ON THE ROLE OF CAREERS LEAD. THIS AREA OF WORK FALLS PERFECTLY INTO REMITS I ALREADY OVERSEE. I AM EXCITED ABOUT HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS. TO ENSURE OUR STUDENTS KNOW WHAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS TO OFFER. JINA BASRA ALREADY DOES A FANTASTIC JOB, IT WILL BE A GREAT HONOUR TO WORK ALONGSIDE HER.

**MY ADVICE TO STUDENTS WOULD BE:**

"CHOOSE A JOB YOU LOVE, AND YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE."



**NAME:** JINA BASRA

**ROLE:** CAREERS ADVISOR

**WHY DID YOU BECOME A CAREERS ADVISOR?**

AS A CAREERS ADVISER FOR PIONEER SECONDARY ACADEMY, I PROVIDE IMPARTIAL, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE TO HELP OUR STUDENTS TO MAKE REALISTIC CHOICES ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND WORK.

I LINK THE SCHOOL AND STUDENTS TO EMPLOYERS AND WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES WHICH HELP THEM IDENTIFY AND CONSIDER THE RANGE OF CHOICES AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL SUCH AS WORK EXPERIENCE AND INDUSTRY TALKS/VISITS.

**MY ADVICE TO STUDENTS WOULD BE:**

"CHOOSE A JOB YOU LOVE, AND YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE."



**NAME:** SUSANNAH EDWARDS

**ROLE IN CAREER TEAM:** ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR

**CURRENT JOB:** ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR AT BUCKS SKILLS HUB

**WHY DID YOU BECOME AND EA/CA/EC?**

I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN THEIR EXPLORATION OF CAREERS OPTIONS

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE AS AND EA/CA/EC?**

I WANT STUDENTS TO HAVE INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO PLAN THEIR NEXT STEPS.

**YOUR ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE STARTING OUT AT WORK:**

TRY TO GO OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND TAKE ADVANTAGES OF OPPORTUNITIES - YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE IT MAY LEAD YOU!



**NAME:** JAGDIP S GILL

**ROLE IN CAREER TEAM:** ENTERPRISE ADVISOR

**CURRENT ROLE:** SENIOR CONSULTANT AT DELOITTE

**WHY DID YOU BECOME AN EA?**

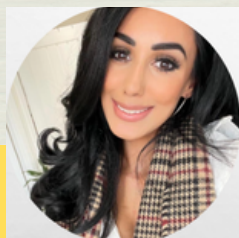
I LIVE RELATIVELY LOCAL AND HAVE DONE SO MY ENTIRE LIFE, AND I'M SURE I'VE EXPERIENCED A SIMILAR CHILDHOOD AND UPBRNGING TO STUDENTS AT PSA, IN SOME ASPECTS AT LEAST. I WANT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE SAME PART OF THE WORLD AS ME TO BE GIVEN THE SUPPORT TO SUCCEED IN LIFE.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE AS EA?**

I WANT THE STUDENTS TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DETERMINE AND PURSUE THEIR FUTURE PATHWAYS.

**YOUR ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE STARTING OUT AT WORK?**

"TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR CAREER. IT'S YOUR LIFE, TAKE IT IN THE DIRECTION THAT YOU WANT IT TO GO."



**NAME:** JADGEEP GHEER (JAG)

**ROLE IN CAREER TEAM:** ENTERPRISE ADVISOR

**CURRENT ROLE:** MEDICINES OPTIMISATION PHARMACIST AT BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE AND BERKSHIRE WEST INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

**WHY DID YOU BECOME AN EA?**

I WANTED TO SUPPORT AND INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE THE BEST OF OPPORTUNITIES AND TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE WORLD OF WORK AND EDUCATION.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE AS EA?**

PROVIDE SUPPORT, KNOWLEDGE AND GUIDANCE TO STUDENTS, SO THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF ALL THE PATHWAYS AVAILABLE TO THEM.

**YOUR ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE STARTING OUT AT WORK?**

"SELF BELIEF AND HARD WORK WILL ALWAYS EARN YOU SUCCESS"



# UPCOMING KEY DATES

Date	Event
Wednesday 4 January 2023	Spring Term 1 - All students return to school
Thursday 12 January 2023	Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 19 January 2023	Year 13 Parents Evening
Thursday 2 February 2023	Year 9 Parents Evening
Monday 13 - Friday 17 February 2023	Half Term

More key dates for the year can be found on our school calendar, via the PSA website



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS

For latest news about Pioneer Secondary Academy, please follow us on social media.



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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Wishing you all the best for a relaxing holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year, Wednesday 4 January 2023..